



2023 Program

Our 2023 Summer Program Saw Great Growth
 Over 250 resettled refugees, volunteers, and children attended this year’s English-learning program.

“I have gotten more from Radical Love than I could ever give back,” - Abby, volunteer



2022 Program



12 Refugees to Aurora, IL via Radical Love

Radical Love is partnering with Welcome Corps and World Relief to bring 12 souls (pictured above) out of Mae La Oon refugee camp in Thailand. The two families, whose extended family helped start Radical Love, have been in the refugee camp since 2005 and 2007; the children know no other life than in the camp.

Two teams – one for each family – are working to secure housing, furniture, a list of medical/dental/mental health professionals, and school and job information. Radical Love secured the funds needed (\$30,000) to supply these needed resources for our new neighbors. The volunteer teams will serve as the family’s first friends and connectors to our community.

This project falls directly in line with our mission: To bring a community together to love and help one another.

Over \$90,000 Raised in One Night for Radical Love

“It felt real and wonderful to be part of something like this,” Amy, event attendee

The atmosphere was both warm and electric. Opening prayers were given in Swahili and English, followed by an amazing Mexican fiesta dinner, silent and live auction, paddle raise, and a surprise paddle drop for a trip to Lake Tahoe! Woven into the night were beautiful stories and musical performances by our resettled refugee neighbors. Funds raised will support our new Welcome Corps initiative and our growing Radical Love programming.



“Radical Love is a community that feels like a family,” - Yarik, high school neighbor from Ukraine

Radical Love



Beach Day

We took our international neighbors to the beach! We shared meals and cotton candy (a first for many!), swam, and had fun together.



First Responder's Day

These helpers are often feared in other countries. This day helped us build bridges.

"I learned about the hospital and how to talk to the nurse,"
- Ka Baw, neighbor from Burma

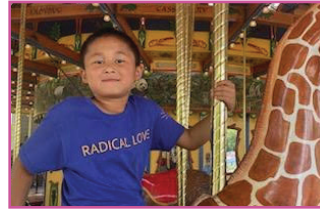


Hats & Gloves

Radical Love gave out over 650 hats and gloves this fall to keep our neighbors warm.

"Radical Love is a place to love others from around the world - with your family - very close to home," - Ronae, English tutor

Our Mission: To reflect the radical love of Jesus through our work with refugee families, senior citizens, and children.



Zoo Day

Over 230 resettled refugee neighbors with Radical Love flooded The Brookfield Zoo, many seeing a zoo for the first time!

"Radical Love is a beautiful picture of heaven,"
- Ashley, volunteer



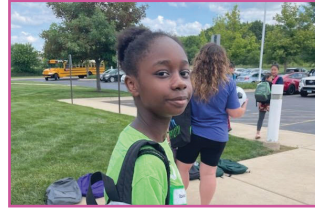
Breakfast Always Served

Many arrive at our program hungry. Homemade bagels and fresh fruit were served at every program to all. Yum!



Socks & Underwear

These items are the last to be purchased when money is tight. We shared over 1000 pairs of socks and underwear with our refugee neighbors.



Serve Day

Kids at our Summer Program helped to organize, sort, and deliver school supplies, helping over 500 kids in our community.

"It's awesome to see how much the program has grown in just one year!" - Tara, volunteer



Senior Citizen Care

Radical Love volunteers help at a local senior citizen complex each month, helping and bringing joy to these special neighbors.



T-shirts & Tote Bags

Each international neighbor received a t-shirt and bag. These items are worn/carried with pride and help tell the story of Radical Love.

"I tell all of my friends about Radical Love," - Angeles, neighbor from Central America



Fall Meet-up Day

In October we held Radical Love Day at Blackberry Farm to continue building relationships from our Summer Program.



Learning Materials

Adults coming to learn English receive customized materials at our program.

"Radical Love is a beautiful program. It helped me be brave to learn English," -Mariana, neighbor from Ukraine



Two Buses Each Week

A big barrier to learning English is transportation. TWO buses were needed to bring neighbors to learn and be together this summer.

