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West Fargo, ND 58078

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Winter Newsletter

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Winter 2024  
**STORIES**

NOTES FROM THE JOURNEY...



## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

### Transforming Lives: The Power of Your Support for At-Risk Teens

As we approach Giving Hearts Day, we are excited to share with you the incredible impact your support can have on at-risk teens in the Fargo, Moorhead, and West Fargo communities. Your generosity can be a beacon of hope, offering these young lives a chance for a brighter future.

### The Challenge: At-Risk Teens in Our Community

Our community is filled with amazing, resilient, and promising young people who find themselves at risk due to various challenges. These challenges may include unstable family environments, socioeconomic hardships, and struggles with mental health. The weight of these issues can make it difficult for these teens to envision a positive future.

### Your Support as a Lifeline

Your giving can be the lifeline that these teens desperately need. By supporting programs and initiatives aimed toward at-risk youth, you provide them with resources and opportunities to overcome obstacles, break the cycle of adversity, discover their potential, and find hope in Jesus.

### Nurturing a Supportive Community

I know you understand the importance of community and compassion. Your support can help create a nurturing environment where at-risk teens feel seen, valued, and

loved. This sense of belonging can be a powerful force, steering them away from negative influences and guiding them towards a path of hope and purpose as they are connected to loving adults who get to know their story, share their own story, and connect them to God's story.

### Education and Mentorship: Building Foundations for Success

Your contribution can be pivotal in providing educational resources and mentorship programs. These initiatives empower at-risk teens to thrive academically, equipping them with the skills to overcome educational challenges. By connecting them with positive role models, your support helps cultivate character and resilience.

### Addressing Mental Health Challenges with Compassion

At-risk teens often face mental health struggles that can hinder their personal development. Your generosity allows YFC to "do life together with teens" as they walk through struggles and be a support and resource that points them in the right direction to resources that provide healing and restoration. By addressing these challenges early on, we can help these teens build a solid foundation for a healthy and fulfilling future.

### Promoting Faith-Based Values

Our mission is to instill hope and faith in the lives of at-risk teens. Through your support, we can introduce them to the transformative power of Jesus, helping them discover a sense of

purpose and a source of strength that goes beyond their immediate circumstances.

### The Ripple Effect of Your Giving

By investing in the lives of at-risk teens, you are not only transforming individual futures but also creating a positive ripple effect within our community. As these young people overcome challenges and emerge as resilient leaders, they, in turn, become catalysts for positive change, inspiring others to follow in their footsteps.

### Your Generosity, Their Future

In supporting YFC and at-risk teens in Fargo, Moorhead, and West Fargo, you are sowing seeds of hope that will bear fruit for generations to come. Your giving is not just a transaction; it's an investment in the potential, resilience, and future of these young lives.

We invite you to join us in making a lasting impact this Giving Hearts Day. Together, let's be the hands and hearts that uplift and empower at-risk teens, guiding them towards a future filled with promise and possibility. The best part about it. Friends of YFC will match the first \$21,700. Our Goal is \$60,000. Together, let's see what God can do!



Greg Everett  
Executive Director

Reach young people in the FM area at pivotal moments through your gift to



On



Support opportunities for teens in crisis to feel seen, heard, and valued at the juvenile center, alternative schools, and more.

THIS YEAR'S



PROVIDED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



MORE INFO INSIDE

# "...All you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Heard as a whisper from a youth in the crowd finishing Matthew 11:28 from memory before the video.

## Prayer Requests

Here are a few prayer requests from and for our youth:

- For a safe delivery ~Teen Mom 7 months pregnant due in March
- That I would be able to forgive my mom.
- Accept myself and find my purpose.
- For my Grandma and my Mom
- A youth at the center who has been waiting a long time for adoption approval has recently been approved. We now pray his family placement will go through.
- Common prayer requests of youth at the Detention Center: to go home, meet my level for pass, to stay clean, for patience, healing for family members, court days to go well, placement to open up, for phone calls from family, and more.

