



YOUTH DYNAMICS

# REFLECTIONS

**Spring 2021**  
Edition

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*Let's Adventure Together!*



**est. 1970**

## Speaking Life Over Gen Z

Dear Friends,

You have most likely heard the term Generation Z, commonly called Gen Z. Born between 1999 and 2015, this group of young people is the primary focus of Youth Dynamics. Referenced often as screenagers, they have grown up in front of screens and find their worldview and identity shaped accordingly.

COVID-19 has not helped, and now kids spend more time in front of screens than ever – some research indicates as much as 10 hours a day! I have four kids, three of whom are Gen Zers, and I can personally relate to the challenge parents face in mitigating screen time – online school, video games, Netflix, Instagram, TikTok, it goes on and on! I am not suggesting all of this is harmful; however, we cannot deny the overwhelming influence it has on our kids - thousands of messages and pictures consume them daily, and many are negative.

What are some of the negative messages influencing the identity of today's children? Not lovable. Not good enough. Not beautiful enough. Not popular. Never will be. Not smart enough. The world is not safe. Actions do not have consequences.

At Youth Dynamics, we speak a different message, a Christ-centered identity.

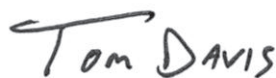
- You are wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14).
- You are forgiven in Christ (Romans 8:1).
- You are a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

- Do not let your hearts be troubled (John 14:1).
- Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid (Joshua 1:9).
- Jesus is with you always (Matthew 28:20).
- Nothing can separate you from God's love (Romans 8:39).
- You are God's workmanship; your purpose is to walk in the good works prepared for you (Ephesians 2:10).



I am so grateful for your partnership! Through your prayers and financial giving, Gen Z hears these messages, discovers life in Christ, and walks in a new identity! As one student said recently, "Because of Youth Dynamics, I changed the way I look at life, the relationships around me, and most importantly, the relationship with my Creator."

Warmly in Christ,



Tom Davis  
President

**P.S. Please know we feel your love and support daily. It fuels all we do. Thank you.**



# New Missionaries

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## God's provision in uncertain times.

In 2020 we had seven new permanent staff become fully funded and start in their ministry positions.

Most of these staff did the majority of their fundraising during COVID-19.

For context; in 2019, we had four permanent staff get fully funded, and in 2018 we had five.

Praise God for providing all these new workers to His harvest field as well as for their generous supporters!



**Teliesha Batuik**  
Asst. Program  
Manager,  
Adventures, Idaho



**Jane Borg**  
Staff  
Moses Lake, WA



**Tracy Hamilton**  
Horse Wrangler  
Stonewater, WA



**Micaiah Meyer**  
Summer Intern  
Adventures, OR



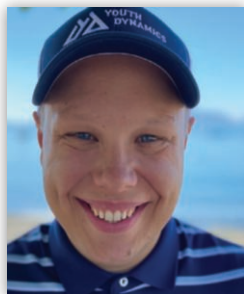
**Hannah Mielke**  
Staff  
Skagit Valley, WA



**Juan Paz**  
Staff  
Columbia Valley, OR



**Kelly Shattuck**  
Regional Director  
Southwest Idaho



**Chris Ward**  
Area Director  
Anacortes, WA

## Prayer Request:

Please pray for our new staff members as they begin their ministry positions and reach out to youth!

## New Staff in 2021!

We are three months into the new year and already have two new staff members! We are excited to see what these passionate leaders will do for Youth Dynamics and the Kingdom of God!



**Christian Eckley**  
Rochester, WA



**Sean Sallis**  
Moses Lake, WA

## Ripple Effect

Cory\*, a high school student, signed up for our Life and Leadership Training internship in the fall of 2019.

Nine months later, Cory arrived in Horseshoe Bend, Idaho, his internship 100% paid for by generous donations from people in his community. Through all six weeks of his internship, Cory engaged well, growing in ability and spiritual maturity. There were hard moments, no doubt, but in the end, everyone saw growth in him. After Cory returned home, his



Cory leading a challenge course activity.

mother sent an email describing what she saw in her son since the internship.

"I believe that this past summer was a time of discovery for Cory. As you know, he is on the cusp of manhood, and I think this summer was critical in forming who Cory will be as an adult. He shared at that last [farewell] dinner that he would follow Christ no matter what. Really, a mama can't hear any sweeter words. The spiritual identity exercise challenged Cory to see who he is in Christ by thinking about the scriptures and Bible stories he gravitates to... Cory himself shared about how he was challenged to share his faith while rafting down the river. I believe that the ripple effect of this past summer will be felt for years to come."

