

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SERVICE



NOTE FROM OUR FOUNDERS

Dear Friends,

TWENTY-FIVE Years! Seeing that in writing sends shocks of gratefulness through our hearts. We had no idea what adventure we had begun when we founded the Ridge Project in 2000. God's vision was so much bigger than what we could see as we took that first nervous step to fulfill the vision the Lord had put before us. Driven by faith and passion, we sprinted into finding ways to help build strong, healthy families. We were often at a loss, or unsure what to do and as we sought the Lord, He always directed us with one sentence echoing in our hearts, "Follow Me." Every day we stand in amazement of how many families the Lord has restored through this ministry. Every day we say to each other, "look what we get to do!" We are a piece of God's miracles in other people's lives. Glory to God! We are blessed indeed.

We want to express our deepest gratitude for your support of The RIDGE Project over the last 25 years. Your contributions make a difference every day. Thanks to your generosity we have been able to expand our mission of building a legacy of strong families into other states and countries. Youth, prisoners, marriages, fathers, mothers, employees, and communities have reaped the benefits of your sacrificial gifts of time, money and expertise.

Thank you seems too short, too cliché, and too simple to convey the depth of our gratitude for your partnership and investment into this ministry. We are truly grateful.

Each year has held its own challenges and 2024 was no different. The RIDGE Project faced numerous challenges resulting from social and economic issues that continue to plague youth and families in our communities. In response, we launched new projects and expanded services to meet the challenges. We have served more participants and helped them prepare for healthy relationships, build character, resilience, and skills. Our most powerful outcome continues to be a dramatic increase in HOPEFULNESS. Hope is the number one determining factor of success in making positive changes that result in newfound determination of dream pursuit. Dream pursuit enables youth and adults to adopt the success sequence of behaviors that build strong, healthy families and provide the highest assurance possible that they will avoid poverty. We call it DESK – get a Diploma, Employment, then Spouse and then Kids. That sequence in your life is the greatest predictor of family health and avoidance of poverty.

We believe every family deserves the chance to be successful and healthy. Thank you for believing with us for miracles for the most fragile of families while working to equip youth to avoid the challenges of getting their lives out of order.

You are truly an ambassador of hope!

A few of our most significant achievements this year include:

1. We have served over 14,000 Students in Northwest Ohio with the optimal health message of sexual risk avoidance in 119 locations for 2024!
2. Tyro Support Services completed 9th season of TYRO TV – a twice monthly Healthy Relationship television program with educational and motivational content to inspire viewers to develop healthy, thriving families that is distributed nationally to 80% of all prison populations nationally via tablets with over one million downloads!
3. Enhanced partnership with Franklin County CBCF in Columbus - adding additional forklift/OSHA training, Father/Child TYRO Families Training in addition to our healthy marriage and relationship preparation programming, and The RIDGE Project has its own unit for classroom and offices to teach TYRO 5 days per week.
4. Offering Industrial Electrical and Welding training, pre-release, through mobile training units and instructors provided by our partner, Northwest State Community College to over 40 men and women so far in 2025!
5. Launched our new TYRO Families program. This program brings incarcerated fathers who are TYROs together with their children for 8 sessions of TYRO Youth. The children of incarcerated fathers learn how to practice resiliency, build healthy relationships, and understand the success sequence to achieve their goals and dreams.

Your generosity and dedication have truly made a difference, and we are blessed to have you as part of our RIDGE Family. As we look to the future with optimism and hope, we know that there will be new challenges and new opportunities ahead. We are committed to staying true to our mission, and to adapting and evolving our programs and services to meet the ever-changing needs of youth and fragile families. We will continue to create and implement innovative programs to meet the needs of those we serve and to make a positive change in the world. We invite you to continue to join us to offer hope and transform lives. We hope you will help us to spread the word about our important work. There are many ways to get involved, from volunteering your time and expertise, to donating, to sharing our message with your friends and family, and, most importantly, to praying for our staff and participants.

Whatever your level of involvement, know that your support is deeply appreciated and valued. Together, we can make a difference and create a better world for all.

Let's Go Change the World!

-Ron and Catherine Tijerina

OUR BOARD

Founded by Ron & Catherine Tijerina in 2000, The RIDGE Project is a Christian, non-profit organization dedicated to empowering generational responsibility in individuals and improving the lives of families throughout the state of Ohio. Our organization believes that strong families produce strong children, who will pass on that legacy of strength to future generations.