## CLIPS Ups & Downs

Happy New Year! One of the things we are celebrating at YFC is the privilege of another year of ministry! This month marks the beginning of our 2nd year of ministry in the CLIPS program at West Central Detention Center. Ministry, like life comes with many ups and downs- last year was no exception. We got to celebrate many ups and downs. We celebrate the downs because they provide opportunities for us to learn, make changes, and grow.

Some of the ups that we are celebrating are that one young man graduated from the program and enlisted in the military and is doing well. Another young man finished the program and was able to get a job and an apartment in the area and is also doing well. Many of the residents were able to complete high school or get their GED, some completed their treatment plan and were able to return home, and others are on the path to getting back on track.



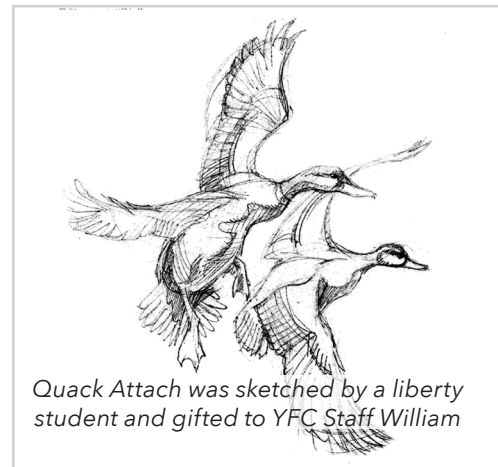
A CLIPS Favorite Meal

Unfortunately, there have been some that haven't done well, at least up-to this point (there's still hope for them).

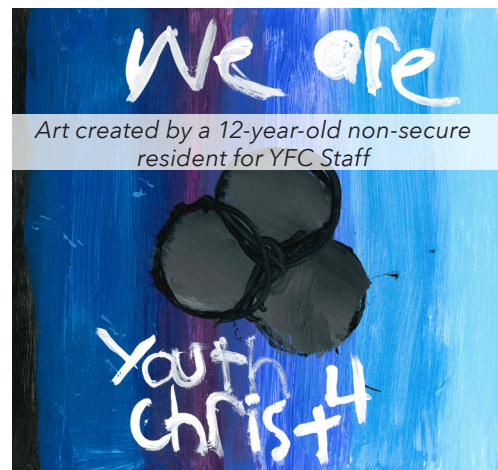
If you're reading this, know that I consider you part of the "we" - We are able to serve the youth that we do, in the way we do, in a large part because of you! Your prayer and/or financial support make it possible for us to do what we do, THANK YOU! ~Tim Brown



A place to call home! This fall we moved a teen friend into her own apartment.



Quack Attack was sketched by a liberty student and gifted to YFC Staff William



Art created by a 12-year-old non-secure resident for YFC Staff

## A Full Sheet of Questions

When kids first read their Bibles, they have so many questions. There's this excitement in attempting to understand. We encourage kids to write down their questions while they're reading their Bibles if we're not there so we can talk about them. Rarely do kids have more than a few questions at a time. Recently, at church at the juvenile detention center, one young man opened his marble-covered composition notebook to a full sheet of handwritten questions about God. As he proceeded down his list of questions and discussed each one, we found that many kids had similar questions. The more questions he asked, the more our excitement rose. Here is a teenage boy, sitting in a juvenile correctional facility, reading his Bible and making notes, coming with a notebook sheet full of questions about God and the Bible and a genuine interest and curiosity. The excitement is contagious, and we thank you for your support and for allowing the lives of young people to be met with the message of hope.

## "Oh, it's like Christmas!"

A girl exclaimed as she turned the corner and saw us serving community lunch at Dakota HS. She went on to say she gets the same excitement for Wednesday lunch as she does on Christmas morning.

## What Does that Mean?

Here are a list of words we commonly used and what they mean.

