



1790 32nd Ave S Suite 1  
Fargo, ND 58103

Return Services Requested

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit no. 594  
Fargo, ND

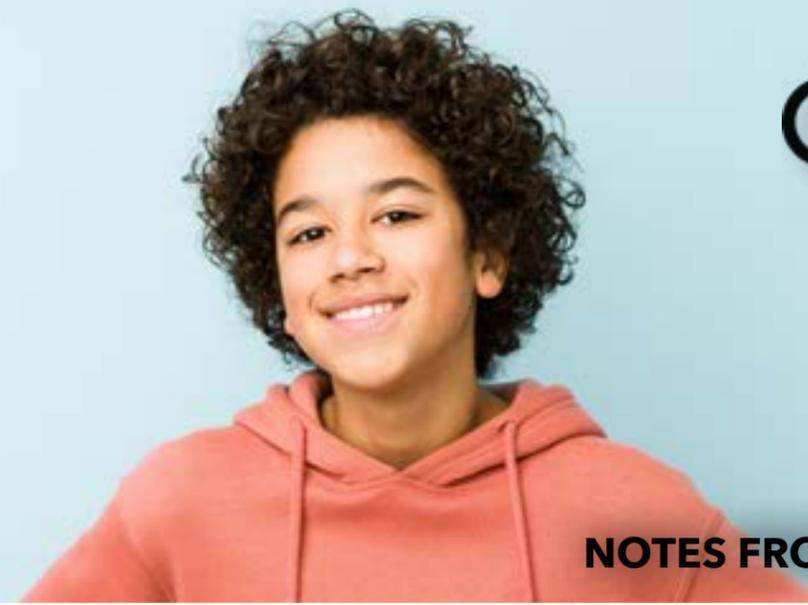


Winter Newsletter



# WINTER 2026 STORIES

NOTES FROM THE JOURNEY...



## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Happy New Year! As we step into 2026, I've been spending a lot of time in reflection. There is something powerful about the "clean slate" of January, but before we race ahead into the goals and dreams of a new year, I want to pause and say a heartfelt thank you.

Looking back at 2025, my heart is full. Because of your prayers and your radical generosity, we saw God move in ways that leave us speechless. Across our YFC ministries—from middle and high school hallways to the vital mentorship happening through Parent Life and Juvenile Justice—we witnessed 2025 become a year of breakthrough.

We saw students who felt invisible finally feel seen. We shared time with students who found the courage to finish school while being reminded they aren't alone. We sat in circles with kids in the detention center who, for the first time, heard that their past doesn't define their future because of the hope of Jesus. If you've been following our newsletters this past year, you've read the stories: the teens who started relationships with Jesus, the quiet "aha" moments during weekly clubs, and

the deep, trusting relationships our staff and volunteers have built. These aren't just statistics; they are lives forever changed.

As we look toward the next twelve months, I feel a sense of holy expectation. The world isn't getting any easier for our teenagers. The noise is louder, the loneliness is deeper, and the need for authentic, Christ-centered mentorship is greater than ever. But we aren't shrinking back. In 2026, we are leaning in. We are asking God for more—more open doors in schools, more volunteers to step into the gap, and more hearts ready to receive the Gospel.

To start this year strong, I want to invite you to join us for a day that has become a cornerstone for our ministry: **Giving Hearts Day on Thursday, February 12th.**

This is more than just a 24-hour fundraiser; it is a catalyst for everything we do. This year, the stakes are even higher. Thanks to a group of incredibly generous partners, **every gift of \$10 or more made on February 12th, up to \$26,300 will be matched. Our God-sized goal for that day is \$80,000.**

Think about that for a moment. Your \$50 gift becomes \$100. Your \$500 becomes \$1,000. For one day, your impact is doubled. This match allows us to dream bigger for 2026—to reach that next school, to support that next teen mom, and to ensure that no kid in the Red River Valley has to go through life alone.

**My challenge to you today is this:** Mark February 12th on your calendar. Pray about what God would have you invest in the next generation. We are looking for "Giving Hearts" who believe, like we do, that one conversation can change a life and one life can change a community.

Thank you for being part of the Red River YFC family. We couldn't do this without you, and I can't wait to see what God does through our partnership in 2026.

Thank you for all your prayers, gifts, and for believing in this ministry!