REV. COLLINS
E. **ASONYE**

RON
DEITERING

JAMES
ERVEN

RON
TIJERINA

CATHERINE
TIJERINA

WILL
HILD

SARAH
SPINNER



THE RIDGE PROJECT, HOME OF TYRO

25 Years of service to Ohio Families

Served adults in 28 prisons and facilities
throughout the state of OHIO

Over 35,000 adults received TYRO programming
1,673 of those were in served in 2024

Served 736,000 youth throughout the state of OHIO
11,283, students served in 2024

For current youth grants, we have 10,487 hours teaching
43,083 students in the last 4 years
That would be over 463 days of non-stop teaching!

Over 1.2 million downloads of TYRO content

Through Edovo tablets, TYRO content is available in over 1,100
institutions across the US

TYRO TESTIMONIALS

So many times, I have given up because of my past. Maybe because I didn't feel comfortable in my own skin, but now I do; I own my story. Now I help facilitate this program to teach others or help others own their story and guide them to a better version of themselves.

What I got out of TYRO is the ability to start my healing & forgiveness for myself. This class helped empower me to start letting go of the pain I hold deep down. This program also helped me and my fiancé have better communication skills, a better vision of the future we want, and the legacy we want to leave behind.

This was a wake up call I didn't know I needed. A true blessing I didn't know I needed. I will forever be thankful for you for opening my eyes and helping me see who I'm not only supposed to be but EXPECTED TO BE.

This class has taught me more self discipline and value than the Worth Center ever will or would. I appreciate you guys so much for giving us this opportunity to learn with your invaluable resources.

THE POWER OF TYRO – A TYRO’S STORY

One of the most powerful examples of the impact of your support comes from a participant in our Tyro Couples Program at the Ohio Reformatory for Women (ORW). Let me introduce Lazennia, a young woman that sent us a letter after she had been released. She took everything very seriously while taking TYRO Couples inside the facility and was determined to succeed. She had been in a transitional house after release and took some manufacturing training. Shortly after graduating from the training, she was blessed with 4 interviews in one day, but was concerned how her past might impact those interviews. She reached out to her case manager and talked over the different things she learned; fear, facing everything, recovery, and stepping out knowing your worth. She called back later to let her case manager know that ALL 4 employers were interested in her. She said they didn't seem bothered at all by her past, like they didn't see it. One told her that something about her 'shines'.

She's a woman of faith and gave credit to God. She is thankful for being a part of The RIDGE through TYRO. Her personal message to others - **"The Ridge Project and becoming a TYRO has been such a blessing to my life. I pray that everyone that becomes a part of this organization appreciates the things that are done through this program because it's done with love & pure heart."**

ADULT DIVISION 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

83 participants enrolled and served in two of the highest security prisons in Ohio - Toledo Correctional and Ohio State Penitentiary

175 participants enrolled in our Keeping Faith program across 6 facilities

414 participants enrolled in just one location – Community Based Corrections Facility in Columbus, Ohio

Thank you, ODRC for your partnership with The RIDGE Project, Home of TYRO. We are rehabilitating, reinventing, and reestablishing!

In 2024, we taught TYRO in 17 of the 28 prisons in the state of Ohio. From 2016 to present, we have serviced TYRO programming in 40 facilities, including CBCF's.

The RIDGE Project has been awarded 32 different state/federal grants from state, federal and philanthropic funding sources, and counting!



TYRO FACILITATOR GRADUATION



DEDICATED ATTENTION



FAITH BASED LEARNING



ADULT DIVISION

Joy in learning



Had 1,674 TYROs Enrolled at 19 different locations



831 Graduated from our TYRO Leadership/Couples Communication classes



121 Graduated from our Keeping Faith curriculum



189 Graduated from our Core Communication curriculum



201 cohorts completed in 2024



TYRO FAMILY IMPACT

- In 2024, we have held 25 Family Events, including:
- 250 TYRO's visit with family in-person or remotely
- 227 family members
- 109 TYRO partners

