



2345 Meadow Ridge Pkwy
West Fargo, ND 58078

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Winter Newsletter

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Winter 2021

STORIES

NOTES FROM THE JOURNEY...

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Connection. All of us need to be connected in relationship. God hardwired it into us. There are many things that this past year has shown us, but this is an area that has been amplified.

Research shows that adolescents depend on their friendships to maintain a sense of self-worth and to manage anxiety and depression. A recent study of 3,300 high school students by the Center for Promise at America's Promise Alliance found that nearly one-third reported feeling unhappy or depressed since this pandemic started. While it might seem counterintuitive for a generation used to bonding with friends via texts, TikTok, Snapchat, and Instagram, more than a quarter of those students said they did not feel connected to teachers, classmates, or their school community. This study suggested that "students are experiencing a collective trauma" and that without support, "this moment in time is likely to have lasting negative effects for this cohort of high school students."

Now, more than ever, teens need the connection of loving adults to come alongside them, get to know their story, and connect them to God's story. I am so proud to be part of a ministry that has, at its core, this 3Story value. It's at the heart of all we do, and it's why this ministry is so relational. Whether that is walking alongside kids in the detention center, helping a young mom get to a doctor's appointment, or showing up when no one else will.

Throughout this past year, we have been blessed to have been allowed the freedom to stay connected to kids when so many have not. Inside you will read stories of God at work from the staff and volunteers who love these kids with abandon.

We owe much of that success to your support and your prayers. Your generosity and faithfulness have blessed Red River Youth for Christ tremendously. It means that we can be solely committed to young people and schools without distraction. We genuinely believe

that you share in our blessing as we impact young lives for His glory.

Please pray for us as we continue to navigate the coming weeks. February 11th is Giving Hearts Day, and we are so excited to have a \$15,000 match opportunity to share with you. Last year your generosity gifted this ministry with over \$40,000. Please ask God what part you could play on that day. March 4th is our Concert for a Cause event. Pray for that evening's success as we celebrate God's goodness and worship together with Vertical Worship. Tickets are on sale now at www.redriveryfc.com.

Thank you so much for partnering with this ministry. Your partnership is impacting the lives of teens in the FM area.

Greg Everett
Executive Director

Now more than ever, our teens need your help...



These are challenging times for us all, especially our young people. Now, more than ever, continuing to reach our community's teens by radically loving and sharing hope is vital. Please consider donating to Red River Youth for Christ on **Giving Hearts Day, Thursday, February 11th**. More information inside. The most exciting part, **friends of RRYFC will currently match your donation of \$10 or more up to \$15,000!**



Oranges & Pecans

Thank you to everyone who tried our fresh Georgia pecans and Satsuma Mandarin Oranges this past holiday season. This was new for us this year and we plan to continue it in the future. Thank you for helping make this fundraiser possible!

