



ABOUNDING IN EVERY GOOD WORK

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will **<u>abound in every</u> <u>good work.</u>** - 2 Corinthians 9:8





KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Blessings abound for our softball program! In 2024, we added seven high-school based summer league teams to our program through targeted outreach to 25 local high schools. This boosted our varsity player participation, with 15 of 16 of our 18U Regional Softball team players also playing varsity at their schools. These efforts contributed to a 40% increase in the number of 16 to 18-year-old players served and culminated in an invitation to 40 girls to participate in our fall retreat with Coach Ashley Carter.

#ELEVATE SOFTBALL

This year, we intentionally focused on elevating our softball girls by taking our program to the next level! As a result, we:

- Grew from 122 to 170 high school softball participants
- Hosted a softball retreat for 40 of our high school airls focused on holistic development
- Completed third full year of our Cat Osterman Softball Academy (COSA), increasing the number of tournaments entered from two to five
- Saw 18 of 18 COSA players participate in at least one college showcase

These accomplishments would not have been possible without your support!

As more girls join the game, we're creating space for them to grow, compete, and lead!

TOTAL TEAM SPORTS PARTICIPATION FOR GIRLS 13-17 CLIMBED FROM 54% TO 55% TO 58% OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS AFTER NEVER BEING HIGHER THAN 49% UNTIL 2021.

Source: Aspen Institute's State of Play 2024 Report

A DREAM REALIZED X 4

Jordan, Ace, Sion, and Laude celebrated their first MLB RBI World Series berth after 10+ years of playing with RBI Austin. That's 10+ years of:

- · Growing in brotherhood with each other and their teammates
- Being mentored by their coaches and growing in their faith
- · Sharpening their skills over a countless number of hours that surely prepared them for this longawaited opportunity

Your investment in our mission is making dreams come true at RBI Austin! We sincerely appreciate you.



RBI Austin's 18U Regional Baseball team won the RBI Southwest Regional to advance to the MLB RBI World Series this August in Vero Beach, FL! This RBI Regional championship marked four 18U Regional championships in the past six years for RBI Austin, and it was the first for Jordan Benjamin, Ace Cyphers, Sion Benjamin, and Laude Reyes (pictured right). For each, this represented a major milestone - a dream realized - in achieving their first RBI Regional championship and RBI World Series berth.





12% increase in # of kids 10% increase in # of teams 6% increase in # of volunteers 13% increase in # of softball players





RECORD # OF KIDS SERVED

ACE'S STORY

Our 2024 RBI Southwest Regional Baseball champions, including Ace Cyphers (pink sleeve, right), at the Texas Rangers MLB Youth Academy

It's not every day that we get to see one of our long-time program participants graduate from high school, compete on a national stage at the 2024 MLB RBI World Series, then move to Atlanta, Georgia to begin his collegiate baseball career. What an unforgettable summer!

Ace Cyphers started playing with RBI Austin at the age of four and never looked back. His parents, Cicely and Andrew Cyphers, learned about RBI Austin through an article. The program turned out to be a perfect fit for their family as it checked all the boxes for them, including a faith-based approach to the game of baseball.

Eager to keep young Ace active and engaged, Cicely and Andrew enrolled him in RBI Austin's T-Ball Summer League where he quickly connected with his coaches. He would go on to participate every summer through high school, being mentored by coaches and building lifelong friendships with his teammates whom he lovingly calls his brothers.

Ace's involvement with RBI Austin was always a family affair, with his parents, sister (Azalia Cyphers), paternal grandmother (Julia Bunton), and maternal grandmother (Azalia Wilkinson) in attendance at games and practices. His father and sister recall their days of scorekeeping, and that was one of the first signs that they had become an unexpected baseball family.

His grandmothers were his biggest fans and confidants, and encouraged him in his athletic pursuits from an early age. Sadly, by the time Ace reached high school in 2020, Julia passed away. Three years later, during Ace's senior year, Azalia also passed away. This was a tough time for Ace and the entire Cyphers family. Thankfully, Ace was able to mourn these back-to-back losses with the support of his coaches and teammates, as coaches from his early RBI baseball days reached out in support.

As a dedication to his grandmothers, Ace has and continues to wear a pink sleeve at his baseball games. You can also find him praying on the field.

Even now, as a freshman at Clark Atlanta University, Ace is committed to making his grandmothers proud; and we are blessed to see him thriving in this new chapter of his life. Ace's story shows us how faith in God and steadfast community can carry a young baseball player from first pitch to home run.



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RBI Austin exists to engage and develop inner-city Austin youth athletically, academically, and spiritually, empowering them to lead the transformation of their communities.