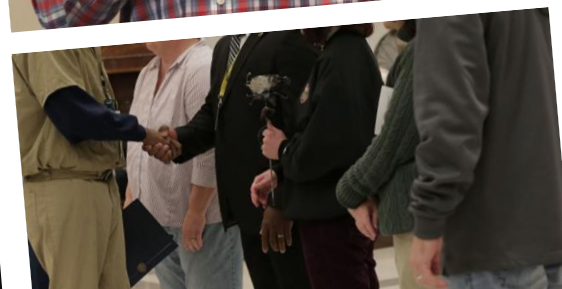
Grafton Correctional – 2024

Throughout 2024, TYRO Talks at Grafton Correctional Institution consistently engaged approximately 150 participants per session. These impactful sessions featured powerful speakers, including **Ron Tijerina, Jim Tabler, and Brandon Tijerina**, who shared messages of transformation, leadership, and personal growth.

Ron Tijerina, co-founder of TYRO, inspired attendees with his journey of resilience and redemption, emphasizing the importance of taking ownership of one's future. Jim Tabler provided practical insights on leadership and decision-making, empowering individuals to break cycles of incarceration. Brandon Tijerina brought a fresh perspective, motivating participants with stories of overcoming adversity and building a legacy of change.

Each TYRO Talk fostered an environment of encouragement, self-reflection, and personal development, equipping attendees with tools to redefine their identities and prepare for successful reintegration into society.

TYRO TALKS



TYRO Talks at Richland Correctional – 2024

In 2024, TYRO Talks at **Richland Correctional Institution** provided an impactful platform for personal growth and transformation, with approximately **50 participants** attending each session. The speaker lineup featured **Daniel Williams, Ron Tijerina, Tim Snoke, Michael Parker, and Jim Tabler**, each bringing valuable insights on leadership, accountability, and overcoming adversity.

Ron Tijerina shared his powerful journey of redemption, encouraging attendees to take control of their futures. Daniel Williams and Tim Snoke provided guidance on resilience and breaking negative cycles, while Michael Parker inspired participants with messages of perseverance and self-improvement. Jim Tabler offered practical strategies for leadership and decision-making, equipping individuals with tools to create lasting change.

These sessions fostered an environment of **encouragement, self-reflection, and empowerment**, helping participants develop the mindset and skills needed to rebuild their lives and prepare for a successful future.

TYRO ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM

The RIDGE Project recently completed its first TYRO Entrepreneurship Program (TEP) at the Richland Correctional Institution. The TEP was funded by the Frameworks grant. Through this program delivery, 22 men received entrepreneurship training over a six-month period.

Throughout the training, many of the men made actual plans to begin their re-entry journey with a focus on starting a small business as either a complement or an alternative to their goals for post-release employment.

The program culminated in a Pitch Night Event on March 12th, 2024. During the event, four men pitched their business concept to four entrepreneur judges. The judges were all successful businesspeople from around the state. Financial awards for the participants came from private funding. The judges awarded a prize for Best Business Presentation and a prize for Best Business Concept. The financial awards ranged from \$500 to \$1500. All four participants received at least the minimum award for their participation.

All of the participants will receive their funds and additional business startup support over the next year from Case Managers and collaborative partners located in the various communities where the participants live. This year's finalists came from locations as diverse as Cleveland, Canton, and Toledo, Ohio.





