



# Newsletter

SPRING 2018

Meet Curtis Thigpen and his family. Curtis has been a faithful donor and champion for RBI Austin over the past 8 years. Hear how Curtis first got connected to RBI Austin and why he's chosen to stick around.

**1 Share with us a little bit about yourself.**

*I'm from Forney, Texas and attended the University of Texas. I've been married to Natalie for 9 years and we have two daughters, Landon (7) and Elin (5).*

**2 When and why did you first give to RBI Austin?**

*I'm not positive when exactly I first gave to RBI Austin. It was probably in 2010 through either a monetary or an equipment donation.*

*I do know I decided to give to RBI Austin because it was a program created to engage with and help develop underprivileged kids in Austin (the city that I love) through the game of baseball (the game that I love) with an approach that is rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

*There couldn't be an organization that better aligns with my personal interests!!*

**3 Why have you continued to give to RBI Austin?**

*I'd like to think that this is a mission that I would have continually given to regardless of the "success" that RBI has had over the last 8+ years.*

*First, I'll say that I consider RBI Austin to be an extremely successful organization not by the amazing year-over-year growth of players and money raised, but by the fact that the mission, passion, and heartbeat of the leaders of RBI Austin has not changed since inception. That is a big part of why I continue to give. Plenty of organizations grow quickly, but very few maintain the level of quality like RBI Austin has.*



RBI Austin supporter Curtis Thigpen, his wife Natalie, and their daughters Landon and Elin.

**4 How would you describe our mission? What does it mean to you?**

*Engaging with, caring for, and helping support and develop kids, parents, coaches, and volunteers through the game of baseball.*

*Organized sports, in this case baseball and softball, can provide amazing life experiences and can open up so many doors for everyone involved. It's such a privilege to help provide an opportunity to those who wouldn't ordinarily have one.*

**5 What's your favorite thing about Austin?**

*My favorite thing about Austin is how well-rounded of a city it is... maybe the most well-rounded in the country! No matter what you are into or what you enjoy, you can likely find it here!*

**The city that I love,  
the game that I love, and the  
gospel of Jesus Christ.**

## SWEET SUMMERTIME – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

With your support and the Lord's favor, we've grown from 118 kids to 1,171 kids over the past seven years. This growth has driven a need for more volunteers to support our growing number of summer league teams!

Wondering what our various gameday summer volunteer roles look like?

### 1 HEAD COACH

**A day in the life:** You're leading the charge for your RBI Austin team. You're working with your assistant coaches to make sure that practices have a plan, that kids are having fun, and that families are engaged and invited into the team. Typically, head coaches have served with RBI Austin before and/or are familiar with RBI Austin's mission + culture. **Time commitment:** 1-2 games and one practice a week.

### 2 ASSISTANT COACH

**A day in the life:** You're helping your head coach run the show. This can entail corralling kids, running drills at practice, being in charge of the batting lineup in the dugout. Head coaches cannot coach a team alone, and you play an essential, supportive role in the experience that RBI Austin players and parents have during the summertime. No baseball or softball experience is required, and we will make sure you get trained to do your role well. **Time commitment:** 1-2 games and one practice a week.

### 3 SCOREKEEPER

**A day in the life:** Do you prefer to be more on the sidelines with a little less commitment than coaching? Scorekeepers help us make sure that games are running smoothly and being documented. You will be posted up behind home plate watching the game, keeping the "book", and enjoying some summer sun at the ballpark. No experience is required, and we will make sure you get trained to do your role well. **Time commitment:** A minimum of 5 games during the summer!

### 4 UMPIRE

**A day in the life:** You keep our games moving — literally. Umpires will be trained in specific divisions and will be provided with all of the rules, regulations, and information they need to make sure that RBI Austin games are running smoothly and according to league rules. **Time commitment:** A minimum of 5 games during the summer!

### 5 SOUND + ATMOSPHERE

**A day in the life:** You're responsible for bringing the gameday environment! Who doesn't love the ballpark atmosphere with music and hearing players being announced as they walk up to the plate? Sound/atmosphere volunteers assist with queuing walk-up music and announcing players and teams. **Time commitment:** A minimum of 5 games during the summer!



### 6 FIELD MAINTENANCE

**A day in the life:** A lot goes on behind the scenes to ensure that our RBI Austin kids have playable fields during the summer season. You're responsible for helping maintain field quality that gives our players a sense of pride in where they get to play. Typically field maintenance tasks include clearing weeds from the infield dirt, building the mound, clearing trash, mowing, and edging. **Time commitment:** As needed throughout the summer.

Interested in serving this summer?  
Attend our upcoming volunteer orientation on June 9th!  
Visit [rbiaustin.org/volunteer](http://rbiaustin.org/volunteer) to register.

## TOP FIVE Immediate Needs

We currently have a number of immediate needs across various departments of our organization.

1. Summer Volunteers
2. Referral to a concrete company willing to provide us a deal
3. Referral to a scoreboard company willing to provide us a deal
4. Storage Space for RBI equipment
5. Team Sponsors (2018 Jr. RBI Team Sponsorships available)

If you have leads for any of the above, please email Amanda Terry at [amanda.terry@rbiaustin.org](mailto:amanda.terry@rbiaustin.org).

# Thank you!

Want more updates?  
Visit [rbiaustin.org](http://rbiaustin.org) or one of our social channels  
to see what's coming up!