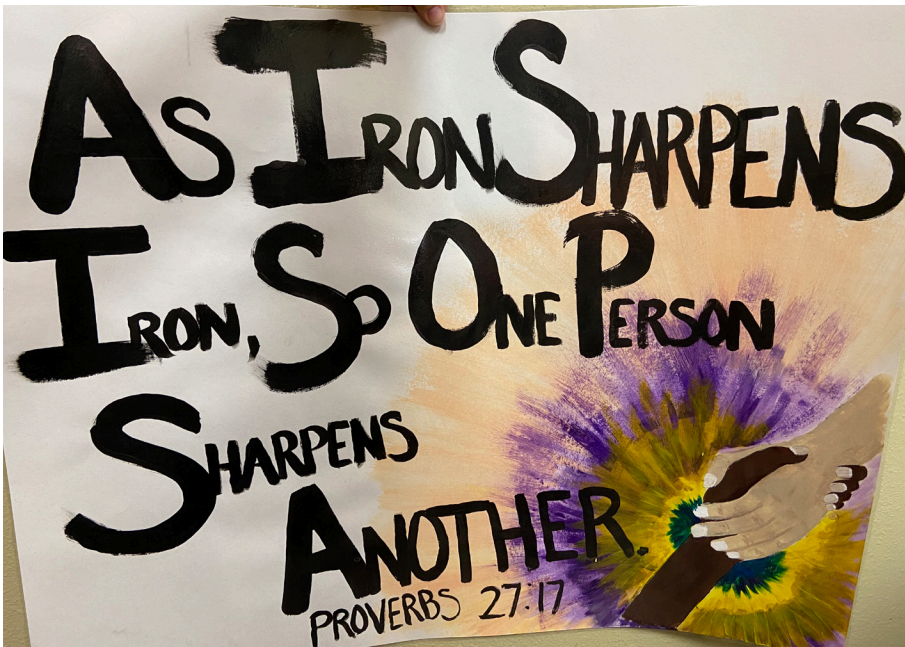
Practical Needs

Here are some practical things we frequently use. Are you able to help supply these items?

- Decks of Cards
- Disinfectant wipes
- Boxes of individually packaged chips
- Cases of bottled water
- Cases of juice boxes or sports drink
- Fruit snacks
- Paper Towels
- Fruit Rollups and Gushers
- Any kind of pre-packed, or individually packaged snacks
- See more items on our website or Giving Hearts Day profile.

Two Reminders

Last Wednesday night at our weekly Church service at West Central Regional Juvenile Center I was reminded of two things. Number one is that we are ministering to a very broken and hurting group of kids. We do two weekly services and one night one of the groups of kids broke down and several wept. A few of the kids after hearing a very clear presentation of the gospel were touched. We stuck around after the service to help the kids process what had just happened. Without a doubt Jesus is moving in these kids' lives. Secondly, I was reminded why we do what we do. It is easy to go through the motions and get jaded working with these kids. We pray for them, do Bible studies, and spend one-on-one time with them. Many times, we see them get released and in just a couple weeks they are right back in the center. However, I believe with all my heart that Jesus is doing a new thing, not just in these kids lives, but also in our team. ~Mike King



"Nice vacations in 4x8 rooms."

A young man sarcastically responding to the results of his life choices in a discussion on choices at the detention center church service.

← Artwork Created by a Young Friend at Detention

Student Story

I don't know where to start all I can say is my youth group and the people here with me today are my family and home to me. Ever sens I was 12 years old I was all over the place I didnt have much of a home we bairly had heat, electricity, food or water half of the time my mom and I ended up staying at alot of different houses and most of the time I was by my self I had to learn to take care of myself. Like cook my own dinner and buy my own cloths and fine away to eat lunch at school when I had no money to eat with it was like a nightmare that never ended my friends were afraid when it came down to where I was staying at. One day I forgot were I had stayed the night befor that really scared me and my friends that same year was my 3rd year going to Colorado and there I realised that I have a home and God is there waiting for me. Untill then he made it verely clear to me that he wants me to become a leader and help people like me to find thier way home throw Sesus.

Pregnant & Homeless

As if 2020 alone has not stretched me personally to my limits, I felt led to take in a homeless, pregnant teen mom. Momma B is a young lady I met a couple of years ago in West Central. I have been building a relationship with ever since. For many of the kids we love, merely showing up is like speaking love through a megaphone to them. This past year Momma B and I went to countless appointments together, I helped her obtain permanent housing, and I was even headed into labor and delivery with her. Though external circumstances left me at the door, I was the one who showed up for her. When I picked up the two to bring them home, baby B was barely over the car seat weight limit, and I am confident I have never held such a teeny baby. Within weeks of bringing momma and baby into my home and countless prayers, momma B's housing got approved, and our team moved the two into their very first apartment. I also got to be part of encouraging the rekindling of momma B's relationship with her mom. Recently, Momma B and the boyfriend have been trying to work things out, causing some issues leading to baby B's placement in CPS's care. We are currently navigating through the ups and downs and CPS's attempt to reunite mother and child. Two and a half years into our friendship, and she has my phone number memorized. I am her emergency contact on almost everything, we have spent countless hours doing life together, we attend church together whenever possible, and I aim to keep loving on her and pointing her to Christ through all life's ups and downs. ~Danielle Hill



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

RRYFC Staff

Greg Everett
Mike King
Danielle Hill
Kim Danielson
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Handmade Support

Young and old alike share in the love of Christ at Christmastime through caring for each other. This was evident when the teen girls, incarcerated at the Juvenile Detention Center, asked if they could reach out to the COVID isolated elderly in our community even in the midst of their own struggles. We contacted a nursing home in town, and the girls got permission to write Christmas cards to the residents who have been shut-ins in much the same way these girls have. It would be pretty easy just to address a premade Christmas card, but that was not personal enough for what they were hoping to do. They wanted to decorate their own handmade cards along with adding a personal message. The messages to these elderly shared the concern the girls have for the isolation and

health risks these people are facing. Included were well wishes and promises of prayers being sent up to God on their behalf. Several weeks were spent on these cards, and care was taken to make them special. In total, 65 cards were made and taken to the nursing home.

