

Building Friendships By Spending Time Together...

“We all want to belong. To be part of something bigger than ourselves. That is what Radical Love is to me.”

- Game Day Attendee, age 15



Game Day & Cooking Lesson

(Our Winter Meet-Up with Resettled Refugee Neighbors)

We opened our event with prayers thanking God in English, Swahili, Karen, Ukrainian, Russian, and Spanish. It’s beautiful to see how connected we are in the love of Jesus. Lots of games followed, including many that don’t require much English to play: Spot-It, Uno, Connect4, Twister, and Guess Who. High Schoolers got a game of Musical Chairs going! Each child from a refugee family got to pick their favorite game to take home; over 60 games were shared!



Our neighbors from Burma shared a cooking demonstration (and samples) of coconut rice sticky balls. “It tasted like the inside of an Almond Joy, but so fresh and amazing!” shares a Game Day attendee.



There’s a need to feed our neighbors, and some of the best connections come while sharing a meal. Friends at Game Day enjoyed lunch together! Many students helped wash fruit, serve food and clean up.



There are neighbors that want to attend our events, but do not have a car (or the car goes to work). So we charter a bus for each of our events. We’ve made a promise to our neighbors: We will come for you. There’s a place for you here.



Our First Vehicle Donation!

“In my experience, a car was the single biggest ingredient in thriving...freedom to choose jobs and more...all flow from that.” – Long-time helper to refugees

A family got a new car and donated their cherished van to Radical Love. The receiving family fled Ukraine last February and is rebuilding a life in the U.S. The joined Radical Love events last Summer and at Game Day, they used the van to bring new neighbors from Ukraine to Radical Love!

COMING UP!

**Summer Friendship & Learning Program:
June 16-July 21**

**Annual Backyard Fundraiser:
August 11**

*See Back for Details!

Working Together to Love and Help

15,000 lives impacted since we started in June 2021.
Our 6-Month Recap



Community Christmas

Over 500 neighbors came together! We partnered 45 resettled refugee families and 30 senior citizens with families in our community. Everyone got to meet each other! Needs were met, a meal was shared, and together we heard a Christmas Symphony!

“I’m 80 years old. I’ve been to hundreds of events in my life...the way I was loved at Radical Love is the way Jesus loves us all.” – Kathleen



“Families helping families. This is love.” – Community Christmas Attendee



“It’s amazing to come together like this.” – Resettled Refugee Neighbor at Community Christmas

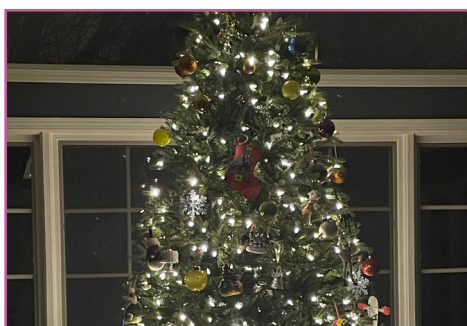
Neighbors of all nations, ages, and backgrounds - working together. Only God could make all of this possible.



Bus Transportation

“I’m so happy to be here!” – Bus riding attendee at Community Christmas

THREE buses brought refugee neighbors and senior citizens to Community Christmas. We are raising money to continue providing transportation in 2023.



Christmas Trees Given

Radical Love sent 10 Christmas trees and lights to families at Batavia Apartments, who didn’t have a tree this year. We pray these trees remind our precious neighbors how much they are loved by God and our community.



Winter Gear

We passed out over 500 hats, gloves and coats at events and through schools this winter. Your generosity made this happen!



Needed Home Items

We filled 45 laundry baskets with laundry detergent, soap, TP, paper towels, dish towels. Each resettled refugee family received a basket at Community Christmas.



Games

Over 60 board games were sent home with resettled refugee children to enjoy with their families and friends.



Working Together

We work with other non-profits to best serve our neighbors. Together, we provide shoes, winter clothes, bikes, food, and a place to gather.



Involving Kids in All We Do



Food

We fed all our attendees at Community Christmas. Sharing a meal together is the simplest way to love our neighbors and get to know one another.



Refugee Neighbors' Stories

In March, resettled refugee neighbors from Ukraine, Nepal and Burma shared their stories - life growing up (some in refugee camps), and their journey and life here in the U.S. Our community is richer because they are here.

