

Spring 2020

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YOUTH DYNAMICS REFLECTIONS



Let's Adventure Together!

Dear Friends and Supporters of Youth Dynamics,

“Don’t act thoughtlessly, but find out what the Lord wants you to do.” Ephesians 5:17

Since beginning my tenure as president in 2017,

I have spent a considerable amount of time analyzing our organization’s history, effectiveness, and how we communicate who we are and what we do best. It is quite remarkable how Youth Dynamics has grown during our 50-year history. We started as a rural campus ministry in 1970, added wilderness ministry later that decade (now called adventure ministry), added an emphasis to serve youth-at-risk, an adventure base in Portland in the 1980s, Stonewater Ranch in 2005, and an adventure base in the Boise area in 2008.

However, while exciting, this growth has led to confusion as to who we are and what we do best. Are we still a rural campus ministry? Are we an adventure ministry? Or, are we the ministry that serves youth-at-risk? Yes, we are all three of these, but we are also much more. We serve more than rural communities: our ministry in North Portland, for example, is far from rural. We do more than adventures. We have relational programs that do not directly involve adventures, such as small groups, weekly outreach events, etc. We endeavor to serve all young people, not only those considered at-risk.

These factors are what led to a decision to rebrand Youth Dynamics. **Our goal is to clarify who we are what we do best.** It enables us to be more effective, unified, and ultimately reach more youth with the amazing news of Jesus Christ. Rebranding has been a prayerful, thoughtful, and methodical process with input from our board of directors, staff, donors, consultants, and other ministry leaders. Our brand is updated, but our organizational objectives are the same: to reach unchurched youth and to assist local churches and other youth ministries to carry out effective ministries of youth evangelism and discipleship through adventure ministry. I am excited to share our updated brand with you.

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As part of the rebrand, our new website went live on March 16th! Please check it out at www.yd.org.

Youth Dynamics
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website: www.yd.org

1. **Brand Essence.** The heart of our brand: Discover. Everything we do at Youth Dynamics is underscored by the word “Discover.” Discover your life in Christ, authentic relationships, who you are, *whose* you are, your purpose, adventure ministry and all it offers, what you are made of, life skills, leadership qualities, and so much more!
2. **Brand Commitment.** Our brand commitment is to help youth discover life in Christ. We also desire to help our donors and partners discover a deeper life in Christ.
3. **Brand Category.** Youth Dynamics is a Relational Adventure Youth Ministry. We help youth discover life in Christ through our caring support, professional adventure guides and staff, challenging wilderness experiences, and intentionality to share Christ.
4. **Brand Conveyers.** Check out our new logo! This fresh logo reflects our updated brand. It is geometric, refined, relevant, and adventurous. We like it and hope you do as well!
5. **Tagline.** Let’s Adventure Together. We chose this because it is invitational, inspirational, and represents our passion for doing life together with students and supporters, and reflects all of our ministries.

It truly is an exciting time to be a part of Youth Dynamics. I want to personally thank you for your continuing investment in the ministry. It makes all the difference, and I thank God for your partnership in the gospel (Philippians 1:3-4). Please feel free to contact me anytime.

Today, more than ever, teens feel incredibly uncertain about life and their world. BUT, through Christ, there is HOPE and LIFE and NO NEED TO FEAR! Kids desperately need to know this!



Tom Davis

President
Youth Dynamics

To make a special gift, visit www.yd.org/donate or use the enclosed envelope.

COVID-19 UPDATE, BRANDING, & FINANCIAL IMPACT

We worked for many months on rebranding, including launching a new website. We picked a launch date of March 16th, 2020, well before the COVID-19 concerns. After praying about it, we felt called to keep the date.

Safety has always been a top priority at Youth Dynamics. As the situation around COVID-19 continues to change, we are committed to complying with the guidelines and regulations of government agencies and health authorities. For Stonewater and our Youth Dynamics Adventure bases in Idaho and Oregon, our guests remain our highest priority, and we have

made additional measures to ensure an excellent standard of cleanliness and hygiene. Looking forward to the spring and summer, our locations, the fresh air, sanitized accommodations, and amazing adventures make Youth Dynamics a great place to get away, enjoy God’s creation, and have an INCREDIBLE time!

Financially, it is trying times for many organizations. We have lost significant revenue primarily due to canceled adventure trips and retreats. Our income is down over \$100,000 so far. For this reason, would you please consider making a special financial gift? Thank you.

Developing Young Leaders—Drake and Anna

Youth Dynamics is passionate about developing young people into young leaders. Last summer, we renamed our high school internship program Life & Leadership Training, or LLT (we love acronyms at Youth Dynamics!). This six-week program allows students the opportunity to experience discipleship through studying Scripture, participating in multiple adventures (i.e., rock climbing, mountaineering, rafting, kayaking, and more!), and leadership training. The LLT internship has brought about some of the most transformative moments for students.

We asked two interns about their experience. Meet Anna and Drake.

What were some of your successes?

Drake: *"I started reading the Bible, was opened up to the idea of finding a church, and I went multi-pitch climbing!"*

Anna: *"The opportunity to lead Christ-centered adventures helped me understand better how to lead others the same way."*

What new things did you learn about yourself?

Drake: *"I learned I should be proud of being a Christian rather than hiding it. I learned without a good community of Christians I won't thrive as I could otherwise."*

Anna: *"I was encouraged to see my faith with new eyes and honestly evaluate my relationship with the Lord. This internship took something I love and am good at (outdoor adventures) and combined it with something that doesn't*



come naturally to me (relational ministry)."

Drake is living in Western Washington, working full-time and continuing to grow in his relationship with Christ. Anna is in her first year of college at Seattle Pacific University

and will be returning to Youth Dynamics Adventures Idaho this summer as summer staff.

