

## Our Mission

YFC radically loves and brings hope to teens by working together with the local church and other like-minded partners to raise up lifelong followers of Jesus who lead by their Godliness in lifestyle, devotion to the Word of God and prayer, passion for sharing the love of Christ and commitment to social involvement.

YFC provides a safe and friendly place to learn leadership skills, to think about important issues and to develop quality relationships with peers and with caring adults.

### YFC's 5 Ministry Essentials:

-  WIDESPREAD PRAYER
-  FAITHFUL BIBLE TEACHING
-  LOVING RELATIONSHIPS
-  ADULTS WHO EMPOWER
-  COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

## How to Donate

### Online Donation:

[www.redriveryfc.com/donate/](http://www.redriveryfc.com/donate/)

### Shop using AmazonSmile:

Shop AmazonSmile and Amazon will donate to RRYFC.

### Workplace Donation Match:

Does your workplace offer matching donation funds? Visit our website to find company's that offer matching funds.

### Donate by Mail:

Make checks payable to Red River Youth for Christ and mail in enclosed envelope or to:

2345 Meadow Ridge Pkwy  
West Fargo, ND 58078

For other ways to donate, contact our office.

## A Recent Note From One of Our Friends...

*Greg, Mike, Danielle, Kim, Sue, Becky, & board.*

*Going back over your Christmas letter and I quote, "Your investment in their lives will pay off, not only today, but can pay dividends for eternity."*

*In the spring of 1960, as a junior at Fargo Central High School, I was reached through Youth for Christ holding meetings every Friday morning in one of the lunch rooms. I was the most notorious young man on their prayer list. I was 16 years old—now 60 years later I am in love with Jesus and God the Father more than ever before.*

*I thank God for your work on his behalf. Keep loving those kids and I will continue to pray & support your ministry*

*In Christ  
Keith*

**Your gifts truly make an impact! Thank You!**



Spring 2020

# STORIES

NOTES FROM THE JOURNEY...

## Director's Notes

What a difference a few weeks make! One minute all of us are going about life as normal and in the next, we are sheltering at home and practicing social distancing. It has meant changes for everyone, however, this has not meant a stop to ministry for us at Red River Youth For Christ. This pandemic has just called us to be more creative in how we go about it.

We are so thankful to live in an age of technology, it has allowed us to keep in contact with staff, volunteers, teens, and agencies in ways that would not have been possible years ago. We are meeting with kids on video conferencing platforms, such as Zoom and Google Hangouts. This past week we started online Bible studies with teens in Shelter Care at the West Central Regional Juvenile Detention Center weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Fridays we are meeting with Red River Alternative Learning School students. We are also in the process of scheduling times with the teens on the secure floors in the Detention Center for bible studies as well as times to be available for teens to have caring adults to talk to. One of the staff mentioned to us today that there are teens in the Detention Center

that have no one to talk to on the outside. This breaks our hearts and we want to be there for them any way we can. Our staff has also made themselves available to Fargo and Moorhead schools to help in any way possible. We have delivered school supplies to kid's homes as well as taken kids to doctor's appointments when needed. We are working hard to show and share the love of Jesus by being His hands and feet. We'd love for you to join us in this new way we are doing ministry!

First, please PRAY for us during these uncertain times. Pray for the safety of our staff as well as more opportunities to connect with teens who do not have the support of a caring and supportive adult in their lives. One of the great things about being forced to connect virtually, is people who would never before connect in person are tuning in. So many of my church friends are experiencing this same positive connection within their virtual churches. Our experiences with teens are that they are very prone to accept connection through technology. YFC nationally has informed us that all of our chapters have seen a 50% increase in connection with teens over this time last year. That is truly amazing!

Kids are hungry for connection.

Second, please prayerfully consider DONATING. The reality is, during these uncertain times giving has gone down considerably. For some of you, this may be a new donation and for others, you may consider a gift in addition to your monthly donation. The eternal difference your gifts and prayer make is so evident, I encourage you to read the note from Keith we've added to this newsletter. It was quite special to recently receive this note of encouragement from someone who has been a long time partner of YFC. These tangible moments of seeing God work are very encouraging.

Thank you for standing with us as a ministry both prayerfully and financially. Your partnership with us has made ministry to at-risk teens possible and we are extremely grateful. God is in control! If there is any way that we can specifically pray for you or support you during this time, we would love to do so. We love you all!