*\*Name changed for privacy*



Submitted by Garrett Koepke

Staffing Manager, Adventures Idaho

2020  
IN  
REVIEW



4

2,203

YOUTH HAVE  
CONTACT WITH  
YOUTH DYNAMICS  
IN IDAHO, OREGON,  
AND WASHINGTON



858

YOUTH HEARD  
THE GOSPEL AND  
WERE GIVEN AN  
OPPORTUNITY TO  
RESPOND

95

TOTAL  
ADVENTURE  
TRIPS



86

CHRIST-  
CENTERED  
HOSPITALITY  
RETREATS

3

NEW  
LOCATIONS



### Finding Hope and Community

While a freshman in high school, Bethany\* was invited by a fellow student to attend Youth Dynamics. She continued to return every week. That winter, she attended a Youth Dynamics retreat at Stonewater in Leavenworth, WA. During her time at the retreat, the worship music impacted her powerfully. The influence of the songs made her question some of the choices she was making in her life. She wanted to make changes but knew she couldn't do it on her own.

The following week, she began sharing with others what had transformed in her heart at the winter retreat. An adult volunteer and staff member sat down with Bethany to pray with her as she committed her life to Jesus.

Bethany continued to attend Youth Dynamics throughout high school, growing in her relationship with Jesus and staff members.

After graduating high school, she became a student leader herself. For two years, she helped other students who came to Youth Dynamics. "I stayed for the students because I know how important Youth Dynamics has been in my life."

She is now an adult volunteer who comes to help when she is not working full-time. The students at Youth Dynamics respect and trust Bethany.



"Youth Dynamics has taught me how to be a leader, how to make good decisions, and how to help people." - Bethany

*\*Name changed for privacy*



Submitted by Jane Borg

Staff, Moses Lake

### 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](http://www.yd.org/store) often to see what's new.

#### 2 New Features for Adventure Pages

In an effort to streamline our three Adventure bases, we have redesigned and reformed how the various adventures are displayed. Check it out and book an adventure with us!

#### 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.

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

## A Hershey Bar

Life is hard in the midst of a pandemic; this is especially true for students. When the schools were shut down last spring, most of our students lost their routines very quickly. Torn from friends, school, sports, church, and so much more led to a decline in many student's mental health.

One student, Audrey\*, was no exception. A great student with a caring family, she has involved herself in many leadership activities. When the stay-at-home order was issued, Audrey was affected in many ways.

One day on a Zoom call, I asked Audrey how she was doing as our team checked in with all the students. Her response was, "I'm not okay."

I asked what she meant, and she wasn't sure how to explain. She went on to share her feelings of loneliness and isolation, confusion, and anger. We knew we needed to keep Audrey and other students actively engaged, so we got creative.

Our team worked hard at learning to conduct online games and host Zoom calls to check in regularly.



We created a socially distant scavenger hunt on Instagram that had prizes for the winner, and Audrey won! I asked what she wanted, and she said, "A Hershey's Bar." A plain, regular, old-fashioned, milk chocolate Hershey Bar.

I delivered the Hershey bar to Audrey, and we talked in the driveway for a long time. We laughed together, and there was joy on Audrey's face. She said, "This is the best thing that has happened to me in a long time."

As I handed Audrey that Hershey bar and her face lit up, I remembered why I do what I do. For those moments, those places where things feel so lost and helpless, it's the small things that change perspective.

It reminded me of Jesus and the simple things that change peoples' lives. How many smiles and moments of connection change lives? We often don't realize the impact we make by a simple gesture, but we are Jesus with skin on, even with a candy bar.



*\*Name changed for privacy*

Submitted by Jessica Rohnaar

Regional Director  
Western Washington

## Prayer Requests:

- Please pray for Audrey and other students as they navigate the challenges presented by this pandemic.
- Pray for the creative ways staff are reaching out to youth to share the love of Jesus.
- Pray for staff as they navigate challenges.



# Upcoming Events

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## 30th Annual Golf Marathon

**August 23rd, 2021**



You are invited to join us on August 23rd, 2021, 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 raising funds to help reach more teens! Registration opens soon. Please contact event staff at [slange@yd.org](mailto:slange@yd.org) for more information.

## 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!

## Other Events

Due to the pandemic many fundraising events have been canceled, or are transitioning to virtual or hybrid. Please check out our new events webpage to find further information.

[yd.org/events](https://yd.org/events)

## Anniversary Event

This notice is to inform you that the Youth Dynamics 50+1 event has been canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions. While disappointed that we are not able to celebrate this milestone with you, we are incredibly thankful for our 50-year-old history and look forward to seeing what God has in store for the next 50 years.

## 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](http://www.yd.org/donate)

### 2 **Fred Meyer Community Rewards**

Sign up at [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://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](mailto:donations@yd.org)

### 5 **Planned Giving**

Prayerfully consider adding Youth Dynamics to your estate giving plans.



Youth Dynamics  
PO Box 486  
Burlington, WA 98233  
Return Service Requested

Non Profit Org.  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Burlington, WA  
Permit No. 30

**JOIN OUR TEAM  
APPLY ONLINE!**

**WWW.YD.ORG/JOBS**

Don't see the position you were hoping for posted online?  
Email us: [hr@yd.org](mailto:hr@yd.org)



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



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360-757-1337



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