

REFLECTIONS

Fall 2020
Edition

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 YOUTH
DYNAMICS

Dear Friend and Supporter of Youth Dynamics,

Because of you, the staff of Youth Dynamics can focus on creative ways to reach students during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are so thankful for you!

To that end, our leadership team recently spent a day reviewing the impact of COVID-19 on the ministry. We examined wins, challenges, and what we learned about God and His nature. I would like to highlight some of this with you, our faithful ministry partner.

Key Wins:

- Adventuring with students is exceptionally relevant and needed as kids are on screens more than ever. Studies show screen time among youth has radically increased during the pandemic, as has isolation, anxiety, and fear. We were able to help kids adventure this summer as guidelines permitted and counties opened up – praise God! In fact, one of our staff members commented, ***“YD has never been more relevant than we are today! This is our time! We have gumption in our belly to thrive in the face of uncertain times. We are moving forward with boldness!”***
- Students are still very hungry for relationships. One staff member describes it as “desperate for relationship.” To fight students’ increased isolation, we needed to leverage technology, and our staff creatively stepped up to the plate. You can read more on page 4.
- Because of many of you, our COVID-19 Impact Fund helped offset some of the financial losses we faced. Thank you.

Key Challenges:

- Virtually connecting with students is just not the same as connecting face to face. Our staff badly desire as much face to face ministry as possible.

Please know you have been in the hearts and prayers of our staff team. We understand the pandemic has affected all of us. As Scripture says, ***“May the Lord bless you and protect you. May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord show you his favor and his peace.”*** Numbers 6:24-26 (NLT)

- Several fundraising events had to be canceled, which impacted giving.
- It was challenging to navigate the different state regulations regarding coronavirus as it frequently changed. Significant time was spent ensuring our students, staff, and volunteers were safe and proper protocols were followed.
- Dozens of adventure trips had to be canceled, which meant both lost ministry opportunity and funding.

Key Reminders about God:

- He remains faithful!
- God works and provides in the midst of the unknown and uncertainty of life.
- God has genuinely created us for community and human relationships.
- We are incredibly beloved and cherished by God.

Thank you so much for your partnership to help young people discover life in Christ by supporting Youth Dynamics. If there is any way we can serve you during this time, please contact us.

Warmly in Christ,



Tom Davis

President
Youth Dynamics

Providing Opportunities for Adventure Amid the Pandemic

Ministry happened this summer even amidst the pandemic. Group sizes were smaller and safety protocols were put into place—but ministry still happened, and in a big way!

Summer adventures through Youth Dynamics were a highlight for many students this year, and to be totally honest, for our staff as well.

One of those highlights was the transformation that happened with Brooks* who went on a seven-day adventure trip on the Salmon River with a group of Youth Dynamics students, leaders, and guides. As a last-minute registrant, this trip was going to challenge him at every level. Brooks admits he doesn't like to get out much... unless he is going fishing.

All was well on the River for Brooks until he had his first flip in the kayak (the first of many). That's when things changed from Brooks having fun and "I got this!" to Brooks grasping the edge of his kayak, floating by a gear boat, looking up, and saying "help..., please help." The experience jolted him and life got "real" for a moment.

Brooks eventually ended up getting back in his kayak, and he was the life of the party in camp. His sense of humor became contagious, and he made everyone smile. Brooks not only overcame many fears and obstacles during his week on the Salmon, he drew closer to his peers, the staff, and His Creator God.



Kayaking down the Salmon River with smaller groups of students this summer provided great opportunity to build relationships and take students outside of their comfort zone.

The Salmon River trip was truly the greatest week of Brooks' life (in his own words). He now has a Bible, and although he still prefers to "not do much unless it is fishing," he has this adventure memory to look back on and remember the things he accomplished, the young man he is becoming, and the people that touched his life while he was touching theirs.

We love this kid. God loves this kid. Brooks knows that now, and he will never forget it, just like he will never forget the Salmon River.

**Name changed for privacy.*

Prayer Request:

Please pray for Brooks and other students as they grow deeper in relationship with God, staff, and volunteers.



Submitted by Kevik Rensink

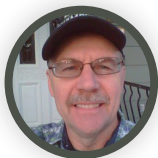
Volunteer
Concrete Youth Dynamics

Doing Ministry during the COVID Pandemic

Youth Dynamics had to become virtual to make connections with students during the pandemic. Social media platforms like ZOOM, Instagram, and Facebook Live, as well as handwritten notes, cards, and actual phone calls, were among the many resources used to reach out to students. Staff have taken on this virtual world of a teenager and used it as a tool to share Christ as our hope in the midst of isolation, anxiety, and fear.

During the summer, adventure trips were possible—although with smaller group sizes. The benefits were amazing, and many students and parents were thankful.

This school year is starting differently for most students in Washington and Oregon. Online learning



Submitted by Bruce “Bronco” Huge
Vice President of Communities
Youth Dynamics

at public schools provides opportunities to come alongside students and families with tutoring from our staff and volunteers at our youth centers. Small group Bible studies and gatherings are working within the local health district protocols for COVID-19. As weather permits, small group local adventure activities are happening.

God has given us creativity and a passion for reaching these students in some wonderful ways. Your support makes a difference as we share the hope and love of Christ this school year.

Doing what is needed to reach students this summer and fall as ministry continues!



Website Highlights:

1 Youth Dynamics Store

Youth Dynamics has launched a new online store - check it out! Merchandise is added regularly, so visit www.yd.org/store often to see what's new.

