

Over the next several months, we will be introducing you to adult leaders (**people**) who give their all to the young people of Northern Ohio and why they do it.

People, Process, and Product... Our **process** of ministry is the same that Jesus used over 2,000 years ago, get involved in a person's life, get to know them and their struggles and share the "living water" of Jesus Christ with them. Sometimes, we get to that point quickly and sometimes, it takes a long time to get them to trust us, but that is our **process**.

Product... our product never changes. Our "**product**" we offer is Jesus. Every game we play, each time we attend a sporting event or school lunchroom, we are trying to get Jesus into the life of a kid. As an organization we exist to present the Gospel of Jesus to young people. Because we do this we eliminate ourselves from government funding, and sometimes it keeps us out of a school or community building, but we are not ashamed of our product.

Thank you for investing "your own" money in the ministry of Youth For Christ. We would not be able to be in the lives of the hundreds of kids across Northern Ohio without your willingness to support this work. We are blessed to have a 2,000 year old business plan that is still changing lives for eternity even today. People, Process, and Product... we have the best of any in the world!

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# CONNECTED

YOUTH FOR CHRIST of Northern Ohio - Newsletter

Connecting Teens To Jesus Christ And His Church



October 2019

## People, Process, Product | Steve Pausch

Television can often get a bad rap today and in many instances, that is warranted. Some of the shows that teenagers describe to us are blush-worthy and not appropriate. I recently watched a show called "The Profit" where a successful businessman uses his own money to invest in struggling businesses and helps them get back on their feet. That sounded like a good TV show for me late at night after driving home from a youth meeting. There are probably many show like this on TV today, but I was intrigued by the business model of this man, Marcus Lemonis: "**I invest in the people, the process, and the product.**"

I was then comparing that model to our ministry at Youth For Christ: **people, process, and product.**

I am frequently humbled to work with the **people** that God has brought to this organization, not only as paid staff, but the adult leaders who volunteer. Each of them are stellar examples of giving and caring people. This month, we will be celebrating with 2 volunteers who are "retiring" from their weekly work with teens in the Sandusky County Juvenile Detention Center. They have gone in to minister to teens for over 30 years, week in and week out. They have shared life with hundreds and hundreds of young people who were incarcerated and in need of a caring friend.

## Student Spotlight | Matt Mountjoy

Mary is one of our few seniors this year in our City Life Garage program. She is actually the last student at The Garage that has been around the ministry longer than I have! She is a great student leader for us and a great person for you all to hear from with a student's perspective of the ministry. So from this point on, I'll let you all just read from Mary in her own words.

*My name is Mary Price. I'm 17 and a senior in high school. I started going to The Garage with a friend around the middle of 7<sup>th</sup> grade. So it's been about five years since I first came.*

*I go to The Garage because I personally think that it's a great outlet for teens. The volunteers and teachers there are amazing and a great support to teens who may be struggling. It's also nice to be around people who can relate to your struggles and give advice to you. The most important thing I get from going is learning things from The Bible and then being able to understand it better because the leaders related the lessons to real life situations.*

*The Garage has definitely made a huge difference in my life, and others I know too. When I was in a really bad state of mind, I remember having Matt and Laurie at one point letting me cry to them and they prayed with me and for me. I don't think I'd be the person I am today without them.*

*My favorite activity the Garage does is the overnighters at Laurie's lakehouse. I think they're fun and I just think going to them makes everyone more comfortable with each other and it's easy for us to share our thoughts and it helps us open up more. I also think it makes some of the kids more open to what The Bible is saying because they are in a cozier setting!*

## Space to Be! | Laurie Beal

Our Teen Parents group has been impacting teens' and babies' lives for just over ten years and allowing us to know and embrace some amazing young people! It's inherently rewarding. We consider it a blessing, and we don't expect thank-you's. But we get them sometimes, and it humbly reminds us of the gift and importance of "being there" for teenagers. The teens are appreciative of the free baby supplies, the help with learning the ropes on parenting and the guidance when it comes to matters of faith. What they seem most thankful for is just having people who care about them unconditionally.

I have received many messages of gratitude from gals over the years. Recently, one of our gals, who turned 21 and aged out of the Teen Parent program, wrote this about the Garage: "The Garage is a safe space for all sorts of teens. Teen parents, teens getting in trouble, teens finding themselves, teens hiding from home, teens who want to hang out and have fun, and teens who only get to be themselves when they are there. If it wasn't for The Garage, I don't think I would have been fully aware of what it's like to be a teen mom. It gave me a preview of what it's like when I was pregnant with my first. It gave a space for my little brothers to go and have fun and be themselves. It's a place that a lot of teens rely on for every week. It's really an amazing place. I love being a part of it. It's a very special place. And being a part of something special, makes you special." Roxie

Hanging with these kids and giving them a place where they can be themselves is a privilege. ALL glory to God!

## Teen Trends

The following statistics are taken from an article about teens and social media dated October 8, 2018 on the Smart Social web site. The information is based on a survey of teens by Common Sense Media which compared social media use in 2012 to use in 2018.

Teens are being distracted from other important things and their friends

- 57% of all teens agree that using social media often distracts them when they should be doing homework
- 54% of teen social media users agree that it often distracts them when they should be paying attention to the people they're with, compared to 44% in 2012
- 29% of teen smartphone owners say they've been woken up by their phones during the night by a call, text, or notification
- 42% of teens agree that social media has taken away from time they could spend with friends in person, compared to 34% in 2012