Greg Everett  
Executive Director

## One Powerful Mission

We want every kid to be seen, heard, and known—and to experience the life-changing love of Jesus.



Support



On

**Giving Hearts Day**



And



PROVIDED AGAIN IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



## Prayer Requests

Recent prayer requests from and for our youth:

- To find a home/placement
- To be a better listener and follow rules better.
- For my sister and her new baby boy.
- Mom's liver surgery
- My brother to quit smoking
- For me to understand my faith better.

Email us at [info@redriveryfc.com](mailto:info@redriveryfc.com) to join our monthly prayer team.

**"So what do I gotta do to be saved? I gotta go to the Lord on my own? I want to be saved, I want to follow Him."**

One young man said in conclusion to a Bible study about Jesus being the only way.

## From Hurt to Healing

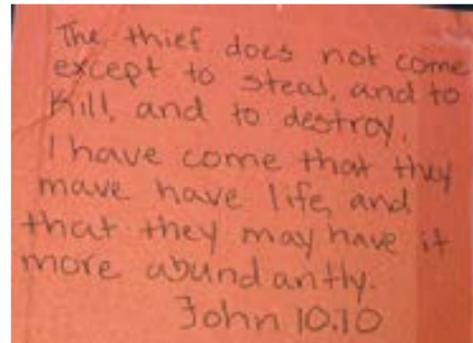
After watching *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, our teens entered an honest conversation about hurt, bullies, healing, and hope. We reflected on a simple truth: **hurt people hurt people—but healed people heal people**. When others feel like sandpaper on our hearts, we still get to choose our response. E+R=O—Event + our Reaction = Outcome. With God's help, we can respond with compassion, patience, forgiveness, and accountability, asking: How can I grow through this instead of feeling angry or like a victim?

The Herdman kids from the movie mirror many teens we serve at YFC—facing poverty, neglect, hunger, broken homes, addiction, abuse, and homelessness. Their pain often shows up as tough behavior, yet we meet them with empathy, encouragement, and the belief that healing and growth are possible. We invite teens to be vulnerable—because healing happens there.

That night, we shared how Jesus came to earth as a human to become the bridge from a broken, sinful world back to a holy God. Hearts softened. It became a pivot point toward deeper connection. That night, **eight teens drew closer to Jesus the Healer and asked for Bibles**. Your prayers and partnership make "Praise God" moments like this possible. **Thank you** for helping these kids discover Jesus—the true gift of Christmas! ~Tasha Deplazes

**"Were there dinosaurs on the Ark?"**

The questions teens have about the Bible are so entertaining!



The memory verse found written in the front a students Bible.



## Practical Needs

Note: Please No Nuts

- Blank white L & XL t-shirts
- Individually packaged snacks: chips, fruit snacks, granola bars (NO NUTS), and popcorn
- Cases of bottled water
- Cases of juice boxes, bottled juice, or sports drink
- Baked goods
- Journaling supplies like composition notebooks and gel pens
- Have questions? Give us a call at (701)237-6682



## Good at Prayer?

During a recent church group at the juvenile center we had one young man, Anthony,\* who is quite knowledgeable about the Bible. His enthusiasm had him providing theologically expanded answers to every question. While I tried to give everyone in the room a chance to answer without squelching his enthusiasm, Tasha sweetly looked directly at him and offered the following encouragement. "Have you ever thought about being a pastor or youth leader? You seem very knowledgeable when it comes to the Bible." To which he replied with an oozing of confidence, "Yes, I know."

Later as we closed in prayer I asked if anyone wanted to pray. Tasha added, "Anthony, would you like to?" Anthony responded with, "Yeah, I'll try. That's one area I would have someone else do if I were a pastor or something I'm going to have to get better at. I'm not very good at prayer." This gave a perfect opportunity for a side note about how prayer is simply talking to God. It's something that comes up quite commonly with our teen friends. It's one thing to be shy to pray out loud, but it's really hard to be "bad at prayer." I often tease that when we're talking to a close friend we don't keep tally of how many big or special words they say, we're just excited to hear about them and what's on their heart. The same is true with God. He's not constantly keeping a thesaurus word count, He just wants to hear about our day. ~Danielle Beyer

\*Students names have been changed for privacy\*

## 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
- Loving Relationships
- Faithful Bible Teaching
- Adults Who Empower
- Collaborative Community Strategy

## RRYFC Staff

- Greg Everett
- Danielle Beyer
- Benjamin Talley
- Natasha Deplazes
- Noah Jedlicka

