

2021 - 2022

RIDGE | The
Ridge
Project
Building a Legacy of Strong Families



ANNUAL REPORT

including TWENTY years of service

NOTE FROM OUR FOUNDERS



// Let's go have a
breakthrough

Thank You!

Twenty years ago, we were excited, scared, still separated by prison bars, but willing to be obedient. God had placed a strong calling to restore families on our hearts years earlier and we knew that now was the time to begin this new adventure. Regardless of all of our doubts and the physical barriers that lay before us, we boldly stepped out in faith by founding the RIDGE Project. What seemed insurmountable when we first started dreaming was finally becoming a reality in 2000. Yet, while we were dreaming small, God was orchestrating events that would lead to a ministry that was so much larger than we could have imagined! Our vision of serving a handful of youth and families was quickly shattered and His vision of reaching hundreds of thousands replaced it. Here we are . . . 22 years later, in awe of the work He has done. It is with humble gratefulness and joy that we are now reflecting on the 22 years of service, projects, and thousands of lives we have had the privilege of touching over the course of those two decades. The RIDGE Project has brought transformation to families not only in Northwest Ohio, or even just in the State of Ohio, but to families across the world. God knows His plan on where we will go from here. If there is one thing we've learned, it's that God always has a bigger plan than we do. We are so very grateful for all of those who have come alongside of us on our quest to change the world into a place where families are thriving. Thank you for your dedication, service, encouragement, and support. We cannot wait to see what is in store for The RIDGE Project for the next 20 years!

-Ron and Catherine Tijerina

OUR BOARD

I have had the honor and privilege of serving on the Board of The RIDGE Project since 2009 with the sole intention of furthering their mission—empowering families to make the right choices that will positively impact generations to come. Every month I get to hear firsthand the stories from clients that prove that this work really is making a difference. As our world continues to struggle and grapple with issues that we never thought we would have to face, we are all wanting to make a positive difference and pave the way for change. But change starts with one person, in the home. It starts with a father, a mother, a brother, a daughter—a family. I am blessed to work with such amazing, dedicated, and talented board members who are servant-leaders



REV. COLLINS E.
ASONYE



RON DEITERING



JAMES ERVEN



RON TIJERINA



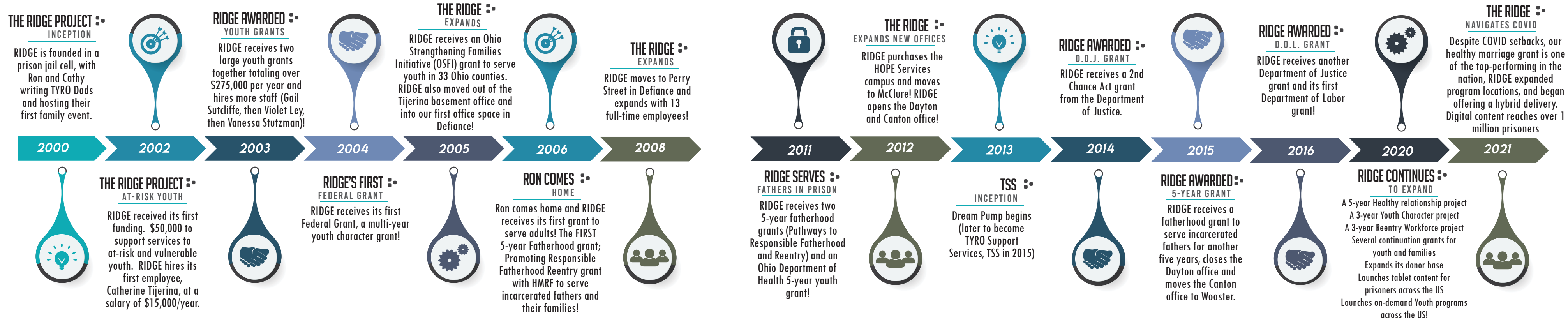
CATHY TIJERINA

bringing vision to fruition and changing generations, by transforming souls and families. I am indeed grateful to all our staff and employees, especially Ron and Cathy who continue to break their own records each year as they impact communities positively. I lack words to quantify and fully express my gratitude to them and thankfulness to God Almighty who makes all things possible. We hope you will celebrate with us as you read through this report and recognize the positive change that 20 years has made in the lives of families all around you.