**SINCE 2018, GRAFTON AND RICHLAND
HAVE COMPLETED 1,039 TYROS
THROUGH NON-GRANT FUNDS.**

PEER FACILITATED DELIVERY

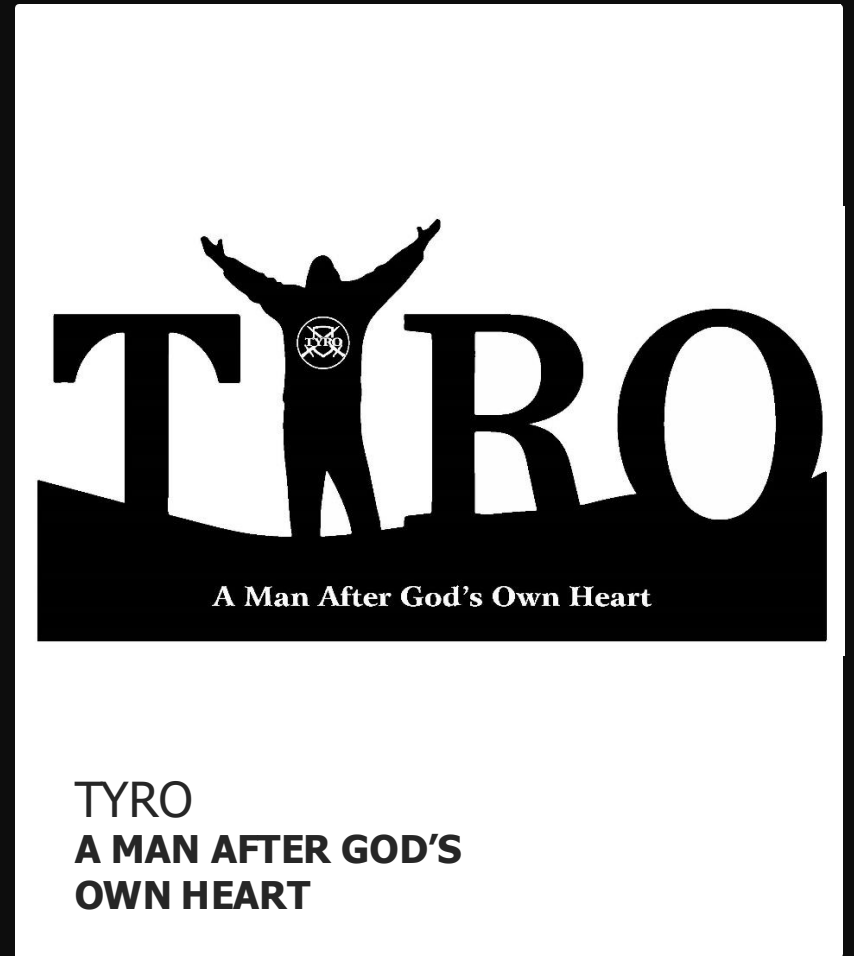
Peer Facilitated Delivery supported with professional Case Management at Richland Correctional, Grafton Correctional and North Central. Peer facilitated classes expand our reach and provide services to individuals that don't qualify for grant funded delivery.

In these prisons, we have:

- Richland – 8 Peer facilitators
- North Central – 9 Peer facilitators
- Grafton Correctional – 9 Peer facilitators

FAITH BASED CONTRACT

TYRO Keeping FAITH Contract features the TYRO Man of God (MOG) curriculum. TYRO MOG focuses on Biblical principles that encourage an ever-increasing faith in God and a like-minded community that provides celebration and accountability. TYRO Keeping FAITH is currently serving six different ODRC prisons, helping men become the Men of God they were designed to be. TYRO Keeping FAITH program has five key components. First, participants will take our ten-week TYRO class that is steeped in Christian values and Biblical principles designed to deepen your faith in God as participants explore their purpose and the love God poured into creating us intentionally for this time. Next, program completers participate in our TYRO Accountability Community (TAC). TAC is a small-group format designed to provide support, encouragement, resources, and accountability while inside. Once released, TAC connections are made to TYROS from around the country who continue their journey as men and women worth following. Third, participants will underpin the value of family by participating in family events approved by the institution. Fourth, we will offer CORE/Couple Communication, a four-week class that empowers TYROS to communicate effectively and efficiently in every area of their lives. Lastly, after completing TYRO Keeping FAITH participants will have at their disposal a myriad of aftercare services, including, but not limited to, intentional referrals, case management, mentoring, networking, job referrals, and community connections. THIS PROGRAM IS DESIGNED FOR ALL TO PARTICIPATE AND EXPERIENCE PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH. EVERYONE IS WELCOME, REGARDLESS OF FAITH, RELIGION, RACE, GENDER, OR SECURITY STATUS.



**WE HAVE SERVED 15 CLASSES
AT 6 FACILITIES, GRADUATING
120 TYROS IN 2024!**

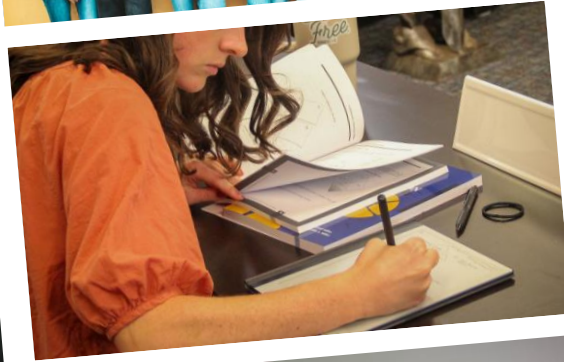
NEW FATHER AND CHILD OPPORTUNITIES

We are excited to begin a new project. We will be working with incarcerated fathers and their children at Grafton Correctional. The youth will have the opportunity to meet with their incarcerated parent and walk through the TYRO youth curriculum.

