

Continued....

ble. The specific wording can vary, but the heart of the question is summed up in some of the following specific quotes:

- "Why do you care about me? No one cares about me. There's nothing worth caring about."
- "Why do you keep coming here and spending time with me/us?"
- "Why do you keep spending time with us when you have a great family?"
- "I'm sorry for the way I treated you in the beginning. Thanks for continuing to visit/hang-out. Thanks for not giving up."
- "I never had dad (or a good dad). Thanks for being here for me."

I am sitting here in tears as I remember these encounters. For some of these precious kids, months passed before we reached this point. The encounter often catches me off guard, and I cannot hold it together when they ask the question. And that's ok. It's good for them to see how real it is. How real Love is. How real our God is. There is incredible, divine Power in moments like this, because we get to point to the Source of and Reason for our Love. Nothing.. NOTHING can compare to the Life that He desires for each of us to have in Him." — Scott

And we always need more feet on the ground encouragers who desire to share the Love and Hope of Christ!

COVID Christmas Drive Thru| Laurie Beal

We have been adapting, readapting and shifting gears nonstop at Garage Ministry for the last 9 months to best meet the needs of our teens and their families. As we have been navigating life with even more people, it's hard not to notice the struggles, emotionally and financially. We couldn't do our traditional Christmas parties and overnights due to COVID, so we decided to do something different this year that would bring Christmas cheer to MANY families throughout our whole community! We put a shout out to supporters and friends asking for toys and in less than a week had over 500 new toys to pass out at our first annual Santa drive thru! Each car that came thru left with a book of the true Christmas story, candy canes and toys for every kid! We even had Santa passing out gifts to cars with kids down at the square! It was a blessing to shine HIS light into our community!



**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:

Scott Hulet
Herb Miller
Matt Mountjoy
Roger Seward
Stacey Stender

Board Members:

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

CONNECTED

YOUTH FOR CHRIST of Northern Ohio - Newsletter

Connecting Teens To Jesus Christ And His Church

January 2021

National Recognition | Steve Pausch

Laurie Beal is our director of ministry in the Wadsworth area. Most days you will see Laurie driving around town in her 1987 Suburban (pic) gathering items for the teen center or the Teen Moms program. Laurie's Suburban has logged many miles of ministry around town helping young people in need. Many people around town know Laurie and recognize all she does for the community and young people. She is often fielding calls to connect young people with other organizations when they are in need, and she is always ready to help teens with a ride a meal, or a listening ear. When the pandemic hit and schools closed, our teen center became the community hub where many families came to pick up their daily lunch provided by the school, and Laurie always had some extra food staples that she was able to gather and give out also. Last Fall she was recognized as an outstanding woman in the community and given a special award.



Recently, her hard work and dedication was recognized on a bigger stage as she was chosen as one of Mazda's Hometown Heroes during the pandemic. Hundreds of people across America were nominated for giving above and beyond for others. 50 heroes were chosen from the many nominated, and Laurie was chosen as one of those and awarded a new car from Mazda.

We have known that Laurie was special and that she had an overwhelming love for the young people she works with. But, it is also good to know that other people recognize what she gives to her community and others. She is still driving the Suburban around town, but maybe this summer you will see her giving rides to teens in her convertible .

Thank you Laurie for all you do to help others find the hope of Jesus

Transformation | Stacey Stender

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:2

2020 was a year of transformation. That Place for Teens, our Brunswick teens center, saw a lot of physical transformations with the addition of a fully functioning kitchen, new lighting, ceiling tiles, newly painted walls, and a new activity area. All transformations that help in providing a safe and inviting environment to share the Gospel with teens who would never enter the doors of a church. But these were not the only transformations that happened. I am most excited to see the transformation that happened to the Brunswick ministry itself and how our adult leaders and volunteers stepped up to the challenging times of a global pandemic to continue to meet the needs of local teens and share the love of Christ with them.

In February and March, we were building steady attendance at the new after-school ministry. Located right across from the Middle School, God was sending us new teens every day. It was almost too easy. What an exciting time as we began to hear God say, “Yes, I have called you to minister to the teens of Brunswick” in a new way. And then Covid . . . I cannot tell you how many times I’ve said that phrase. As we navigate the pandemic, we have been tested. Everything we had started seemed to be challenged—was it safe to continue, was the need still there, had we understood God’s call incorrectly? The pandemic has forced us, as leaders, to rethink what outreach can look like and forced us outside of the comfort zone to be better warriors for Christ, finding new ways to demonstrate His love and share the Gospel.

