

From Our New Executive Director

This past year we have experienced many transitions and changes at The Relief Zone. First and foremost, in 2015 our volunteer, visionary founder and Executive Director, Roxanne Miller announced her retirement. Roxanne served as the Executive Director since 2000 when TRZ was first formed. A retirement reception was held on January 31st to honor Roxanne and wish her well in her retirement. Thank you Roxanne; for your vision, dedication and commitment to The Relief Zone and the Frewsburg community.

In May of 2015 June Sisson, our part-time grant writer, came on as our full-time grant writer/fundraising manager. June has been with TRZ since April 2006 and has developed significant knowledge and skills in the grant writing and fundraising fields. In June of 2015 we welcomed Erin Ekstrom as our Children's Program Manager. Erin comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience.

Currently TRZ has multiple programs for children, youth, and adults. The Relief Zone employs 20 staff and serves over 300 individuals through programming on a weekly basis. The facility is utilized by the community for church services, Bible studies, cub scouts, Narcotics Anonymous, VITA Tax Preparation, birthday parties, weddings and much more.

Upon receiving licensing from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, we moved our children's Jumpstart, Afterschool, Tutoring and Half Dayz programs to Robert H. Jackson Elementary School for the 2015-2016 school year. A big thank you goes out to the Frewsburg Central School District for collaborating with us and making the transition in location smooth and seamless. Currently we are raising funds to make the necessary renovations to our facility so that we can apply for New York State licensing at our facility. The total expected cost of these renovations is \$75,000-\$80,000. To date we have secured \$43,500, which is enough to begin phase one of the renovations. Due to the large amount of funds needed and the timeline for completing the renovations, our children's programming will remain at RHJ Elementary School for the 2016-2017 school year.

It is our desire to provide excellent, cost effective programming to meet the needs of the Frewsburg community. We have been so encouraged to see individuals, churches, foundations and businesses within the community wrap themselves around supporting our organization. In the last few years, TRZ has doubled in size, growing from a \$150,000 annual budget in 2013, to a projected budget of \$300,000 for 2016. Currently our annual

income consists of 25% donations, 30% program fees, and 45% grants. Our goal is to increase the percentage of donations enabling the community we strive to serve to be the structure and foundation that strengthens and supports the sustainability of The Relief Zone. The \$6 a month club is a new initiative that we are rolling out to the community. Very simply stated, we are looking for individuals, families, businesses, etc., that are willing to partner with TRZ on a monthly basis at \$6. It is our goal to add 1000 members to the \$6 a month club by 12/31/16. Please consider partnering with us by joining our \$6 a month club. Trinity United Methodist Church is the owner of the facility and property that The Relief Zone has utilized since 2000. Trinity has graciously allowed TRZ to utilize the facility at no cost and has been very supportive of the mission and vision of the organization throughout the years. Recently Trinity approached our Board of Directors and verbalized their desire to transfer ownership of the facility and property to The Relief Zone. The Board has accepted Trinity's offer and TRZ will be taking ownership of the facility and property in the near future. A huge thank you goes to Trinity United Methodist Church for their steadfast support of The Relief Zone.

There is a saying, "It takes a village to raise a child." Frewsburg is that village, that community, that comes together to ensure that children are valued, loved, educated, and equipped with the skills needed to be successful in life. Frewsburg is that village where businesses, churches, schools and individuals collaborate to create a future for its children that is filled with hope, joy and success. Frewsburg is that village that surrounds those in need and comes together to meet those needs; providing food, clothing, shelter, finances, a shoulder to cry on and a hand to hold. I am humbled and honored to be part of such an amazing community.

We look to the future with anticipation and excitement to see what God has planned for The Relief Zone, knowing that we are just an instrument, a tool that God is using to complete His work here in Frewsburg. In Matthew 17:20 Jesus says, "truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." God has, and will continue to move mountains here in our village.

Thank you for your support, trust, and faith in The Relief Zone.
Lisa Lyon, Executive Director

The Relief Zone, Inc.

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TRZ Endowment Fund

The purpose of this endowment fund is to support the charitable efforts of The Relief Zone and its impact on the Town of Carroll's youth and families now and into the future.