Watching the girls make these cards and talk about what these people are going through was a blessing to witness. Due to COVID restrictions,

we were not able to witness the cards being distributed. We are confident smiles were brought to the faces of many isolated friends, knowing someone out there is thinking of, caring about, and praying for them.
~Sue Kressin



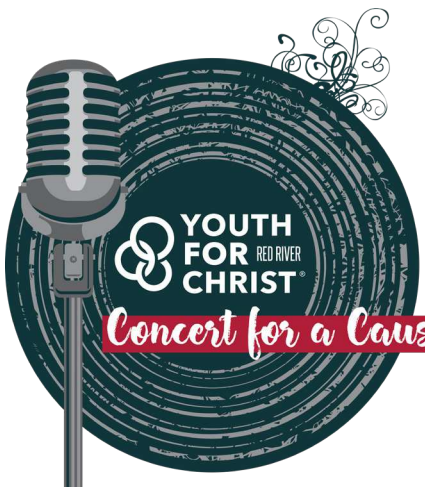
Kim & Sue Delivering the stacks of handmade cards.



Socially Distanced Woodrow Christmas Dinner



Danielle, Greg, & Kim Serving at Woodrow's Christmas Dinner



MARCH 4, 2021
BETHEL CHURCH FARGO
 2702 30TH AVE S, FARGO, ND 58103

6:40-8:40 PM
 (DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM)

Tickets at www.redriveryfc.com
 Virtual Ticket Option Available

General Admission \$25

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF WORSHIP WITH



VERTICAL WORSHIP

An offering for RRYFC will be taken.

Thank You to Our Event Sponsors:

PRESENTING SPONSORS

Edward Jones
 Member SFC

Matthew DeVries
 205 Shyenne St. Ste 1
 West Fargo, ND

GOLDMARK

Eid-Co Homes
 Est. 1951

Hanson~Runsvold
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GOLD SPONSORS

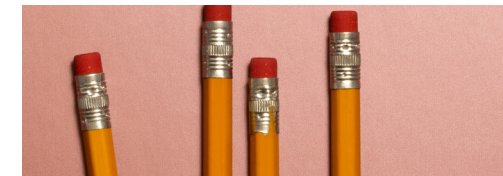
Bell Bank
 Member FDIC

EideBailly
 CPAs & BUSINESS ADVISORS

BETHEL CHURCH

PETRO SERVE USA
 Helping America Fuel Better®

*Attendees are Required to wear a face covering at all times and distance according to ND smart start Guidelines.



While hanging out in the secure girls pod, we noticed one of the girls slide off her rubber shoe and used it as an eraser. They are not allowed to have erasers or anything that could be detached into small pieces. Initially this may seem odd, but these kids are actually incredibly smart and resourceful.

Straight Off the Streets

One young man came wandering off the streets and into our building last week. We share office space with Christian Adoption Services, and he came into the front office looking for a phone to use. They set him up in a room with a phone and came and asked me if I would go talk with him. I said sure, and when I walked in the room recognized him from the detention center. He recognized me as well, so I asked him how he was doing. He was tweaking on meth, crying, and telling me that his mom (who also does meth) kicked him out of the house, and he had no place to go. He explained how he had been living under a bridge the past two days. I ask him how I could help him, and he asked if I would give him a ride to his moms to see if she would let him in and feed him. He told me that his Dad loved him and wanted to help him, but he lives in Michigan. I offered to buy him a bus ticket, but he said he had a ride. I gave him some gas money and have reached out a couple of times but have not heard from him since. I just wanted to be Jesus to him in that moment. ~Mike King



Giving Hearts Day

Help someone.