2020 brought about an increase of depression and suicide, which only highlights the need that people have for the love, hope, and comfort that only Christ can provide. We have been called to be His light; therefore, we have committed to staying open and available for those who need us. So, we transform to meet God’s calling. We have modified staffing to minimize contact and allow for greater flexibility as needed. We are physically open one day a week for high school ministry and one day a week for middle school ministry and have added virtual connection opportunities. Students can join us on Monday’s for a hybrid experience (in-person and on Zoom) and on Thursdays we are continuing to offer Life Hacks for High Schoolers via Zoom. We disinfect surfaces between every ministry, and stock hand sanitizer and masks. While Covid has prevented some teens from coming to us, our leaders continue to pray for them and stay in touch with notes and phone calls. We hope to resume daily in-person ministry soon, but that is in God’s hands, so we stand by patiently.

While the world would have us fearful of a virus, as Christians we know that none of us is guaranteed tomorrow regardless of this virus. However, we also know that *“all things work together for the good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose.”* (Romans 8:28) and that as believers in Christ we have a place prepared for us in heaven that is far better than the sinful world that we live in. That is why in 2021 we will continue to transform ministry at That Place for Teens to demonstrate Christ’s love and share His hope with teens. Will you pray for God’s encouragement for our teens and adult leaders this year and continue prayers for additional monthly donors to help this vital teen center stay open for the thousands of teens of the Brunswick community?

Sovereign | Matt Mountjoy

We love to have the opportunity to share with you how the Garage impacts local teens, especially when you get to hear from the students in their own words. I’m excited to be able to share with you some thoughts from another student, Amy. Amy has been attending over the last few years and she is someone who brings a great amount of maturity to the group as well as a thoughtful and caring heart. Also, since she has begun attending her younger sister has become a regular at The Garage. I asked Amy to share with all of you some her favorite things, impactful moments, and general thoughts on attending The Garage and the following is in her own words:

I am 17, and I heard of The Garage my 8th grade year and decided to see what it was about my freshman year when my best friend started going. My favorite part of attending The Garage is the social aspect. I love meeting new people and understanding new perspectives on things that go on in our lives. My favorite memory of The Garage is going on the overnight trips that we go on. I love the bonding! I feel that attending The Garage has helped me with so much. Emotionally and socially I have really gotten out of my shell and made so many new friends. I’m so thankful for how people have accepted me. Attending has answered so many of my questions on religion and I have a broader perspective on it now. I am so thankful for being able to call The Garage my second family!

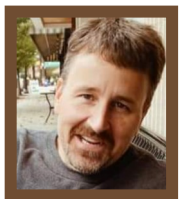
As you are praying for The Garage and Wadsworth YFC please remember to keep Amy and her family in your prayers!

The Why Behind Our Mentors Part 2 | Laurie Beal

I have heard from many over the years that they have been thinking about maybe becoming a mentor at the Garage. There’s usually excitement sprinkled with fear of the unknown as we talk. For those of you still on the fence, the following personal accounts give a glimpse of why we do what we do!

Why do you mentor?....

"First, I have to share the reason/purpose/power that is the Source of all true obedience. I simply get to walk with my Lord as I offer my life (time, talents, resources, etc) back to Him. He graciously invites us to join Him in His Work, in the desires of His heart, to experience Him. He truly transforms us and renews our minds as we walk with Him in the good deeds that He has prepared for us. Our God has such a desire to love and rescue those who are hurting and perishing. To be drawn into His love and His heart for others is to experience real Life.



There is one specific encounter/reaction that I have experienced dozens of times over the years as I have been blessed to get to enter the lives of young people, to develop relationships with them, and to point them to Christ. Kids are often guarded at first, and relationships can remain at the "surface level" for some time. However, as the relationship continues to develop, as the young person begins to sense that there is real concern/sacrifice/Love at the heart of our relationship, they often begin to soften. It is at this point, that some will actually become really serious (sometimes in tears) and ask me a question that demonstrates that God is working in their hearts; that they are willing to trust and be vulnera-

Continued on back