## RRYFC Board

- Karen White
- Brent Roeder
- Shane Kosloske

## Contact Information

701.237.6682

[info@redriveryfc.com](mailto:info@redriveryfc.com)

1790 32nd Ave S Suite 1  
Fargo, ND 58103

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

RedRiverYouthforChrist

redriveryfc

RedRiverYFC



## I Want This Time To Be Different

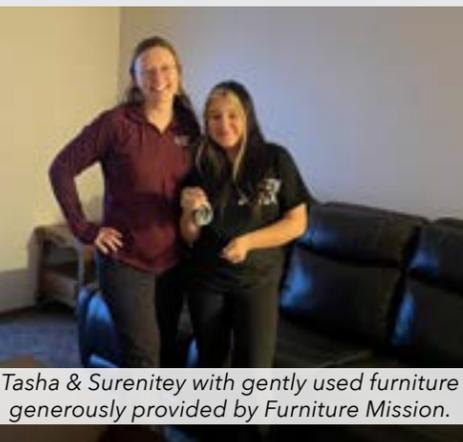
"You made a powerful influence on me and I was always thinking about the things you taught me." Elias\* said to me when I saw him on his re-incarceration for a parole violation. "You made a powerful impact on my life and I am constantly thinking about the things you taught me, how I want to be the man God created me to be. This time I really want to focus on being that man. I really do want to change and make a difference in the lives of others." ~Benjamin Talley

## Growing Trust

After returning from Christmas break, a student I mentor shared that his time off felt less lonely than the year before. He didn't say much more, but the fact that he said that at all was significant. Our time together wasn't polished; we walked, talked, and burned off energy by running, but he stayed engaged the entire time. Moments like these show that trust is growing, even when conversations are short or scattered. Sometimes the biggest wins are simply a student realizing they're not alone anymore. ~Noah Jedlicka

## Moving Surenitey

In January Surenitey got her very first apartment and we had the joy of helping her move and make it home.



Tasha & Surenitey with gently used furniture generously provided by Furniture Mission.



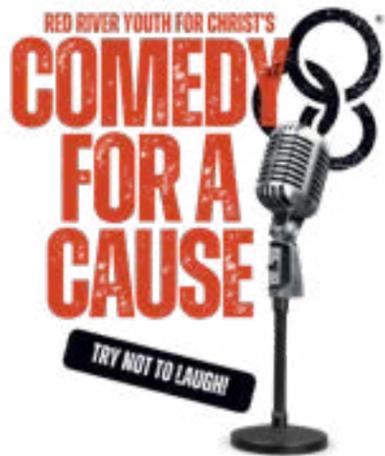
## Comedy for a Cause With Dustin Nickerson

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this year's Comedy for A Cause featuring Dustin Nickerson. It was truly an incredible evening of laughter and a glimpse into how God is moving through this ministry and impacting the lives of teens in our community. We are so grateful for the generosity and support of our event sponsors, and especially our Presenting Sponsors, Eid-Co Homes and Goldmark. Your partnership made this night possible, and we couldn't have done it without you. We are deeply thankful for each person who played a part in making this event such a success.

P.S. If you weren't able to attend but would still like to hear Surenitey's story from the night, visit our website at: [redriveryfc.com/stories/](http://redriveryfc.com/stories/)



SURENITEY'S STORY



Beautiful quilts made and donated for Surenitey and her daughter's new home.



## 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.

- **6-7:** A comedic interruption whenever someone mentions the number 6 or 7 or 67. A combination of a rapper and an American basketball sparked the start, but it's seemingly harmless joke has young people commenting anytime the numbers are used. Ex: "I can't remember if I missed 6 or 7 questions on the test." "Bro, 6-7" Still don't get it, you're not missing much other than the opportunity to laugh with the teens around you whenever two very common numbers are mentioned.
- **Caught in 4K:** Being caught in the act of doing something. It started with the rise of 4K or ultra-high-definition cameras often referring to undeniable digital proof.
- **CEO of:** Being really talented at something. "Mark is the CEO of turning in his homework late." (Definition from Axis Parent's Guide to Teen Slang 2026)
- **Touch Grass:** A call back to reality encouraging a disconnect from screens, to go outside, or connect with the real world. Example: "You've been scrolling for hours, you need to touch grass bro."