We hope that you feel as we do that The Relief Zone is a community treasure worth sustaining. Your consideration to pledge your support is appreciated.

Make a Charitable Gift Now –Your tax deductible gift to The Relief Zone Fund can support our efforts. Memorials and Honorariums are encouraged.

Create a Charitable Bequest – The establishment of a charitable bequest in your Will can support our efforts after your lifetime. A charitable bequest can be made by:

- Gift a percentage of your estate
- Gift a specific asset
- Gift the residue of your estate

Make a Charitable Gift Annuity— make a gift of cash or marketable securities to the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation now and get immediate tax benefits, and ensure that you or a loved one receive fixed quarterly income payments for life. Upon your death, the remainder of your gift will be endowed with the CRCF for The Relief Zone, Inc.

These are tangible ways to have a lasting impact on the young people and families in our community.

Thank you.

“The Cave” Student Union Collaboration

VISION: “that thing” you have inside you that compels you to attempt things that stretch you, ignite a white-hot passion in you, and benefit more people than just you.

If you could attempt anything for the sake of God, *knowing* that you wouldn’t fail, what would you do? Missions? Music? Lead a team?

If we’re honest, though, how often do we follow through with something that God Himself may be **calling** us to?

This is a question I come back to regularly in my time with God and within the last year it has been answered more clearly than in years past. Frederick Beuchner is quoted as having said, “The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” Despite my best efforts to avoid youth ministry for its *craziness, drama, and copious amounts of unhealthy food*, this is where my “gladness” meets a need.

I LOVE seeing students **own** their faith and **step into** their leadership potential as an example to their peers and even the adults around them. I LOVE pushing them to places they didn't think were possible and holding them to a higher standard than their culture thinks is possible. I LOVE connecting them to one another and other caring adults that are willing to be real with them. I LOVE it when students realize their life is NOT *all about them*.

Having said that, I think God’s directing me to develop and lead a center for students in grades 7-12 for the Frewsburg Community launching by next fall. Awesome right? It think so too, but I also think... WHAT?!

“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” - Beuchner

Fear often keeps us from pursuing a clear calling. Thankfully, God provides people in our lives to

encourage us and speak truth that drowns out fear. Then, as we walk in obedience, He affirms us and reveals His strength amidst our frailty.

In this adventure, The Relief Zone has understood my heart and how it aligns with their dreams to unify and serve the school, the church, and the families of Frewsburg. We’ve begun a great partnership, meeting with local ministry leaders and school administration to see if this is something this community recognizes as a need and would be willing to pour into.

We plan to provide an excellent environment in which students find sanctuary, take ownership and serve, develop relationships, and grow in leadership. The hope is to utilize the Catholic Fellowship Hall directly across from the high school. We want a safe, close location for students to hang out after school until sports (or 5pm); a location that is able to centralize student leaders (FCA, Impact, NHS, Sports Teams, Student Council, etc.); a place for joint, communal youth ministry (The Rock & STOP); a place with potential for growth (tutoring, counseling, etc.).

God knows what he wants to happen and how He’s going to make it happen. My prayer is that **WE - AS A COMMUNITY** - understand the need and value of such an initiative for teens and the community.

[What can I do?]

I can’t tell you how under-qualified I feel or how much my faith and trust in God is being forced to grow in this vision. Please pray that The Cave continues to build a team of students and adults willing to pour in to the lives of students in Frewsburg. Pray that God will provide the financial resources abundantly as I don’t want second-rate stuff for first-rate students.

If you want to help or want more info, feel free to contact me Justin Joyner at [\(716\)969-6814](tel:716969-6814) or email me at theyouthoftrinity@gmail.com

Community Service Programs

TRZ Young Minds Tutoring Program: Meets Mon-Thurs: K-6th Grade, 3:30-5pm, at RHJ Site..... Free!

TRZ Jumpstart Program/Before school program: Coordinator, Anna Swanson. K-6th grade students. Monday- Friday 6:00 -9am following the Frewsburg School Calendar. Cost \$3.50 per day.