- **West Central-** The West Central Juvenile Detention Center, the only one in our area, which services 11 counties in ND & MN. (Also referred to as **the center, detention, the youth center, the detention center, JDC, the juvenile detention center, or Juvie.**) Contains the following programs: Secure, Treatment, Non-Secure, & CLIPS.
- **CLIPS:** Community Living Independent Programs & Services. A separate program helping those aging out.
- **At-Risk Youth:** A generalized term for a range of circumstances that may slow a youth's transition to a healthy or successful adult. Circumstances can range from behavior problems, substance abuse, mental health disorders, dysfunctional home life, juvenile delinquency, homelessness, and many more.
- **Pod:** a common area surrounded by individual rooms or cells at the detention center.
- **Secure-** The lock-down or secure jail pods at the center.
- **Treatment-** Pods similar to secure, but for kids in residential treatment programs.
- **Non-secure-** Emergency youth shelter, short-term corrections, behavior stabilization, transitioning out & evaluation.
- **3Story:** A phrase we use to describe how we live in relationship with God and others. We get to know a kid's story, share our story, and ultimately connect them to God's story. This is represented in the three rings of our logo.

\*Please Note: Youth names are changed for privacy purposes\*

## 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  
Danielle Beyer  
William Lawyer  
Tim Brown

## RRYFC Board

Karen White  
Brent Roeder  
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- redriveryfc
- RedRiverYFC

## What Does that Mean?

Here are a list of popular words teens are using and how our teens explain them. We don't recommend using them, but hopefully this will help you better understand the teens in your life.

- **Addy:** Address (I.e. So can I get that addy?)
- **Bop:** A really good song
- **Bougie/Boujee:** Rich, high class fancy
- **Gassing/Gas me up:** Hying someone up
- **Say less:** Understanding of something, don't need anymore information. (I.e. Girls night Friday? Say less.)
- **Shook/I'm shook:** To be scared, or completely caught off guard. Shaking with surprise.

## Kid 1: "What does Amen mean?"

## Kid 2: (Before YFC Staff could respond) "Jesus take it from there. Send it off to God."

A conversation during Bible study at the detention center.

## Concert for a Cause Featuring Blanca

Thank you to everyone who attended this year's Concert for a Cause featuring Blanca. It was such a wonderful night of worship and celebration of all God is doing through this ministry in the lives of teens. Thank you again to all our event sponsors, but especially our Presenting Sponsors Eid-Co Homes, Goldmark, Hanson-Runsvold Funeral Home, Inforum, Life 97.9, and Taylor Endodontics. This event would not have been possible without you!



YFC Team with Blanca and her band at Concert For A Cause

## "I'm 7 months"

A pregnant teen shared with staff.

### Staff Update

Just before Christmas, Deb Napton resigned to pursue a new calling. We wish her well on her new adventure.



### YFC is Hiring

We are looking for mission minded, female ministry staff member who feels called to work with at-risk, high-risk teens. We are seeking an individual who will help give leadership to our ministry at Red River ALC & Dakota High School; recruit, train, and mobilize a team of caring adults; and be a community leader as they invest in young people. There will be an emphasis on developing our Parent Life ministry at Dakota or where needed. This is a full-time position but we are open to a couple of part-time people.

You will be a part of a team committed to going wherever teenagers are in their community, diving into the messy world they live in, and offering the hope that comes through Jesus!

Blanca brought a fun contagious energy.



