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# *YD* Youth Dynamics

# REFLECTIONS

Spring/Summer 2018

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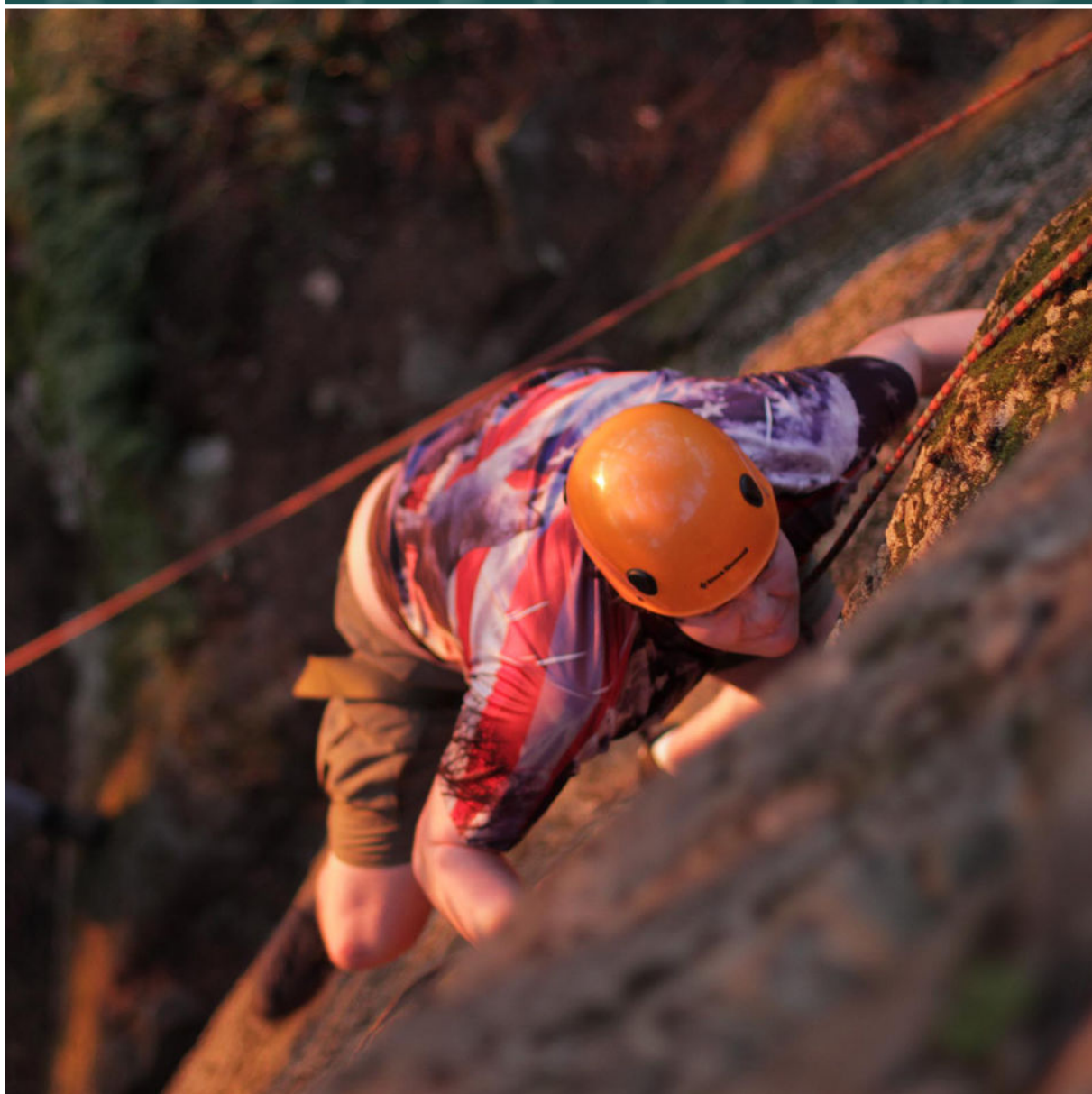
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*“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21*

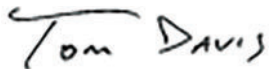
Dear Ministry Partners of Youth Dynamics,

For this edition of Reflections, shortly after my one year anniversary of serving on Youth Dynamics staff, I am blessed to share some musings about YD.