Schools & Organizations We're Helping:

Batavia Apartments, Batavia High School, Geneva Middle School North, Geneva Middle School South, Greencastle of North Aurora, Harrison Elementary School, Hesed House, Jefferson Middle School, Mercy Housing of Wheaton, Nicholson Elementary School, Rotolo Middle School, Western Avenue Elementary School, and Williamsburg Elementary School.

Where in the World?



Countries represented at Radical Love include: Congo, South Sudan, Iran, Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, Ukraine, Russia, Hungary, Nepal, Venezuela and the Central America region.



Hard Working Students

Exciting Update: In our Spring 2022 newsletter, we shared the story of neighbor Eh Moo. Eh came to the U.S. when he was 9 years old, speaking no English. After 2 years at Community College, Eh transferred to Northern Illinois University to finish his bachelor's degree in accounting. In his first semester there, he made the DEAN'S LIST! Eh is paving the way for many who will follow his amazing lead!



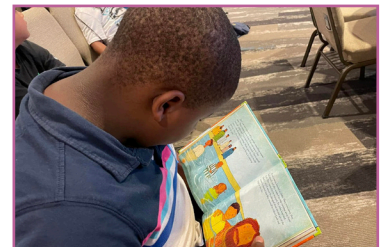
Gathering With Seniors

Many of our senior neighbors don't have family close by and can be very lonely. In January and March, Radical Love volunteers showed up to celebrate birthdays, visit, and play BINGO. Teams of volunteers also serve at their food pantry 2-3x/month.



Snack Bags

Radical Love continues to provide 300 snack bags/month to children through local schools and housing complexes. Messages of love, friendship and kindness are written on each bag. The items are shared with students experiencing hunger and those waiting in guidance offices to talk about mental health issues. These bags are lovingly packed by students.



Bibles

We offer free Bibles to anyone at our events who would like to learn more about God and the awesome love of Jesus. Several different versions are set out, including The Children's Storybook Bible (loved by kids and those new to English) and Action Bibles (a teen favorite!). Nearly EVERY Bible is taken at every event.



A 6th Grade Girl

Just months after fleeing Ukraine, young Janna began 6th grade at a local middle school. She spoke no English. Just 8 months later - at our February Game Day event - Janna BECAME THE TRANSLATOR for a new Ukrainian family. She made sure a new middle school girl could understand and be part of the fun.



Friendships

Friendships are forming by people connecting at Radical Love!



We Are Growing

To expand our programming, we hired an event coordinator, Janae Griffiths.

HELP NEEDED!

Help Us Fund Our Summer Program:
\$15,000 Cost



Our Summer Friendship & Learning Program impacts over **200** resettled refugees, volunteers, and children! Money raised will help cover food, buses, learning and connection materials, our Beach Day, and Bibles.

Join the community of over **150** private donors, companies, organizations, and foundations that contribute to Radical Love! Every dollar makes an impact.

Monthly Giving: Join nearly 50 neighbors who became "Bridge Builders" and set-up monthly automated gifts to Radical Love.

Company Matching: Radical Love is set up in Benevity to receive company matching. Radical Love is a registered 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax-deductible.



On-going ways to help shared via email

Upcoming Programs

Registration Coming by Email Soon!

Summer Friendship & Learning Program (June 16 - July 21)



Our program was created to bring together adults wanting to learn English with people to help them learn. Certified teachers oversee the program, and volunteers walk through individualized workbooks with learners. Beautiful friendships have formed over the years.

Childcare is the biggest barrier for an adult wanting to learn English. We've removed that barrier and made a special place for all youth attending. We offer programs for students, kids, and little ones.

2021 Program: 120 souls participated
2022 Program: 200+ souls participated
2023 Program (Expected): 250+ souls

Annual Backyard Fundraiser
Save The Date!

August 11, 2023 (6-9pm)
At the Oscar Swan Event Center in Geneva

Join us for an evening of **CELEBRATING COMMUNITY**, under the big tent with neighbors, music, food and drink. Tickets on sale soon!



Radical Love Merch

Shop the store on our website! Radical Love receives 40% of all proceeds.

Our Leadership

Our Mission: To be a community that reflects the Radical Love of Jesus through our work with refugee families, senior citizens and children.

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