## I Want to Change

I met a young man named Gavin\* and we were doing a Bible study together on "How Do You Know You are Saved." In the middle of the Bible Study He broke down in tears and said, "I don't want to be a sinner!" He began telling me how his mom and grandmother would do Bible Study and they would try to include him but he wouldn't have it. I shared Romans 5:8 with him because he wanted to know more. We went to John 3:16-17 He began reading and he broke down in tears and cried and cried. He then said "I want to change." He is eager to learn and wants change.

Once when I was in the lobby, I got to meet his mom. She said he's doing good and that he really is reading his Bible. His younger brother added, "He's reading his Bible lots and growing." Even his little brother is seeing a difference in him and how he wants to change. ~Benjamin Talley

## "Can we do more Bible study? One day a week is not enough, we want more."

Two young men at the juvenile center inquired. They want to grow closer to Christ & know Him more.





# GIVING HEARTS DAY

- 1 Visit [givingheartsday.org](http://givingheartsday.org)
- 2 Click on **Donate**
- 3 Search & Select **Red River Youth for Christ**
- 4 Choose your donation amount and check out

Prefer to donate by check? Checks dated and delivered by 5 PM on February 12th will also be accepted.

The most exciting part, **friends of RRYFC will currently match your donation of \$10 or more up to \$26,300!**



Stop by our office (address below) to grab a delicious smoked pulled pork lunch (includes bun, chips, beans, and a cookie). Suggested donation \$10. Available 10:30 AM-1:30 PM or while supplies last. **To ensure you don't miss out, reserve your lunch now on our website [redriveryfc.com/event/giving-hearts-day/](http://redriveryfc.com/event/giving-hearts-day/).**



## Faith Ownership

I walked into the Bible study room at Liberty Middle School one morning to find two students already there and reading their Bibles before we even started. They didn't rush to put them away when I arrived; they wanted to keep reading. That moment showed a shift from curiosity to ownership of faith. We talked about identity, how God looks at the heart, and how He sees even when others overlook them. Seeing students choose to engage on their own is a powerful reminder of why consistent presence matters. *~Noah Jedlicka*



Cooking Club Thanksgiving Dinner

## Feeding 5,000

Jesus feeding the 5,000, a story shared with three middle-school-age boys at the juvenile center led to lots of questions. For two of the three this was their first time hearing this story. The "How is that possible," "Why were people following Jesus around," "Wait, there was more left over than they started with," and "That's crazy man," comments were quite entertaining. 1 of the 3 kids asked for and received his very first Bible. Thank you for making opportunities like this possible. *~Danielle Beyer*

## Eager to Learn

Today in Bible study, we unpacked John 14:6, where Jesus says, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." We talked honestly about what it means to personally believe in and follow Jesus—not just because someone else does, but as our own decision. The girls shared thoughtful, sincere answers about where they are in their faith. To close, I asked what topics in Scripture or life they want to learn about next. Here's what they shared:

- How to pray
- How to maintain a lasting relationship
- More about Jesus
- How to better control anger and emotions
- How to tame a younger sibling
- How to forgive

*~Tasha Deplazes*



**"I haven't decided if I want to follow God for myself yet—my mom and grandma introduced me to faith—can you help me with that?"**

One girl bravely said. What a sacred moment. It is a joy and privilege to walk with these girls as they seek truth.

## It All Makes Sense Now!

I've been meeting with Ted\* for a while off and on. He wanted to get a sign from God and know God was real through a tangible event rather than just the Bible. I shared how that event was the cross and how He speaks through His Son and the Bible speaks of Jesus. I am currently meeting with Ted weekly to walk with him through his questions and doubts.

One day during Bible study with another kid, Ted walks in returning from court and says, "I am going home today. They are releasing me with an ankle monitor to my grandma's house. Thank you for being so patient with me and understanding! I have been reading that comic book Bible you gave me and all you said makes sense now! Jesus is the image of the invisible God. We see God when we see Jesus. The people were worshipping all these other things except the One True God so God sent His Son in His Image to show Himself to them and sacrifice Himself for them. It all makes sense now!" It's funny how sometimes we just have to get out of the way and let God work. It was so cool to see. I was praying so hard for this kid then God does this. We serve an amazing God! *~Benjamin Talley*

**"When I pray the whole world stops"**

A young man said during a recent youth appointment.



A cell at the Juvenile Center