These are challenging times for us all, especially our young people. Now, more than ever, continuing to reach our community's teens by radically loving and sharing hope is vital. Please consider donating to Red River Youth for Christ on **Giving Hearts Day, Thursday, February 11th.**

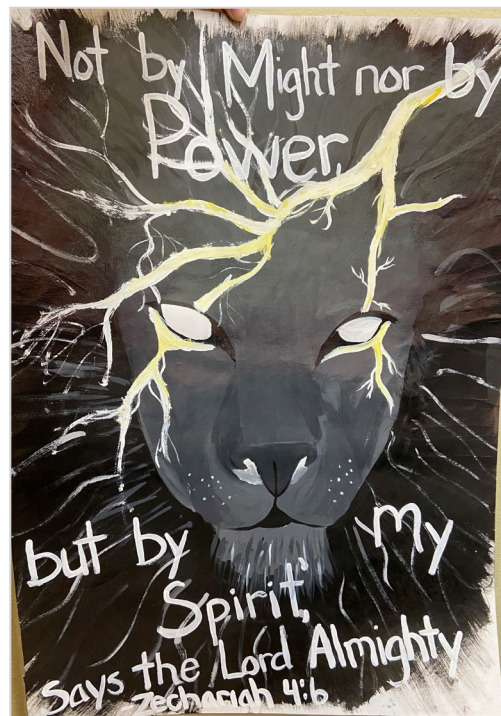
To help reach the teens of our community, go online to givingheartsday.org and choose Red River Youth for Christ to make your secure online donation. **You can either do this on Thursday, February 11th, or by scheduling a gift anytime between now and February 9th.** Checks dated and delivered by noon on February 11th will also be accepted. The most exciting part, **friends of RRYFC will currently match your donation of \$10 or more up to \$15,000!**



Acceptance & Loneliness

We have been blessed to be able to return to serving lunches every other week at Woodrow Wilson High School. Their school days are still mostly virtual, but they are still coming into the school building for exams and specific classes. It can be a bit hit or miss as to how many students we are able to interact with. We had everything set up for social distancing at our first lunch in November and brought in pizza. After everyone was served, I sat down to visit with one of the teachers and a student. After the teacher departed, I continued visiting with the student. She was fun to visit with and shared a bit of her story with me. I commented that she must have a lot of friends because she is a good listener and asked great questions. She replied that she didn't have many friends because some people thought she was "different" and, of course, COVID-19 restrictions made it difficult to meet new people. After sharing pictures of some of her artwork with me, she left. David Burkman, the principal of the school, shared with us that just that morning, this particular student had shared with him that she felt lonely. I don't consider myself a very outgoing person, so I often struggle to sit down and strike up a conversation with strangers. However, on this day, I challenged myself to make an effort and silently prayed to God to guide my conversation. I am so glad I did! For many of these kids, it can be just a few minutes of conversation that might help them get through the day, have positive enforcement of their talents, and be seen as individuals. Please continue to pray for all the young people in our community who may be struggling with acceptance and loneliness. ~Kim Danielson

Artwork Created by One of Our Young Friends at West Central



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One young lady whose favorite hobbies include art and playing cards, drew Danielle as a card for her birthday. Such creativity!

Aftercare Progress

One young lady who has recently gotten out of West Central Juvenile Center is dead set on not going back. She has made such a great effort to cut out friends she shouldn't be hanging out with, resist pressure from her peers, gotten a job to fill her free time, and has focused on her own life. She recently reached out to us, and we have gone to lunch with her, given her rides, and continued to build the relationship. She asked for a Bible and wants to start attending church. She also mentioned that she liked when our team would come to the center while she was there. She said there was one particular time she kept firing questions at me just because she didn't want me to leave and just liked having someone to talk to. It's so fun to see her making good choices and for the relationship to continue to grow. ~Danielle Hill



"So I was reading in that first book of the Bible and I was wondering where that Jesus guy comes in?"

A young man in secure detention



Our Red River Youth for Christ Office (Right Building) with our new Sign!

New Bible Study

Last Monday we started a new Bible study in a new pod. We had 6 boys attend and a new volunteer that just started with us. We had a great discussion about where they saw themselves in 5-10 years. These young men know that they need change in their life, this is not where they want to be, and we continue to point them to the one who can bring complete change, Jesus. ~Mike King

