



April 2023

Working together until Metro Richmond is...

# TRANSFORMED



## Into the Neighborhood

**RCFN Associational Missions Week of Prayer and  
Mission Offering May 7-14, 2023**

**2023 Goal: \$100,000**



*"The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood." John 1:14 MSG*

Richmond is a thriving city with many wonderful neighborhood communities filled with families of all sizes. Along with the wonderful art, music, and theater venues there are a myriad of needs that challenge our friends and families in the city. For more than 100 years Richmond Baptist Centers and Camp Alkulana have invested in meeting needs and sharing Christ among our neighbors.

We are grateful for your generous donations to our annual mission offering to support the ministry of Camp Alkulana and the Ministry Centers in Richmond. This year our goal is \$100,000 and we hope you'll be part of helping us reach that goal! Please let our office know if your church needs prayer guides, offering envelopes, a copy of the mission video, or a guest speaker.

This year we want to invite you and your church into the neighborhoods of Richmond to learn, to make friends, and to engage in the ministry of the River City Faith Network. There will be opportunities to visit the ministry centers; take a mission trip into the neighborhood; partner with churches in hosting block parties; help with fix-it projects at our centers; host a neighborhood VBS; join in a community prayer gathering; experience a day at Camp Alkulana; help prepare the camp for the summer campers and more.

Please join us as we meet God in the neighborhood! We're looking for churches that wish to host or partner with a host church for community block parties and prayer gatherings. If you're interested in any of the opportunities mentioned above, please call the RCFN Office at 804.329.1701 or contact us at [office@rbaonline.org](mailto:office@rbaonline.org)

### IN THIS ISSUE

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Neighborhood.....        | 1 |
| Meet the Interns.....    | 2 |
| Racing in Richmond ..... | 3 |
| RCFN Updates .....       | 4 |

### Noteworthy Dates

#### **Pastors Coffee**

March 30, 2023 10 am

#### **Richmond Race**

April 1st and 2nd  
Richmond Raceway

#### **Easter Monday– Office Closed**

April 10, 2023

#### **CAST Meeting**

April 11, 2023  
RCFN Room 265

#### **CHCWC Support Team**

April 15, 2023  
Bethlehem Fairmount 11 am

#### **Pastors Gathering**

April 20, 2023  
RCFN Room 265

#### **SRBC Support Team**

April 29, 2023  
SRBC Satellite Center 2 pm

### **MINISTRY OF THE WEEK APRIL 2023**

4/2 Dover Association  
4/9 First Baptist Church  
4/16 First Union Baptist  
4/23 Friendship Memorial  
4/30 Gayton Baptist Church

## Meet the Interns of RCFN

The RCFN and Camp Alkulana have been fortunate to benefit from the assistance of two interns through the VCU School of Social Work this year. They have been working on different projects that benefit the ministries in a positive way.

The RCFN is benefitting from the help of Brittany Bell. Brittany is a senior at VCU and will be graduating this May. She is pursuing her Bachelor's in Social Work and has previously completed internships focusing on the foster care structure and food instability. This spring she has been doing a study of food insecurity and how our churches and ministry centers factor into helping provide services across the Richmond area. She has spent time contacting all of our churches and other community programs to prepare a monthly calendar of food resources and is also working to implement an inventory system for our Center Directors to have better visibility of the food resources needed.

Before starting at VCU, she was a CNA for 13 years and decided that she wanted to shift her focus of how to help people. She especially wanted to help foster children and children who may have been overlooked through other outlets. She grew up in the greater Richmond area and has ties to South Richmond.

Brittany was surprised to learn how long the association and ministries have been serving in the community and is impressed with the organization and what the centers have provided over the years. She



*Above right: Eric Paz,  
Below left: Brittany Bell*



especially enjoyed reaching out to the churches. The most challenging part was trying to connect with the right people who could help provide the details of the services they provide. With this new information, people searching for food will be able to know where to go without making so many calls. Please pray for her and her family as she completes her work and takes the next steps after graduation.

Camp Alkulana has welcomed Eric Paz to help with Alkulana RVA programs and a variety of Camp projects this fall and spring. You may have met him at the Camp Alkulana golf tournament in October. Eric grew up all over Northern Virginia and Washington, DC, but is originally from Manassas, VA. His family is from El Salvador. He got his Bachelor's in Psychology with a Concentration in Educational Psychology at George Mason University, and is currently enrolled to get his MSW at Virginia Commonwealth University. Eric is a huge soccer fan, with Barcelona being his favorite team.

Eric has made a lasting impact at Camp Alkulana in his short time here. In the fall, he conducted a data review to better understand who our Alkulana campers are so that we can better serve them. In that process, he highlighted the low number of Latino families involved in the camp and then he pioneered an outreach initiative with our Southside Baptist Center to connect with potential campers in a neighborhood that our RCFN Center already serves. Eric has also re-developed our Alkulana RVA school-year program into a youth-led program by mentoring and leading our junior counselors to plan and run the program themselves!

## Let's Celebrate!

In 2015, Camp Alkulana was added to the National Register of Historic Places. This listing recognizes the camp's historic national significance in connection with the American camping movement, the settlement house movement, and the leadership of women in promoting social change in urban America. In January, we finally received our sign to mark the achievement! You will see it posted at the beginning of our camp driveway.

