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Nonprofit Organization
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Grand Forks, ND
Permit No. 12

Current Resident or:

UPCOMING EVENTS

We are committed to growing relationships between caring adults and young people. We do this inside our club setting, outside during appointments or during a building time event as listed below. All youth are welcome to sign up for our activities. Just contact Chelsea or sign up on-line so we can plan on your participation.

January 3	Campus Life Clubs Restart
January 17	See The Story Event
January 22	Movie Night
January 29	Skiing at Frostfire
February 26	Life Skills Day
March 18	Bowling
March 28	Be The Story Banquet, featuring Bob Mortimer
April 23	Frolfing



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A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF GRAND FORKS AREA YOUTH FOR CHRIST

THE WITNESS

Winter 2021

Thanks to You, Natalie is Seeking Jesus

On a cold November night, Natalie shuffled into YFC's Campus Life Club. Amid turmoil, heartache and despair, she was struggling to find stability in her life. It's hard being a teen today. She gets it. Natalie's father is deceased and her mother is in prison. About the only stability in her life is Youth For Christ.

As we were preparing for club, Natalie saw the bowl of water prepared for the bible lesson. "What are you going to do with that bowl of warm water," she said, "wash our feet?"

"Jesus replied, 'You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' 'No,' said Peter, 'you shall never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no part of me,'" (John 13: 7 – 8)

Her tone and inflection was just like Peter's. And as we read from the Bible she did not understand why Jesus was washing His friends' feet. How do you relate the good news to teens who may have barely heard the name Jesus and come from a smart phone and Instagram generation? As we explained in simple terms, the Holy Spirit suddenly moved and made the connection for Natalie; she blurted out, "Oh! It's like when Andy from Toy Story wrote his name on Woody's boots to say Woody was his!"

Woody could not write Andy's name on his own foot and become Andy's toy. Andy had to claim Woody in his own hand writing that was the only way; and Andy did it because he loved Woody.

Jesus loves us all, a staff member explained, and draws near to our fallen nature out of love, to make us clean to be His own forever. You don't need to wear boots to behold His love; Jesus writes it on our heart.

Natalie discovered Jesus' story through her love of the movie Toy Story. Isn't God infinitely creative? She knows Andy's love for his toy and Woody's desire to be known, accepted, identified, and loved by Andy. And thanks to a Hollywood film, Natalie can relate to Jesus and begin to understand the depth of His love.

Natalie, with all her struggles, has found the stability she desperately sought, in the faithful love of Jesus – thanks to you.

—Chelsea Berg

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richel Weiss
Billie Kellar
Dan Olson
Bethany Bertsch
John Wingate

Relational Ministry Actions

- Contacting
- Building Times
- Appointments
- Club
- Small Group
- CORE - Student Leadership
- Trips
- Events
- Follow Ups



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Thanks to your financial gifts and prayers, Youth for Christ staff and volunteers are able to share the good news of Jesus with teens in the Grand Forks area. During 2021, YFC hosted more than 50 Campus Life clubs and 35 individual discussion appointments, summer YFC Camp and a great North Shore backpacking adventure. During these times, we moved beyond the fun and explored each teen's heart and their spiritual health. Most of the teens we see have never had the Gospels presented to them. That's changing.

Our time together allows us to continue developing and strengthening trust that allows for deeper more spiritually-deep conversations. These events included a ski trip, bowling, movie day, selling peaches, Turtle River picnic and hike, game day, East Grand Forks corn maize, a service day, and sled-ding and cookie decorating. We offer the warm friendship and healthy fun many are not finding elsewhere.

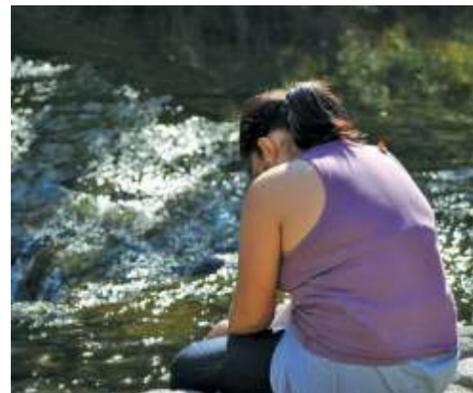
On average, YFC staff and volunteers spend ***100 hours a week*** with teens, modeling and sharing the good news of Jesus. These relationships are often long and challenging, requiring lots of energy, focused attention, patience and faith. And it's all worth it. In our obedience, teens are being transformed from the inside out.

Matthew 6:19-21 records Jesus as saying,

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

You are investing in local teens and their eternal future. Thank you for aligning your heart with God's ministry.

—Sean Patterson



“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT!

Michael Steien



- Volunteers with the Valley Middle School Campus Life Club
- Recruited by his brother, Matthew
- Favorite thing about leading: Seeing kids every week and impacting them positively!
- Loves Chick-Fil-A
- Works at Black Gold Farms as a business analyst
- Enjoys skiing, fishing, and hunting!
- Michael joined the team last year and has made positive and impactful relationships with kids that now go to our high school club!
- Whenever Michael goes to Building Times, kids look forward to seeing him and call him “the GOAT” (Greatest Of All Time).
- It's awesome to witness God working through Michael's relationships with kids even though they graduated to the High School Campus Life club and no longer see him every week.