Greg Everett  
Executive Director



# Stories from Staff

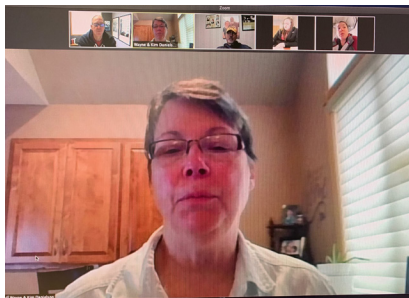
When we found out that school was going to be canceled, I told the administration at Red River Alternative Learning Center that if they needed help with anything to let me know. I did get a call from them, and they asked me if I would help deliver some of the homework that the kids didn't pick up. This was great opportunity for me to say hi to some of the kids and meet some parents as well. They are not always provided the most accurate or up to date information, and most of the address were wrong. This provided to be a bit of a challenge. For example, one address said apartment #4, so I was knocking on that door. I could hear people on the other side of the door, and I tried to explain to them who I was and what I was doing. As I was standing there, this young lady happened to walk out the door of apartment #5. I had not seen her for most of the school year and she was so excited to see me that she gave me a big hug. We sat and talked for quite a while and it truly made my day. ~Mike King



Not all students can afford to have their senior pictures taken. Here is a favorite of AJ from Danielle's shoot earlier this year.



Thank you to those that helped provide & serve meals this year. The kids loved it & not even the pickle juice was wasted!



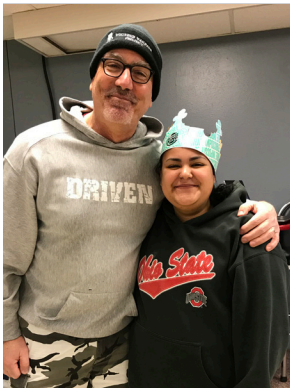
Google Meetings & Zoom calls have become the new normal.

We have had to completely change the method of reaching teens during this time. From Zoom calls to Google Meets, we have been navigating the blessings of technology to remain connected in the lives of teens. We are so thankful for the relationships with West Central staff and area schools to help spread the word and host some of these virtual events. We have set up a recurring virtual event for Fridays when we would typically be doing program with Red River, and devotional time for Tuesdays and Thursdays with the Non-Secure girls at West Central. We are also in the process of getting one-on-one calls or virtual calls and virtual Bible study times set up with the rest of the units at the center as well. We also hope to be able to start delivering care packages to pods and staff at the center soon as well. God is still working; it just looks differently than it did a few weeks ago. ~Danielle Hill

I've also started using old-fashioned snail mail. I write the girls in the Secure unit each week after my husband and I have attended our church's live-stream services on Sunday. I share with them a bit about what I've been up to during the week with my craft projects and baking. (Lots of baking!) Then, I share with them some of the scriptures that our pastor shared with us on Sunday and I look for ways to tie the scripture readings into their situations. I have heard back from staff that the girls appreciated receiving the letters. In my next letter, I'm going to give them several passages to look up and reflect upon. They love to look up scripture in their bibles and they really love to highlight passages when we bring colorful highlighters during our in-person bible studies. I'm sure they will have a lot of catch-up highlighting planned for the first time we are once again able to see them face to face. ~Kim Danielson



Students of the Week



About the time I was really starting to get into a rhythm with my staff position and volunteer work with Red River Youth for Christ, the Coronavirus pandemic settled in for an extended stay. I must admit, though, it was a bit of a shock to realize that due to my age(!) and a minor underlying health condition, I'm in the higher risk category. As a recent retiree with all sorts of craft projects I hadn't had time to work on during my years of full-time employment, it's quite easy for me to entertain myself at home.

But how to reach the kids?!? Sometimes our connection with the teens we serve is tenuous at best, depending on their situations and how much face time we can get with them. And now, we aren't able to interact with them in person. We use Zoom and Google Meetings to reach out to the teens that are in the Shelter Care unit at West Central Regional Juvenile Center and we hope to have regular Zoom calls with the girls in the Secure unit very soon. It can be a bit awkward to visit with the kids in this manner as there can be all sorts of distractions on their end, but it's the connection and the reaching out that matters! The kids know we are thinking about them and we haven't forgotten them. Please keep the at-risk youth in our community in your prayers as well as the wonderful staff that support them 24/7, right through the pandemic. ~Kim Danielson

## Practical Needs

Here are some items we need to add to our Covid-19 care packages. Are you able to help supply these items?

- o Fruit snacks or fruit roll-ups
- o Multi-color highlighters for kid's Bibles
- o Puzzles
- o Board Games
- o Fun-size chocolates
- o Gold Bond Healing Hand Cream in large pump bottles
- o Cases of water, juice boxes, or sports drink
- o Any kind of pre-packed, or individually packaged snacks

## Giving Hearts Day

We are truly overwhelmed by the generosity of so many people on Giving Hearts Day. Because of your generosity and hearts, we not only met our match, but raised a total of \$41,589! This was our biggest year ever. You truly have helped hope grow!

Thank you for being a champion of this ministry!



### RRYFC Staff

Greg Everett  
Mike King  
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Kim Danielson

### RRYFC Board

Penny Crowder  
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