The Very Rev. Collins E. Asonye - Chairman of Board

THE RIDGE PROJECT

TIMELINE



ABOUT THE RIDGE PROJECT HOME OF TYRO

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.

*If you were to ask me today
what in my life has helped me the most
then TYRO Dads Workshop
is of what I would surely have to boast*
TYRO *David*

When I arrived at the Worth Center, I was broken. I was really tired of ending up in the same places, but I was caught up and couldn't find a way out. Over the past three years, there have been quite a few things that have guided me down another path. For me, I believe the seed for change was planted by Mr. Roberts during TYRO Dads. The respect and encouragement he showed us was something that helped me believe I could find a better way to live.

Ever since becoming a TYRO, someone from The Ridge Project has always been in contact with me and they have always been willing to help. I will always be grateful to Mr. Roberts, The Ridge Project, and God for placing them in my path.

TYRO *Zach*

ADULT DIVISION

HIGHLIGHTS

2.6% TYRO Recidivism

In 2016, only 2.6% of TYRO graduates re-offended compared to the 12.1% of the ODRC general population. Thank you, ODRC for your partnership with The RIDGE Project, Home of TYRO. We are rehabilitating, reinventing, and reestablishing!

41 TYRO Locations

From 2012 - 2015 we serviced TYRO in 21 of the 27 prisons in the state of Ohio. From 2016 to present we have serviced TYRO programming in 40 facilities. Over the past 9 years we have served our TYRO program to 23,070 men.

29 ADULT State/Federal Grants

Since the Adult Division inception, The RIDGE has serviced 29 different state/federal grants from several different funding sources and counting!



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.

387 JOB Training Enrollees

Over the past couple of years we have serviced several job trainings to 387 TYROs, including: Fork Lift, CDL, ServSafe, and Welding.

In 2018 we had 76% TYRO Dads completion rate. Our overall completion rate from 2016 to 2020 is 71%. From 2016 -2017 only 3 TYRO graduates returned to prison after being released. In 2021, TYRO Couples has had a 79% completion rate.

76%
TYRO
Completion

Over the years, The RIDGE Project has expanded its TYRO partnership in 17 locations across the globe and growing.

Ohio	Saudi Arabia	North Carolina
Georgia	California	New Orleans
Texas	Montana	New Jersey
Maryland	Utah	Baltimore, MD
New Zealand	Indiana	Washington

17
TYRO
Global Partners

Missouri
Louisiana Dept. of Corrections

2019-2020 ADULT DIVISION 1,205 **TYRO** GRADUATES



Graduated 252
from
TYRO Leader-
ship



Graduated 186
from
Core
Communication



Served 924
TYROs at
19 different
locations



Graduated
142 from
Financial
Management



Graduated
178 from
Job Ethics
Training
(JET)



139 cohorts
2019 - 2020

22,717
enrollees in
TYRO Dads/
Leadership
in 13 years



16,284
TYRO Dads/
Leadership
Graduates
in 13 years

4,688
TYRO's enrolled
in JET and Financial
Management with a
completion rate of
98%



7,254
TYRO's enrolled
in **CORE** Commu-
nication in 9 years

20 YEAR **NUMBERS**





ADULT DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

Despite COVID setbacks, our healthy marriage grant is one of the top-performing in the nation. We expanded programing to new locations, including a high security super max prison, and utilized hybrid delivery models for optimum flexibility.

21 & 22

We served 17 locations

We served 7 new locations

We enrolled 850 TYROs

We enrolled 117 job training enrollees

Our average completion rate was 76%

Completion rate for TYRO Couples in 2022 86%

We had 94 additional cohorts

576 additional TYRO completers

80 additional Financial Management graduates

4 additional JET graduates



712

**TYRO Dads/
Leadership/Couples
Graduates
2021 -2022**



THE RIDGE PROJECT TYRO 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.