COMMUNITY MINISTRY

Operation Christmas Child



Thank you for your generous donations of toys, personal care items, school supplies, and accessories. Our Campus Life clubs packed eight shoeboxes destined to brighten each of the recipients lives and perhaps change it for eternity.

There's nothing better than to see teens thinking of others in a world that is so self-centered. Again, thank you for helping us share the love of Christ with our neighbors!



CORE MINISTRIES:

CAMPUS LIFE CLUB
(MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL)

JUVENILE JUSTICE MINISTRY

CORE (STUDENT LEADERS, STARTING IN 2022)

Prayer and Financial Support Is Always Needed

LIKE TREES PLANTED ALONG THE RIVERBANK; BEARING FRUIT EACH SEASON. PSALM 1:3

As David wrote, those who meditate on the Lord day and night are like trees planted along the riverbank; bearing fruit each season. Likewise, we are planted in this community to bear fruit each season. This is done through the power of prayer, God's will and plan, and obedient followers.

Since October 1993, our chapter has consistently been sharing the Gospel and seeing young people's lives changed as a result. You can assist us as we continue to make a difference and impact right here with local youth. Contact us to be a prayer warrior and add your email to our prayer chain.

Additionally, you can become a financial partner with us in many ways. You can pledge a monthly gift, support our fundraising campaigns, give a one-time gift, or make purchases through smile.amazon.com! That's right, when you make purchases throughout the year at smile.amazon.com, we receive a donation from their foundation. All you have to do is go to smile.amazon.com and set Grand Forks Area Youth For Christ as your charity.

SEE HOW YOU CAN HELP GIVE LIFE TO YOUR STORY, WWW.GFYFC.ORG/GET INVOLVED OR DONATE



MINISTRY NEEDS

WAYS TO GIVE AND SERVE

Have you ever thought about volunteering at a Campus Life Club or an upcoming On-Time Event? How about baking cookies or making snacks that can be shared during club time? If so, contact Chelsea for details on how YFC needs help in these areas below.

- Banquet Committee Volunteers
- Silent Auction Items
- Campus Life Volunteers
- Snack-Maker
- Person(s) with a passion for sewing or teaching sewing
- Person(s) with a passion for cooking or baking

Be The Story Banquet

featuring Bob Mortimer

Mark your calendars for **March 28** for the 2022 Youth For Christ Fundraising Banquet at the Alerus Center featuring Bob Mortimer.

At the age of 21 Bob was injured in a car accident after leaving a party where he had been drinking and taking drugs. The car crashed into a power pole, knocking the pole down and bringing down live wires. Bob made contact with the wires with his left arm and 12,500 volts of electricity went through his arm, through his body, and exploded through his knees into the ground. During his six month stay at Harborview Medical Center, Bob had both legs and his left arm amputated.

Bob tells a story of hope for individuals and families damaged by alcohol and drug use; a story of encouragement for those struggling to overcome the challenges in their lives; and a story of turning a tragedy into triumph.

Bob and his family are avid cyclists. Bob hand-cycled with his family across America in 2008.



Bob believes the only handicaps we have are the ones we put on ourselves.

You don't want to miss his inspiring story. **Make sure to invite your friends and family!**

Teens Find Jesus on a Snowy Hillside, Thanks to You!

For two local boys, this day would become the most important of their eternal life.

Think of a time that you were really engaged in an activity with people you trusted and enjoyed being around. It's thrilling!

In mid-December, YFC staff and volunteers, and a whole batch of Grand Forks teens, spent a day building authentic relationships on a snowy hill near Lincoln Park. Nothing is better than listening to teens laugh and seeing them really enjoying themselves.

Walls came down and pretense removed. It is so refreshing to experience at-risk teens as God sees them, each one valued and loved. How important it is for us to see them through God's eyes, beyond their struggles and mistakes. How sweet is our relational building time!

Our staff and volunteers became kids again. They taught teens to snow board, joined in sledding down the hill in a group, decorated cookies, all while demonstrating and presenting the good news of the Gospel.

And God was present, too. At the end of the day, two middle school boys were powerfully moved by the Holy Spirit and each gave their life to Christ as their Lord and Savior. Praise God!

Because of you, teens continue to hear and respond to Jesus!

“My daughter is so excited to come to YFC events and clubs. In the car after a recent club, she talked about ‘I am’ all the way home. Thank you for the impact you are making.”

—Parent of a YFC Teen



PRAYER

REQUESTS

For the spiritual protection of the ministry

For God to raise up new leadership and our hearts on staff to be receptive to see how He is working (Matthew 9: 37 - 38)

For our staff, volunteers and their continued availability

For the Juvenile Justice Ministry, the staff, and the kids that will be touched by this ministry

For financial resources and partners who give faithfully

For attendance at Campus Life Club this new year

For our student leaders who will be beginning to lead this fall and be challenged and encouraged in our CORE program

**“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed?
And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard?
And how are they to hear without someone preaching?”** Romans 10:14