

Rafting Continued

trip in West Virginia with time for small group discussions, evening programming, exciting rafting, and a bus load of memories. The purpose of this trip is to lead teens into a relationship with Jesus or to strengthen their current relationship with Jesus. We expect this trip to have life-long memories and to even change some eternal addresses for teens.

Would you be willing to help a local teen attend this trip? Many of the kids we work with come from families that are struggling with finances for a variety of reasons. We give kids the opportunity to work off their trips around our ministry sites in order to receive scholarship money. Would you be willing to help an area teen go on our rafting trip this year? If so, simply write “rafting” in the memo line of your check and use the enclosed envelope to mail it to us. We’re grateful for any support you give and will share the details of how God uses this trip in kids’ lives.

SPECIAL THANKS

A big thank you to all the people who helped with our recent cafe renovation at Garage Ministry/ YFC Wadsworth! The teens love it!

Thanks to everyone who helped make our middle school Mayhem event a success. A special thanks to **Shell Yanke** for bringing all her equipment and hosting karaoke for the kids at no charge!

YOUTH  
FOR CHRIST

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YOUTH FOR CHRIST of Northern Ohio - Newsletter

May 2019

Connecting Teens To Jesus Christ And His Church



Trips Change Lives Forever | Steve Pausch

What is your idea of a fun time away? Do you enjoy the peace and quiet of the mountains or the time on a boat crashing over the waves on a sunny day? There is something about getting away from it all that refreshes us and changes our perspective.

Trips for teens do the same thing for them, they only look different. They are usually not full of times of peace and quiet. Something about loading 40+ teens on an old school bus takes away the quiet. There is usually some kind of drama between boys and girls and who likes who. Bathroom and food breaks take a while longer than the normal family trip. But, trips are one of the ways we are able to really have an impact on the eternal address of teens.

In my 30+ years of ministry to teens, I have been on literally hundreds of trips— weeklong trips hundreds of miles away, weekend camping trips, conferences, mission work trips, cabin get-a-ways, and many kinds of trips in between. I have many memories of those trips. Often when I see a young person, who is no longer a young person now, one of the things they bring up is a memory from a trip. A now *thirty something* shared with me recently about a trip he remembered to a conference in New York and how it helped him redirect his life. I was texting with another *now adult* who talked about our trips to Florida over spring break and how he was just telling some friends about how those trips in high school impacted his life. Many of these now adults financially support our work with kids today, and I believe some of that is because of how trips impacted them.



This June, we have another trip planned for the teens we work with. It’s a whitewater rafting

## Middle School Mayhem | Matt Mountjoy

Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, was an exciting night for us at YFC Wadsworth. We had over 60 students attend our first annual Night of Middle School Mayhem! The event took place at Wadsworth Middle School. We had a 3 on 3 Basketball tournament, a dodge ball tournament, karaoke, prizes, pizza, and more! In addition to several of our normal leaders, we definitely need to thank several family members who stepped up, and other specialists like Shell Yanke, who provided karaoke, Rachel Rexroad, who was there as a paramedic, and Don Lawrentz, who was our police officer. One really cool thing was the large group of high school students that are involved in our ministry that gave up their Friday night to volunteer. They did an awesome job of helping ref the games, facilitate the tournament and just add to the fun atmosphere playing with the younger teens. It wouldn't have been possible for it to be what it was without them, and I couldn't be more proud of how they stepped up. Also, the night was finished off with a talk and sharing of the Gospel by YFC Cleveland's Michael McCoy or as we call him, "Cap." God worked in Cap's life in a powerful way when he was a teen and he shared his story with the kids. Kids were touched by his story, and connected with God through it.



While it was certainly exciting to see all these things run smoothly, and the pizza from Fatboy's Pizza in Norton was delicious, the most exciting part of the evening was seeing the results shared by the kids afterwards. According to their own reporting, 20 students indicated making a decision for Christ, and also seven students asked to be put in touch and given more information on local church youth groups! Please be praying for these students and our follow up efforts, and also for the unsaved students in attendance that a seed was planted in their hearts where the Holy Spirit will continue to do His work!



## Outstanding | Laurie Beal

When you come alongside hurting people and messy situations and ornery teens, it has the potential to warp the perception of your ministry. People on the outside glancing over may assume your ministry itself is a mess. They may just see the rambunctious teens running around your lot and see trouble, and not glance long enough to also see the Christ-following mentors coming alongside them where they are and helping them get to a better place. Our ministry site in Wadsworth at The Garage is not immune to that type of scrutiny.

Several years ago, we, as a team, made it a goal to change that perception with the hopes that the community would see our true mission and maybe even embrace it. We tackled this wall by fully partnering with like-minded agencies to best meet the needs of the teens. This meant building closer relationships with the police, the truant officer, area ministries, local churches, local businesses and our neighbors. We also formed a group to take teens into the community to serve others and we hosted open houses for the community to stop in and see first hand what we were truly about. We hosted two heroin awareness events and an anti-bullying workshop, and we followed God's lead as we prayerfully plugged away at lowering that wall.

The barrier slowly started to crumble and we started seeing previously skeptical people and organizations stopping by to say hi and drop off donations, recommending us on social media and embracing the mission and the teens. The final confirmation came in the mail recently. We had been informed a couple of months ago that someone had

nominated The Garage for the most outstanding non-profit in Wadsworth through the Wadsworth Chamber of Commerce Rosie Awards. That, in itself, was cool. But after the votes from the community were tallied, we were informed that we were one of the top three vote getters! More and more people are "getting" what we are all about and appreciate what God is doing. All Glory to God!