The goal of this project is multifaceted. We want to engage youth in a positive youth development program, as well as encourage parent participation. For these fathers, it will be an opportunity to “parent” their children, creating strong relationships despite the barrier of incarceration.



THE RIDGE PROJECT'S YOUTH DIVISION



We work to establish young leaders who can stand up against the negative influences, peer pressures, and low expectations that exist for young people in society today.

Youth leadership development is essential in creating a positive youth culture.

YOUTH DIVISION TESTIMONIALS

“I have a more realistic idea of what I want my future to look like.”

- High School student, Lucas County

“(The) class showed me that it is really important to value myself. It has changed the way I think about sex.”

- 9th grader, Female, Lucas county

“I want to save sex for marriage because I am not grown up enough to be a dad.”

- High school, Male, Lucas County



2023-24 HIGHLIGHTS

YOUTH DIVISION



TEACHING ETHICS
TO OUR YOUTH

- Hosted film camp at Youth Treatment center for 32 adjudicated youth. We partnered with Tramaine Hall to deliver a powerful motivational message to the youth to help encourage them to keep making progress toward healthy relationships.
- Served in the Northwest Ohio, Atlanta, Southeast Michigan, and Savannah GA
- November 2024 Hosted an all-day event at the Northwest Ohio Juvenile Detention Center to celebrate Thanksgiving
- Served 27 Counties in Ohio
- TYRO Reset: Focusing on justice impacted youth and involving partners in Georgia, Michigan, and Ohio
- TYRO Youth Collaborative: concentrates on youth in Ohio and is a collaborative partnership with three other organizations.
- Ohio Department of Health (ODH): Focuses on youth in the Northwest quadrant of Ohio and is a collaborative partnership with 4 other organizations
- Helped create a video for a team of youth from Maumee High School that went to a national competition and won FIRST PLACE!

YOUTH IMPACT



YOUTH DIVISION
FILM CAMPS

As a sophomore in high school, Ethan Fritz never imagined that a single trip to Washington, DC, would ignite a lifelong passion for public service. A proud member of the Ohio Youth Congress (OYC), Ethan had always been interested in civic engagement, but it was his experience walking the halls of the nation’s capital and speaking with local legislators that transformed his interest into a calling. During his visit, Ethan had the opportunity to sit across from lawmakers, ask tough questions, and witness firsthand how policy decisions impact communities back home. Because of this opportunity provided by The RIDGE Project’s Youth Department, Ethan realized the power of informed leadership and the responsibility that comes with public service.

That trip to DC planted a seed that only grew stronger with time. Inspired by the experience, Ethan set his sights on studying political science, determined to bridge the gap between young voices and policymakers. Now a second-year student at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, he is living out that mission, pursuing his degree while interning in the office of Congressman Jim Jordan in Washington, DC.

From a passionate high school student to a future leader in public policy, Ethan’s journey is just beginning. But one thing is certain—his commitment to service and his belief in the power of civic engagement will continue to shape his path, proving that a single experience can change everything.

YOUTH DIVISION WHAT'S COMING UP?

A NEW OYC CHAPTER HAS LAUNCHED IN LUCAS COUNTY, AND IN HENRY COUNTY, SOMETHING BOLD AND INSPIRING IS ON THE WAY—INTRODUCING "WHAT'D THEY SAY?", A BRAND-NEW PODCAST CREATED BY TEENS, FOR TEENS (AND PARENTS TOO!). THIS DYNAMIC PODCAST WILL TACKLE REAL-WORLD TOPICS THROUGH A YOUTH PERSPECTIVE, GIVING PARENTS AN INSIDE LOOK INTO TEEN LIFE WHILE HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL SEEN, HEARD, AND CONNECTED. IT'S MORE THAN JUST A PODCAST—IT'S A BRIDGE BETWEEN GENERATIONS AND A POWERFUL PLATFORM FOR SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING. STAY TUNED—BECAUSE TEENS HAVE A LOT TO SAY, AND IT'S TIME TO LISTEN!