The sign says:

Camp Alkulana, one of Virginia's oldest residential summer camps, was established in 1925 and moved here in 1917. Nannie Crump West, a social reformer who

directed a settlement house in Richmond under the auspices of that city's Baptist Woman's Missionary Circle founded the camp to provide the benefits of outdoor recreation to girls from urban, working-class families. Swimming, hiking, cave exploring, crafts, and religious services afforded the campers leisure, adventure, practical skills, and spiritual growth. The camp's rustic-style buildings blended with the environment and encouraged closeness with nature. Boys began attending about 1950 and the camp was racially desegregated in 1968.

To read more about Camp Alkulana's history, visit the history page on our website at [www.alkulana.org](http://www.alkulana.org)

## Central Virginia Raceway Ministries is back at the Track!!

The CVRM would like to let everyone know that Ministry Service Opportunities are available during NASCAR Race Weekend held on Saturday, April 1 and Sunday, April 2, 2023 at Richmond Raceway located at 800 East Laburnum Avenue.

*Volunteers are needed* to minister by providing race fans an opportunity to worship, enjoy Christian music and arts, discover the message of Christ through media and know His transforming presence. Volunteers are asked to work a 5 or 6 hour shift as they serve in a variety of ways in our Hospitality Ministry Sites at the Richmond Raceway Complex. As ambassadors of goodwill, opportunities for service include: distributing refreshments and Christian driven literature; performing as singers, musical groups or with performing arts (clowns, magicians, mimes, jugglers, balloon artists, etc.); and serving as chaplains, crisis counselors, Kids carnival workers, or logistics and support persons.

Volunteers are also needed to become residents or minister at a CVRM provided camper/motorhome parked at one of the RV lots with camping race fans during the race weekend. RR track management believes that having CVRM representatives living and ministering at these sites among camping race fans will strengthen the Christian influence throughout the raceway complex. CVRM is SEEKING RVs: If you have a camper or motor home you would like to park at RR for the race weekend either for your own occupancy or for someone else from CVRM to occupy, please call contact Charles Ward.

All volunteers or anyone interested in learning more about this ministry **ARE REQUIRED** to attend the **Worker Training Session on Saturday morning, April 1, at 9:00 a.m.** at the main site at Richmond Raceway (Come through GATE 7). Agenda items for this meeting include briefing by race track guest services official, volunteer responsibilities, finalization of the plans for the weekend activities, and a chance to ask questions.

Volunteers can also sign up for a shift time; which are:

**March 31** - Friday: SET-UP Main Hospitality Site & Hospitality Site in F lot. 1 Shift: Noon-3 pm

**April 1** - Saturday: Kids CORNER and Hospitality Ministry for the NASCAR Xfinity RACE:  
Shifts: 8:30 am-1:00 pm, 12:00-4:00 pm & 4 to 8pm (Lost & Lonely)

**April 2**- Sunday: Kids CORNER and Hospitality for the NASCAR Toyota RACE:  
Shifts: 8:00 am-1:00 pm, 12:00 till 6:00pm; 6 to 9 pm (Lost & Lonely/Tear down site)

### **WANTED!! THOUSANDS OF COOKIES!!!**

We are asking that church mission groups, Sunday School classes, youth groups, etc. volunteer to make "homemade" cookies and bag these in small clear zip lock plastic bags with 2-3 medium sized cookies each. A label saying compliments of \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church may be put on the outside of the bag. No literature in the bags please. Also label if any peanuts or tree nuts are in the bags. These will be available by Central Virginia Raceway Ministries.

Cookies may be brought to the **RBA (River City) Office, BGAV building, Emerywood Pkwy. March 27-30, from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (329-1701)** or the Dover Baptist Assoc. Office, 11006 Lakeridge Pkwy, Ashland, VA (550-1980)

For more information or to confirm when you want to volunteer: phone: (804) 601-4463 or e-mail: [info@varacewayministries.org](mailto:info@varacewayministries.org) or call Charles Ward at 804-262-3612.



River City Faith Network  
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www.richmondbaptist.org

Electronic Service Requested

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**City** FAITH  
NETWORK  
Richmond Baptist Association

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**The River City Faith Network expresses  
their sincere condolences to the  
families, friends, and congregations on  
the passing of:**

**Mr. Edward Altman**, former Choir Director  
at Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church,  
Weatherford Memorial Baptist Church and  
Woodland Heights Baptist Church.

Please be in prayer for the family and  
congregation as they grieve the loss of this  
remarkable individual.

### RCFN Calendar Highlights

[www.RichmondBaptist.org](http://www.RichmondBaptist.org) for the latest updates

#### May 2023

5/7-5/14- **RCFN Offering and Week of Prayer**

5/9- CAST Meeting

5/13- Camp Alkulana Work Day

5/23- RCFN Board Meeting

5/27- Camp Alkulana Work Day

5/29- Memorial Day- Office Closed

#### June 2023

6/2-6/12- Camp Alkulana Staff Training

6/13- CAST Meeting

6/15- CHCWC and SRBC Food Pantry

6/16-6/27- CA Older Boys Session

6/19- Juneteenth- Office Closed