"Amazing people, who have different cultures and beliefs than me. Because of this diversity, my kids and I learned a lot this summer," Maria, neighbor from Congo





Students Prepare for Future

Our student program included a Career Day, along with presentations from local colleges/trade schools, helping students prepare for the future.

"I like meeting nice people,"
-Chi, neighbor from Vietnam



Soccer Day

A high school soccer team put on a clinic at our program and thrilled all the kids! Every child left with a soccer ball.



350 Snack Bags Every Month

Packed by local groups/teams, these bags funnel to 9 local schools and housing complexes each month.

"Radical Love - All things very good!" - Rashid, neighbor from Iran



Dance Day

Children at the program learned a choreographed dance taught by a local studio and performed for everyone at the end of the day.



Chess Day

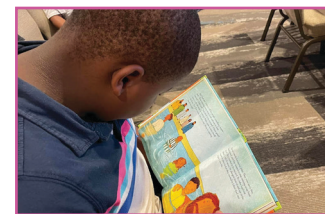
Kids at our program learned the game (and advanced moves!), played together, and took home a board to continue the fun.



Friendships

Our programs are built to bring people together, which strengthens community. The friendships formed from Radical Love are so beautiful to witness.

"I wish the program was every day. The people are wonderful," - Elnor, neighbor from Burma



Bible Shared

God's love is for all and so is His Word. Bibles in multiple languages are available at all our programs.

"Radical Love is a place where all are welcomed, all are loved, and we learn from one another," - Amy, English tutor



Prayers in Many Languages

Every Radical Love program begins with a prayer given in another language by an international neighbor. God hears it all.

"The stories from others and the pastors' encouragement are reminders of how great Jesus' love is and there is hope,"
- Eh, college student neighbor from Burma



Meals Together

We provide lunch at many of our programs, allowing extra time to build community while feeding our neighbors.

Schools and Organizations We're Helping

- Batavia Apartments
- Batavia High School
- Geneva Middle Schools
- Greencastle of North Aurora
- Harrison Elementary School
- Hesed House
- Jefferson Middle School
- Nicholson Elementary School
- Rotolo Middle School
- Western Avenue Elementary School
- Williamsburg Elementary School



Childcare

The biggest barrier to learning English is childcare. Radical Love has dedicated volunteers to care for the 130+ children at our program.

"I love spending time with my preschool buddy," - Vivian, high school helper

Company Matching: Radical Love is registered to receive corporate matches.

Monthly Giving: Join the many families who give to Radical Love monthly! It's easy to set-up on our website and helps us plan more effectively as we grow.

Radical Love is a registered 501c3 organization. All donations are tax-deductible.



Follow Us:
Facebook @theradicallove
Instagram @theradicalloveproject

Radical Love

Upcoming Events & Projects:

Kids are Involved in Everything We Do!

"You don't have to travel far to make a difference. The world is here." - Ellie Lebron



Community Christmas

Saturday, December 9, 2023

We partner refugee families and senior citizens with neighbors in the community to meet needs and grant wishes for Christmas. Everyone comes together to enjoy a meal and hear a Christmas symphony. We anticipate over 500 involved.

Dance Day & Book Swap

Monday, February 19, 2024

This is our winter meet-up to continue building relationships with resettled refugee neighbors. Dances from several countries and cultures will be performed, and kids will do a book swap. Lunch will be provided.

Summer Friendship & Learning

Friday, June 14 - July 26, 2024

Our 4th summer of English-learning and community building is set for next year! Join us for one or many Fridays. Helpers are needed as greeters, tutors, student leaders, childcare workers, and snack distributors.

Celebration of Community & Fundraiser

Friday, August 9, 2024

Aquaviva Winery

An evening filled with stories of hope and friendship, and a community coming together. We sold out the 2023 event!

Tickets on sale in January!

Our Team

Board of Directors:



Ellie Lebron
Founder



Katie Feagans
Secretary



Jason Lebron
Treasurer



Abby Baldwin



Austin Newcomb

Advisory Council:



Jen Bernal



Kate Derrico



Cheryl Pacilio



Josh Schwede



Kim Thompson

Staff:



Ellie Lebron
Founder & Executive Director



Courtney Wilkison
Director of Operations



Keri Bush
Director of Programming



Karina DiOrio
Outreach Coordinator
Speaks Spanish



ChiChi Htoo
Outreach Coordinator
Speaks Karen



Natalie Potepenکو
Outreach Coordinator
Speaks Russian & Ukrainian

Where in the World?