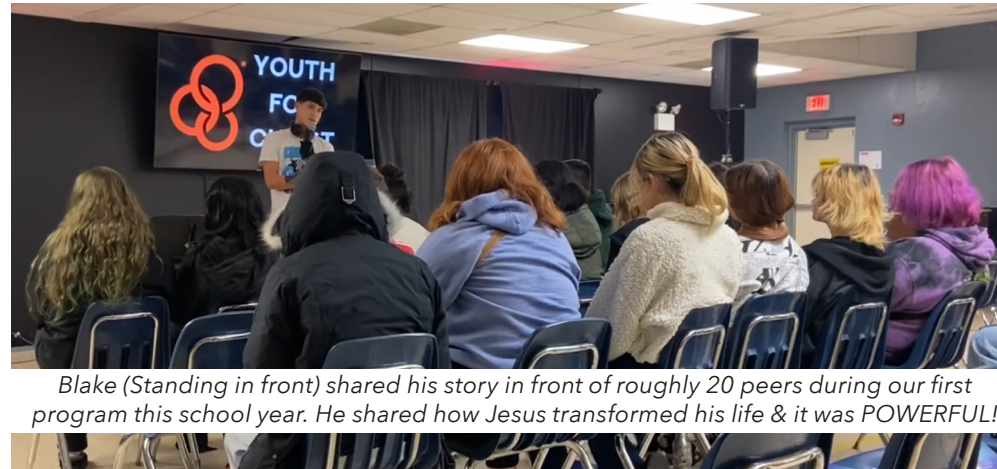
### Practical Needs

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

- Paper products (Plates- 10 inch, bowls, napkins, & plastic silverware)
- Cases of bottled water
- Cases of juice boxes, bottled juice, or sports drink
- Baked goods
- Wednesday Community Lunch (40-60 students and staff) - We still have several openings in our spring 2024 calendar.
- Have questions? Give us a call at (701)237-6682

### I Know You From Somewhere...

I went out to grab some dinner a while ago and decided to eat at the restaurant. While deciding what I wanted to drink, a kid looks at me with his face sideways and says to me "I know you from somewhere"... not recognizing who he was, I asked if he went to Liberty? He smiled and said "that's where I know you from!" It made my weekend to see that even just helping out with school lunch is making a positive impact on kids, which I know will lead to deeper levels of relationship! ~William Lawyer



Blake (Standing in front) shared his story in front of roughly 20 peers during our first program this school year. He shared how Jesus transformed his life & it was POWERFUL!

### What Does This Generation Think?

Recently in church at the detention center, the question was asked. If you could ask God 1 question, what would you ask? The top answers:

*Why do bad things happen? Why did you make me? What is the meaning of life? What is the most important thing? Is there life elsewhere? Why was I born into this circumstance? I wouldn't ask anything I would just sit in silence. Am I going to Heaven? What happens when you die? What is my purpose? Are aliens real? Am I going to Hell? Why do bad things happen to good people?*

We find it encouraging that kids are asking the big questions of life and even more encouraging that we have the freedom to discuss freely the answers to their questions from a Christ-centered perspective.



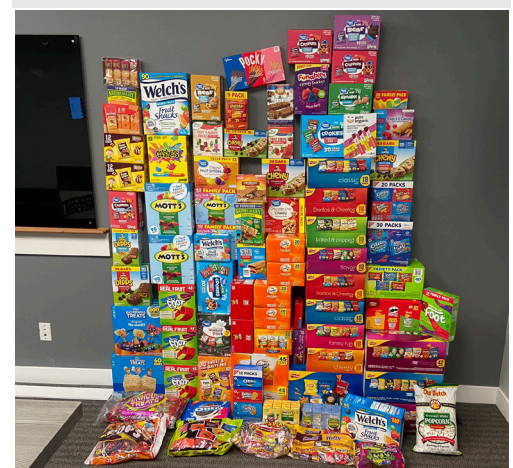
Trees & Moon painting by a youth at the detention center

## "I don't want to be in between because I want to go to Heaven!"

One young person at the Center said when talking about being lukewarm.

### Thank You Faithbridge Church

This Fall's snack drive hosted by Faithbridge church was amazing! They sent us with a carload. Snacks are used for program actives and Bible verse memorization rewards. Thank you for making this ministry possible in tangible ways!





# GIVING HEARTS DAY

Your gift to Red River Youth for Christ on **Giving Hearts Day, Thursday, February 8th**, creates opportunities to reach youth in the juvenile detention center and schools in the FM area.