- YD has an incredible nearly 50 year history! I have felt from day one very blessed to partner with you in our mission to invite and challenge youth to a lifelong journey in relationship with Christ and His church. I have had the privilege to meet numerous people and hear many stories from people whose lives have been forever impacted by YD during these years.
- It has been an honor to build a relationship with Paul and Connie Evans, the founders. They deeply love the ministry and they always will. We meet regularly for prayer, conversation, and food!
- YD has an incredible staff team who are committed to fulfilling the Great Commission. The love and commitment they demonstrate daily for young people through the many programs we offer is amazing. In fact, this year we celebrated Bronco Huge and Paul Spence, two of our longest tenured staff members who just completed their 35th and 30th year on YD staff respectively.
- YD offers life-changing Adventure experiences! I had the joy to participate in rafting, ice-climbing, cross country skiing, paddle boarding, and more. The unique blending of evangelism and adventures we offer youth is absolutely transformational.
- Stonewater Ranch is a great resource for YD Communities, YD Adventures, as well as for other youth groups to go away and have that amazing adventure experience. Life changing experiences happen here, and we are so grateful to have this resource.
- I honor the past and look forward with excitement to the future as we reach a new generation for Christ with quality, authenticity, and a deep commitment to faith.

Lastly, I want to say thank you to you, our donors and ministry partners, for the role you play in helping a new generation of young people experience the love and hope of Jesus Christ. As Jeremy, a YD student said, “YD made me realize I was made for something more.” Amen Jeremy. We are all made for something more.

Warmly in Christ,



Tom Davis, President



*Tom guest speaker at the Moses Lake YD Center.*

**Thank you again for your partnership! Should you have any questions or wonder about how you can get involved more deeply, please contact me: [tdavis@yd.org](mailto:tdavis@yd.org). I'd love to connect with you!**

## Life's an Adventure... Who's Your Guide?

Recently, one of our teens gave her testimony to a room full of adults who were attending a fundraising event for YD. April\* showed great courage to be transparent with regard to the realities of her home-life. Her 'normal life' consisted of sharing a small trailer with her mom and boyfriend who were consistently using drugs and openly shared their intimate relationship.

April started smoking cigarettes in the third grade and entered into a relationship with a neighbor boy in the summer going into her fifth grade that quickly became abusive—both physically and sexually. She began cutting herself and attempted several unsuccessful suicide attempts.

"Because of how I grew up, everything that was happening seemed completely normal to me," she stated. "I didn't have a dad in my life day to day... my mom's boyfriends would consistently dominate her, and sometimes me, on a physical level... it just made sense to me that I didn't own my body and that whichever guy I or my mom was with, could have free rein with me, whether or not that is what I wanted. I thought that was love."

At the start of sixth grade, April started to get involved in YD. Attending horse camps and other adventures through YD, April began to see the strong Christian adults in her life and trusting them to share some of her story. "That was the first time I had someone in my life to support me and that I could be open and honest with about my struggles and that I could start navigating through the lies that were the foundation for how I lived my life," she recalled.

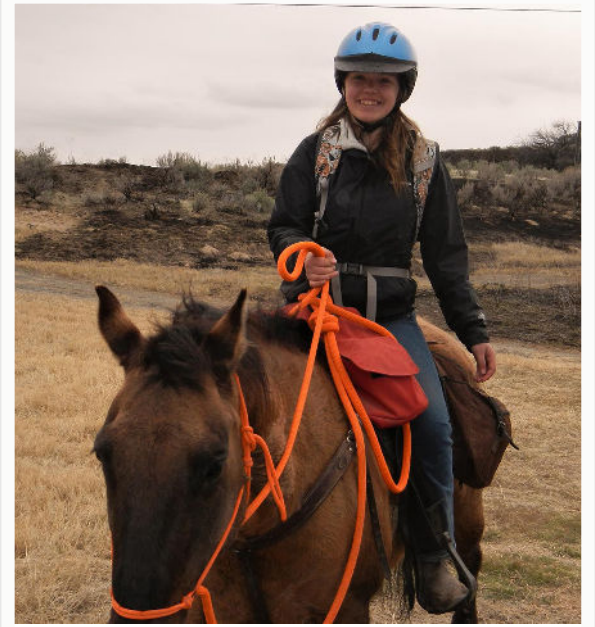
Right after an adventure trip, a friend invited April to a youth group and she accepted Christ into her life. As the youth pastor was talking, April remembered everything she had learned from her YD mentors and she remembers standing up and running to the stage. April said, "It was the first thing that had felt right in a long time."

April still struggles, working through past hurts as well as being kicked out of the house after her family read her testimony. "But now," she states, "I am able to look to God in those moments of severe struggling. As I go through my days, I no longer think about the abuse constantly, I can think about how God has entered and changed my life."

April is learning how to share her faith and is excited to share with others—including her family—about how she is a Christian, saying, "now, one of my favorite things to do is, when I feel called by God, to pray for people. It has moved me, seeing some people break down into tears as I am praying for them, when afterward I can't even remember what I said."

This summer, April will be a student intern in the horse program at Stonewater Ranch. Please pray for April as she deepens her faith and is mentored by YD staff. We celebrate the work God is doing in April's life!

\*Name has been changed for privacy.



