

SPECIAL THANKS

A big thank you to **Jen Delauder** who came to our teen parents support group with a big bag full of ingredients and showed us how to make a meal on a budget...a whole baked chicken and baked potatoes loaded with special seasonings! One of our gals posted a pic a couple weeks later of the same meal she made at home! Thanks, Jen, for teaching a life skill and loving on the young parents in the process!



**YOUTH
FOR CHRIST**
P.O. Box 323
Wadsworth, OH 44282
330-273-5794
www.northernohioyfc.com
www.garagezoe.com

Steve Pausch
Executive Director

Laurie Beal
Director of Ministry-
Wadsworth

Barb Pfeiffer
Office Manager

Local Ministry Directors:

Doug Bryant
John & Barb Fehl
Scott Hulet
Matt Mountjoy
John Roush
Roger Seward

Board Members:

John Heese
Barbara Moran-
Engler
Eric Pfeiffer
Bobby Puls
John Roush
Kathy Stehno



Payback is..... | Steve Pausch

I recently received a call from a young man who graduated from high school last year. I had spent a lot of time with this young man when he was in school. I coached him in football and baseball. He comes from a complicated home situation, so when he called, I wasn't sure what was going on. He asked me if I was available to meet for lunch, and we scheduled a meeting.

It was good to see him again and talk about his job and what his plans are for the future. He isn't attending church regularly, but says he does go "once in a while". We didn't talk about his family, or his ex-girlfriend who really hurt him his senior year. It seemed that all his friends were doing well. I kept waiting for the reason we were meeting to be brought up, but it was a nice time, just lunch with a friend.

I knew he needed to get back to work, so I just came out and asked him, "So what's going on? Why did you want to meet today?" He looked a little puzzled. Then the waitress brought our lunch bill and as I reached for it, he grabbed it.

"I just wanted to take you out to lunch now that I have some money, because you always took us out to talk." I thanked him, then we shook hands. He took the bill and paid the cashier on his way out.

I just sat there for a moment, thankful that I was able to be a part of a young man growing into a man.

"Payback is.....NICE"

Thank you for your support that makes moments like these possible. We spend a lot of time listening to the ins and outs of teenagers' lives, either at a restaurant or at club meetings, building trust and helping with life issues. We couldn't do all that without your prayer and financial support.

The Impact of Christ Sharing Relationships | Matt Mountjoy

Our major goal at Youth For Christ is to engage in Authentic Christ Sharing Relationships with the lost youth of our nation. Oftentimes, we get to do these things regularly and have joy in knowing we are spreading The Word. But sometimes, we get the even more exciting thing of being witnesses to the transformation it makes in students lives when they go from being lost to found and adopted into The Kingdom. Many of you have heard stories or interviews from one such young man named Teon who graduated last year. He went from being a boy from a difficult upbringing to a young man just finishing a semester in college and playing college football. Over the last few weeks, he expressed an interest in wanting to share with our current students. Last week, Teon had the opportunity to share with our current students. He shared with them an extremely important message of not letting your circumstances define you, but rather your choices. He talked about the importance of growth through failure, and the need to make tough decisions about making sure the relationships in your life are uplifting and positive. Throughout all of this, he emphasized how God has made a change in his life and provided him the ability to “break the cycle.” It was exciting for me to watch a young man that I have known as a rough, impulsive, and proud teenager discuss how pride can bring problems into your life. He even shared what it means to make the decision to follow God and some of the trials that come when you make that decision. It’s these moments when you get to see the work of The Holy Spirit in someone’s life that reinforces the blessings of ministry and the power of our God!

New Life Known by Name | Doug Bryant

My wife, Cassie, gave birth at 12:11 am on Tuesday, February 19 to Ellie Ann-Marie Bryant (6 lbs. 15 oz., 21 inches long!). We have a new life in our house and we are ecstatic....and working our butts off! But what the most amazing thing I am learning is that God loves her so much more than I can. It’s hard to imagine, but it is exponentially true!! Psalm 147:4 in the New American Standard Bible reads, “He counts the number of the stars; He gives names to all of them.” Clearly, the God of the Universe knows every single star. 100 billion trillion stars, and he knows them each by name! How much more does he know my little Ellie by name. He knows everything she is and loves her more than I can possibly imagine.



Given that knowledge, let us remember that God knows each teen with whom we work by name. He loves them so much that He died for them. Let us remember that when we see teens struggling to make right choices and to follow the Lord. God is powerful to save them.

New Year....New Plans | Laurie Beal

Our Project Impact team at the Garage is excited about an upcoming mission project at the Homeless Charity at 15 Broad Street in Akron. This was formerly the tent village, until Akron City Council voted to disband the community. The homeless people still rely on the day center at 15 Board Street for daily meals, laundry, a shower and clothing.

Over the last year, our teens have gathered and delivered scarves, hats, blankets, clothing and food, written notes of encouragement, helped serve Thanksgiving dinner and filled and delivered blessing bags with toiletries and snacks to our new friends. They helped the homeless clean out tents when the city set the date for removal, prayed with and for our homeless friends, and also helped deliver necessities to a lady who had moved from a tent to an apartment of her own. One of our teens, even used her birthday money and money she earned to buy lots of supplies and make many blessing bags to distribute.



The love that these teens have and want to share is inspiring. There have been many cool discussions about what it truly means to be the hands and feet of Jesus and what a gift and privilege that is. I’ve also seen teens who struggle with self-esteem issues, self-harm, drug addiction, etc. talk about the good feelings that come from helping others and how things seem better on the days we’re giving to others. Recently, a group of our teen girls said they wanted to have a sleepover where we baked all night and then in the morning take all the fresh baked goods to our homeless friends. So, we are doing just that to kick off our upcoming mission project! I told the girls that they were in charge of picking out all the recipes, and we’ll shop together for the ingredients and then head to the lake house to bake ALL night!

After we deliver the goodies, we will head inside 15 Broad Street and provide something equally important, Community! Our new Project Impact mission will be a hand up to the homeless folks. Our teens and the homeless people will be making craft items together. The homeless people will be selling their goods in the new store at 15 Broad Street and will be given all the profits from the items they make. Our teens’ items will be sold at our Restored Thrift Shop at The Garage and all proceeds will help fund all of our activities and events at The Garage. Our first craft will be making album bowls (bowls



from melted albums). We would love your prayers for this new adventure....and if you have a cool craft/talent and would like to join us and lead a project, please contact me!

Matthew 25:40 And the king will reply, ‘Truly, I tell you whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’