



Dear Friends & Family,

It's hard to believe yet another year has come and gone! Lucy will be a year and a half this month and Cody and I celebrated 3 years of marriage this year. In March, Lucy started daycare with Tami (an independent in-home daycare run by her and her daughter). It was a blessing to find Tami after contacting over 40+ daycares. In reviewing the information packet, I noticed a familiar name on the bottom of the reference sheet. Cody's cousin had sent her kids to daycare with Tami several years ago. This was yet another answer to prayer and confirmation for my Momma heart. In September, Cody started a new job as a project manager with a local engineering firm. In the midst of adjusting to life with a toddler, we keep busy with home renovation projects and traveling to see family.



Since April, we've hired three new full-time staff at YFC. Ben (Benjamin) moved here in March from Memphis and started on April 1st. Ben works with the West Central Regional Juvenile Center and the Moorhead ALC and has been expanding both ministry sites. Tasha (Natasha) started April 1st as well but switching from a career in retail to full-time ministry. God had been calling her for a while, and between attending last year's fall event, supplying us with Bibles, and a couple of God conversations landed on our team. She specializes in parent life ministry, Dakota High School, and has also filled in where needed at West Central. Noah moved from Wilmar, MN, and started with us in July. He has found his niche in leading at Liberty Middle School and Dakota High School. We've also had to say "see you later" to a couple of part-time staff members this year. Tim Brown resigned in October, and Tanner Drath resigned this month. While both are still involved in differing capacities on a volunteer basis, ultimately, their other full-time Jobs were enough to fill the schedules. We look forward to how God will continue to use this team to make a difference in the lives of teens.

One newer area of ministry I have thoroughly enjoyed this year is Dakota Eats. This program started a couple of years ago with Tasha, before she even considered a life in youth ministry, and has continued to grow every year. Dakota Eats is our monthly cooking club at Dakota High School. Youth pick a food theme and prepare, cook, and eat meals together. Some kids are looking to expand their cooking skills, while others ask how to turn the stove on. This is a true story from one of the girls in my group. I asked her to turn the front burner to medium and boil the water, and she asked if I could show her how to turn the stove on, as she had never used one before. This program provides 3+ hours of prep, cooking, eating, and cleanup time alongside teens, offering a natural opportunity to build relationships while teaching valuable life skills. It's since grown, and we've added Dakota Bakes (a baking-specific version) this year. I am excited to continue to watch these youth be empowered through the development of basic life skills.



At a recent program, I noticed a girl slowly meandering around. I asked her what she was doing. She shared that she was feeling just anxious, and we just started talking. Within 20 minutes, she shared her whole life story, one where she just moved to the area within the last couple of months to live with a family member. Where did she move from? The streets of LA. She was so ready to share her story, for someone to listen to her, someone at just the right place at the God-appointed time. That's one of the things I love about Youth for Christ. We meet kids right where they're at. I look forward to continuing to get to know her story and pray for opportunities to connect her to God's story.

This year at our fall fundraiser we had the privilege of sharing

Surenitey's story. Surenitey is a young mom I've been working with since February 2024. She connected with a teen-pregnancy story shared at one of our programs and sought out YFC staff to chat afterward. She shared that she was 7 months pregnant and had just found out. She was terrified and hadn't told anyone. We have since built a friendship and shared lots of mothering experiences with her daughter and my Lucy just a couple of months apart. For this fundraiser, we film a kid sharing their story, their connection to YFC, and what that means to them. Following the video of her story at this event, Surenitey and I sat down to visit, reflecting on the year and a half of friendship and all she's overcome. At one point she grew quiet, then looked me directly in the eyes and shared, "I don't know if I can say that Lilly would be here if it weren't for you." Confused I asked, "what do you mean?" She went on to share that when her boyfriend found out she was expecting, he was pressuring her to have an abortion. She said having people there for her when she needed help was what made the difference for her. The lump grew in my throat as I processed what she had just shared. We may never know the impact we have on someone's life until long after. She now has a steady job, childcare, and is working to finish high school. She is working so hard, and I am so proud of her. In January, she gets the keys to her very first apartment.



*Momma Surenitey & Lillyannah
Scan to listen to her story*

**"I don't know if I can say
that Lilly would be here if
it weren't for you."**

Those words make my body tingle and my eyes water as I reflect on the gratitude of this now 18-year-old mom. The "you" she used is not about me. It's the life-changing power of Christ through me and this ministry. It's the funds you give and the prayers you pray that make this all possible.

These are just a few of the stories and a glimpse of the many ways God is working through this ministry. Since we are non-profit, we rely on partners like you to help fund this ministry. Would you please prayerfully consider making a year-end financial gift or even becoming a monthly donor? Donations can be mailed in the enclosed envelope, or you can give online by going to www.redriveryfc.com and clicking the "Donate" button at the top of the page. All donations are tax-deductible and will be receipted if an email address is included. I am so thankful for your prayers and support! Thank you from everyone here at Red River Youth for Christ and the students we love! Your thoughts, prayers, and support are truly a gift!



*Or scan the
code to take you
directly to the
donate page.*

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Danielle Beyer
Special Projects Coordinator