*April loved going to horse camp and really connected with the horse wranglers at Stonewater Ranch.*

# REFLECTIONS | YD Adventures

*"Remember your Creator in the days of your youth." Ecclesiastes 12:1*

Summer is nearly here and you know what that means – hundreds of students participating in YD's high quality summer adventure ministry! The primary goals of adventures is threefold:

1. Challenge teens in God's creation and expose them to the beauty of the outdoors
2. Take them out of their comfort zone
3. Encourage them to step into a relationship with Jesus Christ

Here are some of the Adventure Trips offered:

- Whitewater rafting
- Kayaking
- Rock climbing
- Rappelling
- Backpacking
- Day hiking
- Camping
- Mountaineering
- Paddle boarding
- Sailing
- Challenge courses
- Horse camp

## Why Adventures?

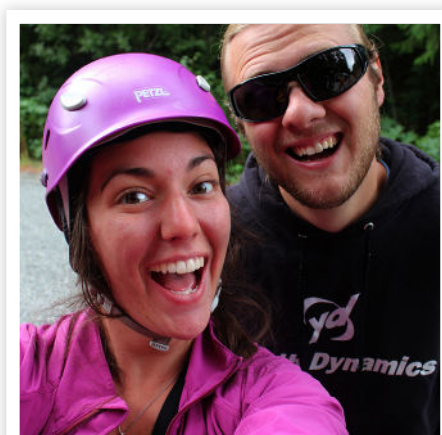
Youth today spend half the time outdoors as their parents did at their age and average over four hours of screen time each day! YD serves youth through unique ways by providing transformational experiences and relationships that produce significant life change. Research is consistent in demonstrating students today are facing pressures and challenges unlike any time in history.

More than ever, students need experiences like those offered through YD to help them process life, navigate risk, engage with the outdoors, and create space to learn about themselves and God. In addition, the outdoors was the primary classroom for Jesus. For example, 51% of the teachings of Jesus were outdoors, 16% indoors, and 33% uncertain, but likely outdoors.



*"Suddenly, I just felt the overwhelming amount of love that God had for me. I would say that (the adventure) was pretty much the moment where I truly became a Christian and started to follow Jesus."*

– YD Adventure Student



Kids thrive when they are able to be, well, kids. An adventure experience provides just the perfect environment for this to happen and to create the space necessary for kids to encounter Christ. It's the place where they will overcome their fears and grow physically, mentally, and spiritually.

## Three ways you can help:

1. **Pray!** We will have over 2,500 youth participating in various YD Adventures this summer.
2. **Give!** On average, it costs \$150 for a youth to participate in a multi-day adventure. To give a youth the gift of a scholarship, use the enclosed envelope or visit our website at [www.yd.org/give](http://www.yd.org/give).
3. **Guide!** We are always looking for volunteer guides who love the outdoors and love teens!

## Expanding the Reach

It was an exciting year for Youth Dynamics in 2017. At the core of what we do and why we are here is we present the gospel in a way that is relational and culturally relevant to teens, 11-19.

Youth Dynamics reaches youth through three distinct branches:

1. **YD Communities:** Each YD Community seeks to create a non-threatening environment where students can meet to have fun while building relationships with adult leaders.
2. **YD Adventures:** Adventures uses adventure-based activities to bring about life-changing learning situations called teachable moments.
3. **Stonewater Ranch:** The 158-acre ranch near Leavenworth, WA, fulfills the mission of YD through adventure trips, leadership development, and retreat ministries.

Here is a little snapshot for what our year in review looked like:

**6,543**

WORKED WITH YOUTH  
IN IDAHO, OREGON,  
WASHINGTON

**496**

ADVENTURE TRIPS

**12,436**

TOTAL CAMPER DAYS

**2,452**

YOUTH HEARD THE  
GOSPEL & WERE GIVEN AN  
OPPORTUNITY TO RESPOND



Many of the students who attend YD Adventure trips rely on scholarships. If you would like to sponsor one or more students for the 2018 season, please visit our website: [www.yd.org/give](http://www.yd.org/give)

## Honoring Special People

YD has an incredible staff team who are committed to fulfilling the Great Commission. The love and commitment they demonstrate daily for young people through the many programs we offer is amazing. Each year, the YD Leadership Team votes for 3 special awards:

1. Volunteer of the Year
2. Leadership Team Award
3. The Paul Evans Discipleship Award

### **Volunteer of the Year Award: Penny Sundblad**

Penny has served faithfully as chair of the Youth Dynamics Board of Directors for 10 years. She loves YD and cares deeply about our staff and mission. She goes above and beyond – whether planning for a board meeting, facilitating a conflict resolution seminar for staff, or meeting with Tom as they work together on the board. Penny exemplifies everything it means to be Christ-centered volunteer. She is loved and appreciated by all of us.