Countries represented at Radical Love: Congo, South Sudan, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Iran, Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, Ukraine, Russia, Hungary, South Africa, Venezuela, Ecuador, Columbia, and the Central America region

Volunteer Opportunities in All Areas



Subscribe to our eNewsletter to get involved.

Ways to Get Involved

- 1) Pray for Radical Love and all of the people involved with our movement.
- 2) Volunteer with Radical Love. All opportunities are shared via email (register via our website).
- 3) Give to Radical Love and help us continue to GROW!

Radical Love Merch



Cozy up in Radical Love hoodies, crew necks, long and short-sleeve t-shirts. Kids and adult sizes! Our gear makes an excellent Christmas gift, and 40% of all proceeds comes back to Radical Love.

Visit our website or Scan to see our store:



RADICAL LOVE
A Community of Helpers

Financial Contributors to Radical Love

October 1, 2022 - October 1, 2023 (* denotes monthly contributor)

We couldn't do it without you - thank you!



RADICAL LOVE

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AJ Saloga
Maryna Sulii
Symboliq Media
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Waubonsee Community College
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Dave Wasson
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Karina & Jeff DiOrion
The Attic Christian Arts Center
Batavia Park District
The Sweetest Adventure
Kane County Sherrif's Department
CauseTeam
*The many volunteers and
groups that work together in
Radical Love*



RADICAL LOVE

The Story of Radical Love: How it all started

By Ellie Lebron

Like most good ideas, ours started on a playground. As we watched our children run, a group of moms discussed the desire to love and serve neighbors in need, with our young children alongside us. We couldn't find such a place, so we made one: The Love Your Neighbor Club. It began with 7 families in 2017.

We connected with an elementary school in Aurora where many refugee children attended. We helped meet needs like school supplies, winter gear, Halloween costumes for the school parade, books to take home and keep, and food for long weekends. Word began to spread about our Club, and more families joined in the mission to help.

In 2019, I received a request from a community leader that was different: A woman in Aurora needed a friend. She was born in Burma, raised in a refugee camp in Thailand, and had recently lost her husband in a car accident. She was a stay-at-home mom with three young kids; her children were the same ages as my children. I couldn't say one word in her language (Karen), but I went to her home and sat with her. We cried together and talked a bit in broken English. A friendship formed and something inside me changed: I knew a refugee by name: Hser, and everything changes when you know someone by name.

Covid hit and we could no longer work through the school. God opened new doors, and I met more refugee neighbors, including a woman named ChiChi. Together, we talked about the need and desire of refugee women to learn English, but it proved difficult with young kids at home. In the spring of 2021, we began building a program called "Summer Friendship & Learning," which would bring together adults wanting to learn English with adults willing to tutor. We would have childcare and fun things for kids so everyone could come – both the children of the learners and volunteers.

Word spread about our English-learning program, and a local business wanted to fund what we were doing. But as a little club, we couldn't accept the money - and we weren't so "little" anymore; we had over 250 families wanting to help. The families represented churches from all over the Fox Valley, many of different faiths, some not attending church, but all wanted to be part of our mission. God spoke again, "Radical Love. Show my radical love." He surrounded us with all the right people at just the right time, and Radical Love formed as a 501c3 non-profit in May 2021.

As soon as we incorporated, we received the check from the local business that wanted to help.
It was the exact amount needed for our learning materials for the first summer.

During the first summer, approximately 120 resettled refugees, volunteers, and children participated in our program. This summer, over 250 resettled refugees, volunteers, and children were part of our Radical Love program. We went from helping 1 school to serving neighbors in 12 schools and housing complexes. To date, there are 935 families reading this publication.

It is our mission to bring a community together – to love and help - by getting to know one another.
Everything changes when you know someone by name. It's how God knows and loves each one of us.