TRZ Kidz After School Program: Coordinators, Laurie Swanson & Yvonne Himes. K-6th grade students. Monday-Friday 3:00-5:30pm following the Frewsburg School Calendar. Cost \$3.50 per day.

TRZ Half Dayz/No School Dayz:--Child care for children in K-6th grade. Dates TBA. Following the Frewsburg School calendar. Cost \$20 per half day, \$30 per full day.

TRZ Kidz Summer Day Camp: Children in K-6th grade. Field trips, crafts, Library time, outdoor activities, swimming, and much more! Cost \$30 per day or \$120 per week.

Saturday Teen Outreach Program “STOP”: Coordinator, Jason Wood. Band Coordinator, Evan Oakes. All Community Youth in Grades 7-12 Welcome! Saturday Nights 7-10pm.

REACH Young Adult Program: Meets Friday nights from 7-10pm for high school graduates through age 30. Registrations are being accepted and forms are available online at www.thereliefzone.org or by calling 716-569-2614.

Special Needs Adult Program “SNAP”: SNAP meets the 2nd Saturday of the month from 1-4pm for adults with special needs. Crafts, Music, Fieldtrips, Friends and more! We are currently looking for a fun energetic person to lead this group and for a driver to pick up participants and bring them home. An employment application is available online at www.thereliefzone.org or by calling 716-569-2614.

Events/Fundraisers

Calendar of Events

Can Drive: 7/9- 9-12pm

Golf Tournament: 6/18

Summer Program Starts: 6/27

Can Drive: 7/9

TRZ Kidz Fun Run: 8/21-9am

Community Service: 8/21-11am

Pig Roast: 8/21-12pm to 3pm

Fall Raffle: 11/4-17

Chili Cook Off: 11/19 - 1pm

Memorial Christmas Trees:11/1

NYE Party– Teens 12/31

Opportunities to Help Throughout the Year

Volunteer:

Help on Saturday nights at the snack bar, as a mentor and/or speaker. Work details; painting, landscaping, and cleaning. After school mentoring and tutoring available. Each fundraiser needs extra hands to be successful, please consider being part of our team!

Save or purchase:

Milk cartons, jugs, paper rolls, material scraps, craft supplies, & healthy snack foods.

Employment:

We have child care & tutoring positions available throughout the year, an application may be picked up at TRZ or mailed to you by calling 569-2614.

Board of Directors

We welcome interest in serving on our board of directors. The board meets once a month, with a commitment term of 2 years service.

Direct Contributions

Community partners and churches have been a key component in provided for area families for the past 16 years at The Relief Zone.

Please consider a monthly or annual donation. If you are interested in taking a tour of TRZ and attending a partner reception, please call us and we will be happy to show you around

TRZ Memorial Christmas Trees

Last year, you sponsored one or more of the beautiful lighted Christmas trees at The Relief Zone.

They were a physical expression of remembrance, in memory of loved ones past, in honor of friends battling illness and hope for men and women serving our country.

This year, you are invited to participate again in the memorial tree effort. Two options for your donation are a large tree- \$50 or a small tree- \$25. Proceeds become part of the TRZ Fund

Endowment at the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation.

For your information, a brochure about our endowment fund is enclosed.

There is a need in our area, several families are facing the hardship of rising child care costs with no raise in household income. Times are tight, and we would like to offer you an opportunity to help!

Our \$6 a month club will be made up of new donors in 2016

JumpStart-After School Programs

\$6 covers the cost of one child for a single session/day.

\$30 covers the cost of one child for the before or after school program for one week .

\$120 covers the cost of one child for the before or after school program for one month .

\$1,080 covers the cost of one child for the entire year before or after school.

TRZ Kidz Summer Day Camp

\$24 covers the cost of one camper for a day

\$120 covers the cost of one camper for a week

\$1080 covers the cost of one camper for the entire summer

Tops Cash for Causes

Cards available year round at TRZ

\$10, \$25, \$50 and \$100 cards

Cash or check

5% of each card goes to support our programs

Call 569-2614 and let us know what you'd like.

Capital Project Donation

Please consider making a tax deductible contribution toward helping us meet our project goal.

\$43,500 has been raised so far.