PLANNING A TRIP TO OUR COUNTRY'S CAPITAL WASHINGTON, D.C. LATER THIS YEAR!



2024 TYRO SUPPORT SERVICES (TSS) HIGHLIGHTS

- TYRO TV - over 1.2 million downloads across all prisons to date
- Launched TYRO in two new Georgia prisons
- Expanded offerings U.S Army Chaplaincy
- Became publisher clearinghouse approved for Florida prisons
- Launched TYRO Institute for a video-based RIDGE Grant
- Created additional TYRO Institute courses
- Conducted multiple program trainings
- Attended both ACA conferences
- Attended the CEA conference
- Partnered with Viapath (prison tablet company) with premium Expanded digital services with ViaPath
- Partnered with Moodle partner (Oriana House partner)
- Updated tyro365.com website
- Launched new books, Awareness Wheel 1 and 2
- Launched new resources for tablet delivery



VISION: *To build TYRO into a global brand, empowering champions and achievers through exceptional experiences, content, and opportunities.*

Louisiana Department of Corrections - New Orleans, LA
Christian Formation Ministries - New Albany, IN
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Orleans, LA - nobts.edu
Friends Outside - Los Angeles CA- friendsoutsidela.org
Box Elder Family Support Center - Box Elder County, UT
Franklin County CBCF - Columbus, OH
Shine - Kingsland, New Zealand
Enhance U- Dayton, OH
PI & I Motor Express - Ohio
West Central CBCF - Marysville, OH
Northeastern Reintegration Center - Cleveland, OH
Healthy Visions - Cincinnati, OH - healthyvisions.org
BON SECOURS HEALTH SYSTEM - Baltimore, MD
Anthem Strong Families - Dallas, TX - anthemstrongfamilies.org
Ohio Dept. of Corrections - Ohio - drc.ohio.gov
City of Refuge - Atlanta GA - cityofrefugeatl.org
Emerge Aotearoa - Auckland, New Zealand - emergeaotearoa.org.nz
Cherry St Mission - Toledo OH - cherrystreetmission.org
Pillars Ka Pou Whakahou - Christchurch, New Zealand - pillars.org.nz
Camp David of the Ozarks - Rolla MO - campdavidozarks.org
Oriana House - Ohio - orianahouse.org
Massachusetts Department of Corrections
Above Pete's Garage - Michigan
Paramount - Beaver Falls PA
AND MORE!

TSS PARTNERS

TYRO Support Services makes major strides toward their goal of branding TYRO internationally as they expand in different countries and establish new partnerships with other states.

TYRO SUPPORT SERVICES - PARTNERS



Partner Locations Abroad:

- Australia
- Canada
- Denmark
- Finland
- Germany
- New Zealand
- Nigeria
- South Korea

Each **MARKER** represents an organization or government entity that TSS is providing, or has provided, technical training and assistance.

TYRO partnership data as of 2023.

THE RIDGE PROJECT FISCAL DIVISION

THANK YOU FOR
YOUR GENEROSITY!

Fiscal year **7/1/2023 – 6/30/2024**, we provided the following:

<u>\$ 1,262,122</u>	<u>\$2,542,457</u>	<u>\$346,414</u>
Spent on youth services reaching over 14,000 students	Invested in adult services reaching over 1,674 adults in 20 different locations. This is an average of only \$1,500 per person to deliver life-changing services.	Revenue earned from fees-for-services activities. These services were provided to organizations outside of The RIDGE Project to expand the impact of TYRO across the world.
We have served more than <u>736,000</u> students since the Youth Division's inception	<u>\$234,688</u> Spent on Management and Administration (that's 6.1% of what we spent on Adult and youth services)	<u>\$70,530</u> Received in donations from over 1,500 unique donors.



TYRO®

Leadership Workbook



***I am a TYRO. I am a man of Honor, Integrity, and Promise.
I pursue all righteousness. I love my family.***

I will not put my family in harm's way.

There is nothing that will keep me from doing the right thing.

I am an Ambassador of hope and a man of discipline.

I am a man worth following.

I am a TYRO.



THANK YOU

We are so grateful to be able to serve Ohio and look forward to the future!

THANK YOU 2025 GALA SPONSORS

Their generous support has covered tonight's expenses and allows 100% of donations to go towards client services!



Victor Ten Brink, Attorney