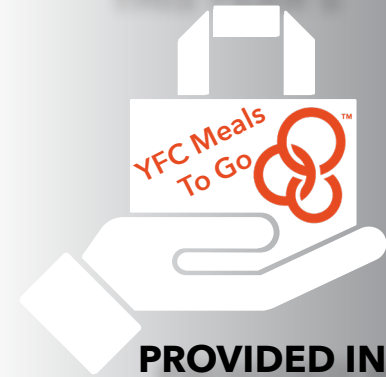
Would you please consider partnering with us in reaching youth at pivotal moments? You can go online to [givingheartsday.org](http://givingheartsday.org) and choose Red River Youth for Christ to make your secure online donation. **You can either do this on Thursday, February 8th, or by scheduling a gift anytime between now and February 7th.** Checks dated and delivered by 5 PM on February 8th will also be accepted. The most exciting part, **friends of RRYFC will match your donation of \$10 or more up to \$21,700!**



Stop by our office (2345 Meadow Ridge Pkwy, West Fargo) for a delicious smoked pulled pork lunch (includes bun, chips, beans, and a cookie) with our staff or take it to go for your whole team. Suggested donation \$5. Available 10:30 AM-1:30 PM or until sold out. To pre-order visit: [redriveryfc.com/event/giving-hearts-day/](http://redriveryfc.com/event/giving-hearts-day/)



THIS YEAR'S



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## "I want to see You (God) in the afterlife..."

One young man prayed closing a Bible study at the detention center.



### Questioning Growth

I have been meeting with a young boy at Liberty Middle School for a few months now. At first, this boy wouldn't talk much, and I didn't see a big change in him. I had started to think that our meetings weren't doing much good. Not long after this feeling, God showed signs of how He is using our meetings. I've had all this student's teachers tell me how hard he works on the days that we meet, and how they have seen a change in his behavior. I have also been talking with him about how our choices have consequences, and we get to decide if the consequences are good or bad based on our actions. This kid started to clean up after other students when lunch was over. He even got upset at the staff because they wouldn't let him clean anymore because they wanted to hold the other kids responsible. The boy has also begun to open up and even asked me about religion a few times in our meetings. God is working in his life and the lives of others I am meeting. I can't wait to see the continued growth as I continue to be a trusted adult in his life and the other students!

~William Lawyer

## 7 Months & Eager For Help

On our first Friday back at Bethel this semester, Tim Brown shared his story. I noticed the quiet new girl from my table approached him during free time. Shortly into their conversation, Tim called me over, and the three of us visited. Grace\* had just shared she recently found out she is expecting and due in March, making her 7 months pregnant at the time. Tim successfully made the introduction and hand-off, leaving Grace and I to discuss the uncertainty and fears surrounding being a pregnant teen. I asked some general questions to get to know her situation. When I realized she was so open and we would run out of time I offered her my number and suggested we meet sometime to discuss resources available. She immediately handed me her phone to enter my contact information. Grace asked if she could bring her mom along to our discussion as she was struggling to process Grace's pregnancy. I said of course and we visited until we ran out of time. Grace had her small gender reveal the following Sunday and texted me she is having a girl. We are scheduled to meet soon, and I look forward to continuing to build this relationship and walking alongside her during this difficult journey. ~Danielle Beyer

## "I'm like iffy, iffy if I believe"

One young person shared during church at the juvenile center.

### Peer-Lead Bible Study

I went into the Detention Center to meet with a boy one on one. This boy has recently accepted Christ, and our meetings have started to have real depth to real-life issues. I had asked him how his quiet time had been and what he's been studying. Without hesitation, he said he began to lead a bible study with some of the other boys in the pod. This is the first time I have ever heard of anything like this happening in my almost two years with YFC. I got so many goosebumps and couldn't believe what he just said. When I asked him what made him decide to lead a bible study? He responded with "I know how much it has helped my life, I just want the other guys to have that too"! God is so good, and he is working inside the walls of the detention center! ~William Lawyer

### Dakota High School Christmas Lunch



Dakota HS students and staff enjoying Christmas dinner