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Winter Newsletter



Winter 2020

STORIES

NOTES FROM THE JOURNEY...



HELP HOPE GROW

Help hope grow in the lives of teens by supporting Red River Youth for Christ on **Giving Hearts Day, Thursday, February 13th**. Go online to givingheartsday.org, choose Red River Youth for Christ, and make your secure online donation. **New:** You can also schedule gifts until February 11th. Checks dated and delivered by noon on the 13th will also be accepted. The most exciting part, **friends of RRYFC will match your donation of \$10 or more up to \$15,000!**



DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Happy New Year! As this new year begins let me just say, "THANK YOU!" I find myself looking back over the past year and I am profoundly grateful for all you... our volunteers and supporters. You are an inspiration to us, as you radically love and bring hope to the many students we serve, by investing in this ministry.

THANK YOU for your untiring commitment to our mission. You are on the front lines of restoring hope and dreams to so many students. You are the hands and feet of Jesus. THANK YOU for your humility and selflessness. THANK YOU for bringing your unique talents, gifts and skills that directly impact and touch the lives of our students.

You are changing lives, in profound ways...in ways that are not always easy to see in the moment. You are sowing seeds that will reap great rewards, over time, in the lives you

touch whether that be hands on or through your gifts.

As we start this year please pray for us as we continue to look for our next Parent Life Director and possible City Life Director. Pray for the volunteers that are hands on with our students. Pray for people to be generous on Giving Hearts Day, February 13th and that God would supply the financial needs of this ministry in what is typically a slow time of year.

THANK YOU!



Greg Everett
Executive Director

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

Stories from Our Volunteers

I have had the opportunity to work with youth at the West Central Regional Juvenile Detention Center since October. At first, I wasn't sure exactly what to expect, but I realized a person sometimes has certain preconceived notions that you don't even realize are there. I was surprised at how open these teens are to our presence in their lives. Also, how hungry they are for information on Jesus Christ and the difference He can make in their lives. During our weekly bible studies with the girls in the facility, I'm constantly amazed at how insightful they are, and the questions they ask! They don't just sit passively and let our readings and words pass over them. They are engaged and eager to learn.

I'll admit there are days that I'm feeling tired and have to be stern with myself to show up to lead the evening's bible study, but I always leave feeling invigorated and challenged to guide the girls toward better choices and hope in their lives. Being involved with the youth at the Regional Juvenile Detention Center has been the connection to God that I've needed in my own life. I feel this is the purpose in my life that I've been moving toward for almost 60 years. Please keep the boys, girls and the staff in your prayers. ~Kim Danielson



Student of the Week

I just started volunteering at the end of October with Youth For Christ. I have always had a passion to help youth. I am a social worker and a previous foster parent and know the many struggles our youth have these days. I have always been a Christian and I know when I had struggles in my life I turned to prayer. I had faith that the Lord would see me through, and He did. I don't know how I would have made it through those tough times without my faith. I think this is just such an awesome ministry. We can tell these youth about the Lord so they can find that peace that will help them heal from their circumstances and give them the hope and the strength to create a great life for themselves. I am so excited to see what the coming year holds for the youth that are involved with this ministry. ~Becky Carow



Staff & Volunteers (Gene, Kim, & Becky) Serving Christmas Dinner at Red River ALC



Sue & Lisa Serving Lunch at Woodrow



Eid-Co Team Serving Lunch at Woodrow



Staff & Volunteers (Tina, Kristin, Kim, Sue & Lisa) Serving Christmas Dinner at Woodrow

Coming from out of town, I first heard of Youth for Christ when Greg asked our church congregation to consider helping to feed the high school students at Woodrow Wilson. Being a grandmother of teens, I felt blessed to be given the opportunity to do something as basic as offering a home cooked meal for other youth that are trying to find their value. We live in a country where so many of our youth are blessed with abundance and security, but there are also many who have not been as fortunate. We are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus, and by offering a simple meal the hope is that the youth feel loved and valued and discover that the source of that love is Jesus. Those I have encountered are thankful and gracious and I feel blessed for the opportunity to serve them.