TYRO Testimony

My first year being associated with THE RIDGE PROJECT is a year I will never forget. Always being a shy person and not really knowing a direction to go, I was able to find my spot to fit in at Film Camp. Most children don't tend to think about the outcomes that may come with their decisions in all times of their lives. It was something that I always kept in mind, but what to do with it, is where I was lost. Building and expanding my knowledge in leadership, trust, honesty, hard work, dedication, and kindness at a young age helped me set out to be a better person as each day passed by. As the years went on and participating with the Ridge Project at every chance I could, I was seeing changes in myself that was noticed by my peers around me just as much. I was determined to be an example and I became just that. Breaking away from the scene in which I was a part of at my age allowed me to find my path and stay out of the trouble that had crossed the paths of my peers. Setting out to inspire others the way the members of the Ridge inspired me. Becoming a social icon in my community who everyone seemed to enjoy the company of. Volunteering with special needs children, taking part of an anti-bully campaign, helping the elementary students learn to read, becoming a teacher's aide, and even enlisting into the United States Navy was the path I chose due to the guidance from my family at THE RIDGE. It was a very big turn around from who I once was. A child in trouble with the law, making poor choices, having toxic relationships, failing school, and living an unhealthy lifestyle.

THE RIDGE changed my life and I will forever wish more and more people would see how quickly a week out of your life to try something new, can change who you are forever. To whom this testimony makes it to, and to whoever gets a chance to hear it, thank you for your time.

All the love, and very proud to serve you.

-Gunners Mate Seaman Apprentice Garcia, Jesse. United States Navy



2019-2020 YOUTH DIVISION

The youth division led 8 service projects during 2019 & 2020, including serving and encouraging nursing homes during COVID.



Served 43,278 students and teachers



Received a new SRAE Grant in 2019 and 2020 serving an additional 6,400 students. We are now servicing 3 different SRAE Grants



Serviced 38 counties in 2019 and 2020

YOUTH DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

I learned, "To complete my goals, I need to stay focused and driven and not go to the distractions put in front of me." 8TH GRADER, LUCAS COUNTY



10 FILM CAMPS IN 11 YEARS

The Youth Division held 10 film camps in 11 years reaching close to 1,000 students



OHIO YOUTH CONGRESS

Our student leadership group has taken on different titles and themes but it has always had the same purpose and mission: to empower youth to stand up for what they believe. OYC has toured DC 11 times to meet with legislators, completed a myriad of service projects, and fundraised \$9,064 to fund their trips and community service projects.



YOUTH DIVISION CHAMPIONS NETWORK

RIDGE has adopted the collaborative model for youth services, bridging partnerships and networks across Ohio to ensure as many youth as possible receive sexual risk avoidance education.



27 YOUTH GRANTS IN 20 YEARS

In 20 years the Youth Division has received 27 grants from several different funding sources.

- 💡 17 OYC youth visited Washington, DC in July of 2021!
- 💡 55 youth attended Film Camp at Camp Widewater in Liberty Center in June of 2021!
- 9 YTC youth attended Film Camp at the Lucas County Youth Treatment Center in October!
- 💡 In 2021 we were awarded a ServeOhio grant for OYC youth to provide much needed supplies for two homeless shelters (Path Center in Defiance County and Cherry Street Mission in Lucas County)!
- 💡 We were just awarded another ServeOhio grant for \$1500 to update the bathroom stall doors at Montpelier Schools!
- 💡 In November 2021 we hosted an all-day event at the Northwest Ohio Juvenile Detention Center to celebrate Thanksgiving—the OYC youth helped prepare the meal the night before. We were privileged to serve the JDC youth a traditional home-cooked Thanksgiving dinner and spend time connecting with them, playing games, and sharing more TYRO Youth workshops!
- 💡 The Lucas County Youth Treatment Center just opened their doors again to allow us to start teaching classes in person after being shut down since the pandemic!



YOUTH DIVISION
2021 & 2022 Highlights

FAMILY DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

2021 & 2022 HIGHLIGHTS:

- *220 Domestic Violence Trainees
- *62 Class Closing Ceremonies
- *5 High Five Events
- *Served 505 total at Family Events



2008 - 2020

WE HAVE COMPLETED 302 FAMILY EVENTS

Serving approximately **1,183** Fathers and **4,300** family members

2019 - 2020 Highlights



12 family engagements serving approximately 63 families



2 Special Events with Ron and Cathy
GRC Dancing with the Stars
High Five Event serving 10 couples at GRC



Highly engaged in Community and Reentry involvements.



