

# The Bridge • 2020 Updates

Enriching, Empowering & Equipping Youth & Young Adults in Round Lake

## Greetings from The Bridge!

It has been a crazy year. It feels as though so much has happened and that we have



accomplished so little at the same time.

We, like the rest of the world, had to rearrange our Bridge practices; but, before I get into that, let me give everyone an update on our family life. On March 17, 2020, Saint Patrick's Day, Jeff & I introduced to the world our son Nehemiah Osvaldo Nicoline. Having him

during the pandemic was not something you can plan for but we are thrilled to have him. He lights up our world with his smile. I could not ask for a better gift from God during these times. Also, he and Asher get along great... so far.

## The Bridge and the Pandemic

We planned on being closed for the month of March because we were expecting our baby, but March passed and another month passed and nothing changed. Then we were quarantined and only allowed to have gatherings of 10 people. We felt so hopeless as an organization. We were grieving the loss of connection to our regular Bridge students.

Just as "all good things come to end," the opposite must be true! Once we were in phase two, we decided to start inviting a few students over for dinner and outings to our family's beach. It was refreshing to be with our regular students. They are

our second family and knowing they were safe and healthy meant so much to us.

When July came we finally felt comfortable starting up The Bridge again. We decided that we should spend the majority of the time outdoors and when we were indoors we'd wear masks and use sanitizer regularly. Yes, it was awkward at first because masks are awkward, but like the rest of society we make it work!

**This is us playing Ultimate Frisbee**



## Carried Away Youth Group-- What's That?!?



The Bridge is sponsored by Lake Region Bible Church and we meet in the upstairs of a house owned by LRBC. Carried Away is LRBC's youth group for middle/high school students and we support CAYG.

During the pandemic, when we could not meet in person, our fearless Youth Group Coordinator Lizzie Nicoline held Zoom meetings on Wednesday nights. We played Mafia, Pictionary, and she even made the board game Codenames work online. She led us in a small devotion and we sang a few songs together. There is nothing like meeting in



person, but we are blessed to have had technology to keep in contact while we could not physically meet together. Lizzie also gave birth to Eleanor Hope Nicoline during the pandemic! She is the most precious girly!

## School with The Bridge

The Round Lake School District is currently fully remote. We The Bridge want to help as best as we can. We have changed the hours of The Bridge as well as our objective. Before, we were open from 2pm-5pm on Monday and Thursday, and at those times we wanted to help with school but we mostly played games and hung out. Now we are open Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday during school hours to give students the option to come here and have WiFi, tutoring, and access to a printer. This time is fully dedicated to the students working on school. We will be practicing social distancing. Masks will be on while walking around and limit the amount of students to each room. Earphones are in and IPADs are out--we don't mess around. This means we need to be strict, which will be hard for me. But I am so thankful that we have the ability to help and on Thursdays will still be open from 4pm to 6pm for fun and play.

## Our New Hours

### School with The Bridge

Monday at The Bridge 10am to 4pm

Tuesday at the Johnson Home 9am to 4pm

Wednesday at The Bridge 9am to 4pm

### Wifi Cafe' (regular Bridge activities)

Thursday at The Bridge 4pm to 6pm

## Thank YOU!

Thank you for your support, prayers, and financial gifts. We appreciate you so much and by the grace of God we will keep tracking on! :)

---Neomi Nicoline (Program Director)

# Executive Director Updates

## Thanks to Our Leadership Team

The mission of The Bridge is made possible in part by the hard work and devotion of our leadership team. This includes our part-time Program Director Neomi Nicoline (see the column she wrote above), and her husband Jeff, who volunteers his time as our Sports Coordinator. Neomi and Jeff are graduates of Round Lake High School, live here in our community, and joyfully share their lives and the love of Jesus Christ with the youth and young adults of Round Lake. We are also extremely grateful for the leadership and service of Clarence Williams, who is our Special Education Consultant, and the Pastoral Assistant of our sponsoring church. See our "Leadership" webpage for more information.

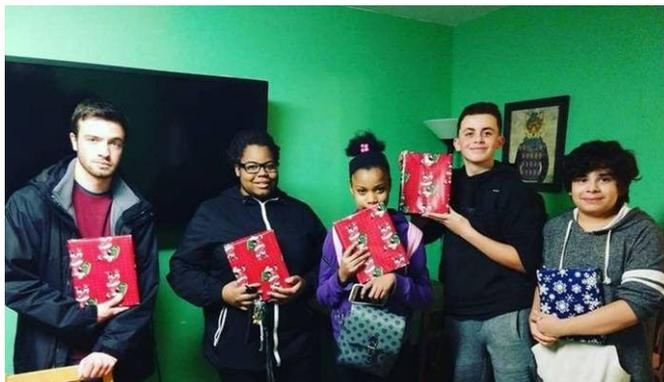


Neomi & Jeff Nicoline Clarence Williams Pastor Marcus

## Thanks to Our Donors

We are very grateful for all of those who have donated to The Bridge since we started five years ago. Our July 2020 financial report is available on our [Donations](#) webpage, along with detailed information about how we use the financial resources entrusted to us. Contributions can be given to The Bridge online or sent in by mail (see our "Donations" webpage for more info). Thanks!

---Pastor Marcus Johnson (Executive Director)



[TheBridgeRoundLake.org](http://TheBridgeRoundLake.org)