2 Adventure T-shirt Challenge

During October 2020, we launched a social media crowd-sourced t-shirt design challenge to tap into our supporters' creativity while building brand awareness with our new logo. Check out the winners and purchase a t-shirt from our store!

3 Subscribe to the Youth Dynamics YouTube Channel

Check out this great resource to see real-life testimonials about how God impacts and changes lives through the ministry of Youth Dynamics. New videos are posted throughout the year, so when you subscribe, you will be notified when new content is uploaded.

Finding Hope and Community

Jay entered a transitional group home after serving two years in a Juvenile Prison for a crime committed when he was 16.

After a few weeks in the home, he was invited by several of the other boys to join them at the Rock Gym for their weekly climb and pizza. Youth Dynamics rents out the rock gym once a week as part of the community outreach effort.

Jay instantly connected with the Youth Dynamics staff and volunteers. He also enjoyed learning how to climb and, of course, loved the pizza!

He took advantage of every opportunity to climb both at the gym and outdoors—when weather permitted. He also went on several snowboarding trips arranged through Youth Dynamics in the winter.

Jay felt comfortable and really enjoyed talking with the staff about life and what would happen next in his life. He felt a sense of community and belonging that he had not expected or experienced before.

Although his life was turning around, Jay knew it would not be an option to return to his hometown due to his crime. He asked if he could continue his involvement at Youth Dynamics after being



A group from a juvenile transition home finds community and hope during their weekly climbing club hosted by Youth Dynamics staff and volunteers.

released from the group home, and of course, he was welcome.

Jay chose to stay in the community, got a good job, and is excited about his future. His parents moved to be with him, and he and his parents are now actively involved in a local church. Jay is doing well and is growing into a healthy young man.

We praise God for the restorative healing that impacted this young man.

Prayer Request:

Please pray for Jay and other students as they navigate through life's challenges.



Submitted by Chris McCormick

Area Director
Wenatchee Valley Youth Dynamics

Beautiful Fruit

Miranda first started attending Youth Dynamics in middle school. She experienced loss, abuse, pain, and relational turmoil throughout her school years, which turned to drug use. The only place where she felt known and loved was at Youth Dynamics—so she kept going back.

She attended weekly events and went on several adventure trips in the summer. During that time, many seeds of hope were planted. However, she was not yet ready to fully commit her life to the Lord.

A few years ago, she enrolled herself into a Christian rehab facility. Since then, she has been clean and sober, established a relationship with God, and has enrolled in college.

The change in her life has been remarkable!

This summer, Miranda joined the staff team to take students on adventures. She was a gift to have on the team. She went above and beyond by doing little things to make students feel loved, like putting encouraging notes in students' lunches. She engaged with students in a genuine way, and her heart for people is abundant!

On one of the adventure trips, Miranda shared her testimony. It was powerful to witness a former student ministering to the next generation! It was on this trip

that she really blossomed in her ministry position.

Now that the summer is over, she is finishing her college degree in Addiction Studies and starting an internship with Youth Dynamics, where she will be working with students from her hometown.

In this ministry, we don't always see the fruit of our investment, but this story, Miranda's story, is why Youth Dynamics exists! It's why we still love, serve, and take youth on adventures fifty years after our founding. Seeing a young person discover a life with Christ and then turn around and start engaging in ministry is incredible!

Thank you for impacting Miranda's life. All the Glory to God!



Miranda attended Youth Dynamics in middle and high school and is now raising support to be an intern in her hometown.



Submitted by Katelynn Kazen

Staffing Manager
Youth Dynamics Adventures Washington/Stonewater

Prayer Request:

Please pray for Miranda and other new staff as they raise their support to further the mission of Youth Dynamics.



Above: Jeff Hugel and his support team look onward during their ultra-marathon day of playing 150 holes of golf.

29th Annual Golf Marathon

A huge thank you to everyone who came out for the annual golf marathon and help raise nearly \$118,000 for Northwest teens! Men, women, and teens all participated to complete 50/100/150 holes of golf in one single day!

A special thanks to our awesome 2020 sponsors:

Scott Berg - DA Davidson, Hohimer Wealth Management, Blade Chevrolet, SaviBank, Heritage Bank, Lithtex NW, Strauss Jewelers, ProScapes Inc., Paul Weisz - Windermere Real Estate, RIS Insurance Services, Rice Insurance, Fidalgo Coffee, Moncrieff Construction, New Creations Building, TS Associates, Nicole Haun - Realtor, Bayside Specialties, Seahurst Electric.

**Save the date for
next year!
August 23, 2021**

Giving Opportunities:

1 Support Youth Dynamics

Give to the general fund to provide a solid foundation to reach more students.

2 COVID-19 Impact Fund

Make a special gift to a staff or ministry area.

3 Donate Stock

4 IRA Charitable Roll-over

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.

5 Giving Tuesday Gift

Consider making a donation by December 1, 2020, to help us reach our \$25,000 goal.

6 Year-end Giving

Consider making a year-end contribution before December 31, 2020.

7 Fred Meyer Community Rewards

Sign up at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards. Search for DM237

8 Amazon Smiles

Amazon will donate 0.05% of your purchase to Youth Dynamics. Sign up at: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/91-0858312>.

Ways to give:

Phone: 360-757-1337

Online: www.yd.org

Email: donations@yd.org

Thank you!

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October 1-3, 2021!
Registration opens soon.*



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



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