A friend of mine introduced me to another opportunity with YFC. We are teaming up to hold a girls Bible study in the West Central Juvenile Center in Moorhead. I will admit that I was nervous to start this journey. What in the world makes me think I am qualified to take this on? How will we be received, and can I handle this? In my flawed humanity, I forgot that it is Jesus that is qualified, not me. We are about three months in, and I have to say that God has amazed me. The girls have been very receptive to our visits and I can see God at work in the small moments we have with the girls. As in our own journeys, some weeks are better than others. Our prayer is seeds are planted for the girls to find their hope and future in Jesus. ~Sue Kressin

Eid-Co Homes got involved with Red River Youth For Christ approximately 3 years ago. I had received a letter asking if we had any interest in getting involved by donating or helping out with the Wednesday lunch program they offer to the students at Woodrow Wilson. I felt instead of just sending a monetary donation, it would be a great way to give back by volunteering to bring in the lunch, and our staff would serve it. We started with bringing in chili, chips, cookies and water. It really had an impact on our staff, seeing the students and how grateful and thankful that they were to have us there. So, we signed up for the spring semester to come back. This time we did tacos in a bag, and who doesn't enjoy those. Our staff has been going back every fall and spring since to serve the lunches. The great things that Red River Youth for Christ does for the kids in our community is amazing! I would encourage any business or organization that is looking to give back to the youth of our community to contact the great staff at Red River Youth for Christ. ~Dave Artz

There are a couple moments from Bible study that stand out to me. In sharing my journey to Christ, I told of one of my ongoing life struggles and felt such compassion from the girls. I thought, wait a minute, this is the opposite direction this should be going! We are all in need of a Savior and God shows me that we are all in this together. We need each other to help us walk through this life, and this ministry blesses everyone involved.

Another memorable time was when we celebrated Jesus' birthday. It was a simple celebration with cookies and punch. We brought in Santa hats and necklaces for the celebration. We also brought in Christmas cards and stickers for the girls. They wrote notes to loved ones and decorated the cards and envelopes in the splendor of the season. There was such a joy that came from the girls in this celebration that you could feel God smiling down. We left that night feeling so thankful for the opportunity to share the celebration of a Savior with the girls.

God is at work in this ministry and I feel fortunate that He has allowed me to walk this journey with the youth. My prayer is that our tiny efforts expose God's greatness to those whose paths we are blessed to cross. ~Sue Kressin

Stories from Staff

One of the blessings for us doing a bible study every week at West Central with the same group of kids is it gives us the opportunity to build deeper relationships with these young people. I am truly blessed when they share their story with me, and I can point them to God's word.

One young man that has been at the center for quite some time realized that he needed more help to kick his addiction problem. He requested to go to a 90-day treatment facility. I told him before he left that I was so extremely proud of him. He is a young man that has been reading his bible every day and growing in his relationship with Jesus. He told me that he knows that this is what God wants him to do. That is an amazing statement from him, knowing his full story, and where he was when I first meet him. Please be praying for him. ~Mike King

Practical Needs

Working in youth ministry, here are some practical things we frequently use. Are you able to help supply these items?

- Paper products for serving meals (plates, napkins, bowls, silverware, etc)
- Boxes of individually packaged chips
- Cases of bottled water
- Cases of juice boxes or sports drink
- Fruit snacks or fruit rollups
- Any kind of pre-packed, or individually packaged snacks

Concert for a Cause

The Concert for a Cause fundraiser featuring Anthem Lights was a night to remember. It was a great night of stories, entertainment, and incredible talent and music. Thank you to everyone who made this night possible!

We also want to extend a HUGE thanks to all of our sponsors, especially our **Presenting Sponsors: Hanson-Runsvold Funeral Home, Eid-Co Homes, Edward Jones - CFP/ Financial Advisor: Matthew De Vries, Goldmark Property Management.**

Our Gold Sponsors: Bethel Church - Fargo, Petro Serve USA, Eide Bailly, Colorado Jack, Life 97.9, KFNW, Third Drop Coffee, Holiday Inn Fargo, Bell Bank, & Our Anonymous Sponsor.

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