Domestic Violence Awareness
Trainings serving over 200 fathers



Testimony ↗

My name is Scott and I am a TYRO. I was sentenced to 10 years in prison and it was not my first time. I was completely lost, I wanted more out of life but I had no idea how to make it happen while in prison. A few years in I had done some programs but nothing earth shattering. I signed up for TYRO Dads and found what I wanted my incarceration to be about. I took the class then became a peer facilitator. My life in prison changed and I practiced the skills that TYRO taught me to prepare for my eventual release. I came home April 3, 2019 and it was a different world than when I left but the TYRO principles and the lessons from the class still keep me grounded. I was able to obtain my CDL through TYRO, I have a relationship with my father and brothers, I am employed and am now engaged to the love of my life, Sarah. Life is good today because TYRO was there to teach me not only to be a father but to be a man of honor, integrity and promise! The men and women of the Ridge Project are my family, I owe them for showing me that I am a man worth following.

TYRO *Scott*



TYRO **Support Services**

TSS

Our goal with TYRO Support Services is to create TYRO as an international brand along with providing an exceptional customer experience by building up a community of TYRO front line champions and TYRO achievers with content, experience, opportunities, and platform.

2019 - 2020 HIGHLIGHTS

TSS Highlights

TSS created and/or launched the following services

- Over 785,000 TYRO Downloads
- TYRO Alumni Membership Sites (TAMS)
- TYRO Fit and TYRO Moms and TYRO Sthenos
- On Demand TYRO Youth
- TYRO Talks
- Women Warrior Wednesdays
- Tijerina Triumph Tips
- TYRO Support Services is partnered with Securus, a technology incorporation that provides tablets to institutions across the nation. Currently, Securus has platforms inside 28 prisons throughout Ohio. With this partnership TYRO Support Services is able to provide content to inmates beyond the classroom.



TSS Partners

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS – NEW ORLEANS, LA - DOC.LOUISIANA.GOV
CHRISTIAN FORMATION MINISTRIES – NEW ALBANY, IN - CHRISTIAN-FORMATION.ORG
NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY – NEW ORLEANS, LA - NOBTS.EDU
FRIENDS OUTSIDE – LOS ANGELES CA - FRIENDSOUTSIDELA.ORG
BOX ELDER FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER – BOX ELDER COUNTY, UT - BEFSC.ORG
SHINE – KINGSLAND NEW ZEALAND - 2SHINE.ORG.NZ
ENHANCE U – DAYTON OH – ENHANCE-U.COM
PI & I MOTOR EXPRESS - OHIO - PIIMX.COM
PARAMONT – BEAVER FALLS PA – LISAPURK.COM
JEFFERSON CO. COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL - JEFFERSON COUNTY OH - JEFFERSON COUNTY C.A.C.

“Great things in business are never done by one person; they’re done by a team of people.”

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



Fiscal Division

The RIDGE Project



FISCAL YEAR 7/1/2020 – 6/30/2021 WE PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING

	\$2,282,253	
\$1,617,346		\$328,128
Spent on youth services reaching over 43K students and teachers	Spent on adult services reaching over 1,200 adults in 19 different locations.	Sold in training and curriculum (to organizations outside of RIDGE to expand our work elsewhere)
814,000	\$191,117	\$37,265
The approximate number of students we have served since the Youth Division's inception	Spent on Management and Administration (that's 5.4% of what we spent on Adult and youth services)	Received in donations. Thank you for your generosity!

THE RIDGE HAS OVER 1500 UNIQUE DONORS

COVID-19

2020 began with eager anticipation of celebrating The RIDGE Project's 20th Anniversary. But painstaking event planning suddenly turned to panicked pandemic planning as the COVID-19 pandemic swept the nation/globe. While this sudden and unexpected change was discouraging at first, The RIDGE project successfully adapted to virtual models and continued impacting and changing families when support was needed more than ever.

HIGHLIGHTS OF CHANGES WE MADE DURING COVID-19



TYRO ON DEMAND: RIDGE also had to shift our delivery model to be able to continue serving clients.

J-PAY AND SECURUS TABLETS: TSS had begun building a partnership with J-Pay and Securus well before COVID hit, but this relationship proved to be particularly important when even our online and On Demand programming was limited in institutions at the beginning of the COVID crisis. Through J-Pay messaging, Ron and Cathy were able to send multiple messages each week to TYROs providing encouragement and motivation to not give up and make the right choices for their families. Additionally, Securus broadcasted TYRO TV on their tablets—at the height of the COVID shutdown, the records indicated over 500,000 downloads from inmates across the US!

INCREASED CQI: Leadership moved to weekly CQI meetings post COVID in order to catch issues and adapt to the ever-changing COVID rules in real time.