*Penny Sundblad receiving the 2018 Volunteer of the Year award.*

### **Leadership Team Award: Jeremy Bucher**

Since 2007, Jeremy has brought a love and a heart for disciple making. He is highly relational and finds fulfillment in guiding young people on a journey towards spiritual maturity. Jeremy leads out of a life that exemplifies a mature and growing relationship with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



*Jeremy Bucher received the 2018 Leadership Team award.*

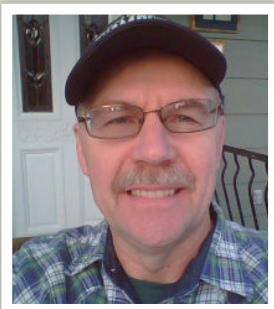
### **Paul Evans Discipleship Award: Daniel Weston**

On staff since 2012, Danny often goes the extra mile for students. His compassion and love for students comes from his huge heart. Danny exhibits the heart of the founder Paul Evans in reaching and discipling students for Jesus Christ.



*Daniel Weston received the 2018 Paul Evans Discipleship award.*

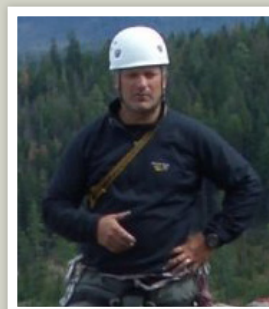
## CELEBRATING MINISTRY LEGACY AWARDS:



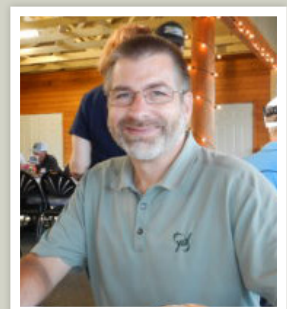
35 Year: Bronco Huges



30 Year: Paul Spence



15 Year David Hanthorn



10 Year: Tim Nieuwswma

## YD's Annual Golf Marathon August 27, 2018



Once a year, Youth Dynamics takes over Avalon Golf Course in Burlington, Washington, to raise money to reach today's youth through dynamic relationships and challenging experiences.

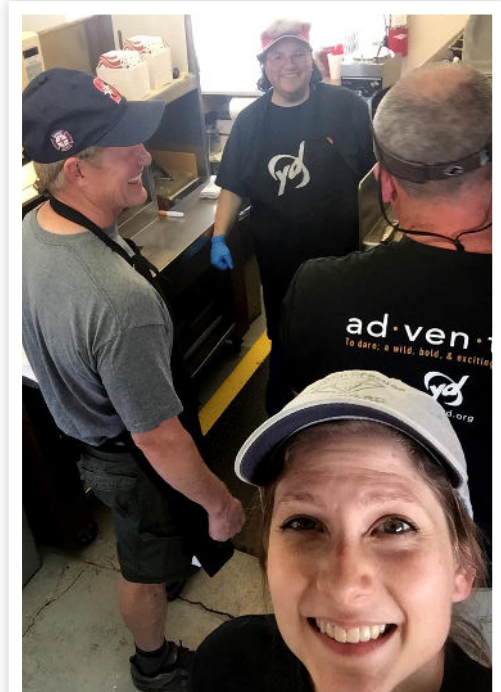
Golfers play **100 holes of golf in 1 single day** and raise \$\$ pledges per hole helping raise over \$75,000 during this event!

If you would like to participate in this year's Golf Marathon either as a golfer, sponsor, or to pledge per hole, please visit

**[www.yd.org/golfmarathon](http://www.yd.org/golfmarathon)**

## YD has several ways you can support this ministry:

- Prayer for this generation of young people not yet affected for Christ. Contact your nearest YD office to learn more specific ways you can pray.
- Being a financial ministry partner.
- We are reestablishing our local Committees – please contact our office if this interests you.
- Volunteer with students by being a mentor and developing relationships with teens. Training and support will be provided to all YD volunteers.
- Volunteer by becoming an adventure guide. In the last few years, YD has been growing like crazy! We're excited, because this means we can reach even more teens for Christ. We're adding more volunteer positions so we can continue pursuing our mission to the best of our ability.
- Special events and projects. Contact your local office to learn more.
- Estate and legacy giving program. Contact Tom Davis to learn more: [tdavis@yd.org](mailto:tdavis@yd.org).



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**JOIN OUR TEAM  
APPLY ONLINE TODAY!**

**WWW.YD.ORG/JOBS**

Don't see the position you were hoping for posted online?

Email us: [hr@yd.org](mailto:hr@yd.org)



**Youth Dynamics  
Mission Statement**

*To invite and challenge youth to  
a lifelong journey in relationship  
with Christ and His church.*



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360-757-1337



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