We are accepting applications for our 2020 LLT program. If you know a young adult looking for six weeks of real community, deep conversations, and wilderness adventures, please send them to our website to apply online! www.yd.org



"I left Stonewater more in love with Jesus than ever before." - Intern

What is Relational Adventure Youth Ministry?

Youth Dynamics has been committed to reaching youth since 1970. We do this through building relationships and inviting youth to high-quality, transformative outdoor adventures. We are both relational and adventurous, and we call our ministry strategy **Relational Adventure Youth Ministry**.

What are some benefits of Relational Adventure Youth Ministry?

- Connects youth to caring Christian adult mentors.
- Being out in creation enables youth to experience the attributes of God.
- Youth are deeply moved by the beauty of His Creation. It gives them an awareness that God does indeed exist.
- When we make space for God in His Creation, He shows up and amazing things happen in lives.
- Enables youth to physically and emotionally experience biblical concepts and the Character of God.
- Adventure experiences draw youth out of their comfort zone and teaches them to step out in faith, to step towards the fear, and to trust.
- Builds confidence by climbing a rock face, a peak, running rapids, building a skill, and accomplishing a challenge.
- Creates a healthy dependency on others through team building exercises.
- Builds character.
- Teaches technical skills.
- Encourages youth to disconnect while enforcing Jesus' example of retreating to quiet places.
- Creates opportunities to practice and develop leadership skills.

"Youth Dynamics forces me, in a good way, to think about my spiritual life." - Student



DID YOU KNOW?

- Teens today are the most non-Christian generation in American history.
- Teens today spend half the time outdoors as their parents at the same age.
- Loneliness today is epidemic and sequesters tens of millions of people.

Source: Barna Research Group, 2018 and 2019

Dave Hanthorn, Base Director Youth Dynamics Adventures Oregon

During the winter of 1999, after a 15-year career in construction management, God opened up opportunities for Dave to serve through Youth Dynamics; first as a volunteer, then in 2014 taking the position as base director of Youth Dynamics Adventures Oregon.

As a kid, some of Dave's fondest memories were being outdoors and camping. It was his father who triggered his passion for the river, the Bible, and a desire to help others discover life in Christ. In his words, "I continue to be humbled and grateful for the opportunity to share the hope of Christ with the people God brings to us."

Dave is a vital part of Youth Dynamics and also serves as organizational risk manager, keeping safety always a top priority. Dave is a Rock Guide, River Guide, and Challenge Course facilitator, with certifications as a Swift Water Technician, Wilderness First Aid and CPR Instructor, Wilderness First Responder, and Top Rope Site Manager.

Dave is quick to say that the river, along with the time he spends with his wife Sarah and their three children, is his happy place.



Dave Hanthorn gearing up for another summer of using God's creation to share the gospel.

THANK YOU CURT DUNLOP

After 34 years of serving on Youth Dynamics' staff, Curt retired December 31st, 2019.

Curt is the second longest-tenured full-time staff member in Youth Dynamics' nearly 50-year history! Curt ministered to thousands of youth through Youth Dynamics Adventures Oregon, and the work the Lord called him to begin in 1985 continues to thrive today under Dave Hanthorn's leadership.

We are forever grateful to Curt and also his wife, Kris, for her incredible partnership with him. We are also



thankful for their supporters and the many years of fruitful partnership to help youth discover life in Christ. We honor his 34 years serving on staff at Youth Dynamics!

Upcoming Events

Spring 2020 | REFLECTIONS 

Experience an Adventure

As part of our brand commitment, we want to invite you on an adventure. If you are interested in experiencing what ministry looks like at Youth Dynamics, contact your missionary or the main office for more information!

Stonewater Supporters Weekend

On May 15-17, 2020, friends and donors are invited to experience Stonewater Ranch. To RSVP, email swr@yd.org.

39th Annual Golf Marathon Fundraiser

You are invited to join us on August 24, 2020, at the Avalon Golf Course in Burlington, WA. Sign up for a half marathon (50 holes), full marathon (100 holes), or an ultra-marathon (150 holes) and commit to raise funds to help reach more teens! Registration opens soon. Please contact Susan Lange (slange@yd.org) for more information.



Youth Dynamics 50th+1 Anniversary Celebration

Youth Dynamics is celebrating 50+1 years of ministry impact in 2021! Due to the COVID-19 group size restrictions, we are moving forward with PLAN B—which is postponing this event until 2021. Praise God!

To celebrate our history, and to look forward to the future, we are hosting a 3-day event, Oct. 1-3, 2021, in Burlington, WA, with the focal point being a Saturday evening banquet. Also, we will be offering adventures, a Friday night gathering, and a Sunday morning church service. Everyone is invited. Register now to reserve your spot! yd.org

NOTE: We are moving forward with plans to host the anniversary event. However, we will monitor restrictions and update our website if plans change.

Giving Opportunities:

- 1 Support Youth Dynamics**
Give to the general fund and help provide a solid foundation for Youth Dynamics to operate. Visit www.yd.org/donate
- 2 Fred Meyer Community Rewards**
Sign up at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards
Search for Youth Dynamics or DM237
- 3 Amazon Smiles**
Sign up at: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/91-0858312>
Amazon will donate 0.05% of your purchase to Youth Dynamics

- 4 IRA Charitable Roll-over**
Save on taxes and support a good cause!
You can roll-over up to \$100,000 of your IRA to a qualified charity. Youth Dynamics is a qualified charity! The charitable distributions count towards your minimum distribution requirements, and you will not be taxed on the transfer. Contact Youth Dynamics and your IRA administrator to learn more.
360-757-1337 or donations@yd.org

Youth Dynamics
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Mission: *To invite and challenge youth to a lifelong adventure with Christ and His church.*



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