



# YOUTH DYNAMICS

*Let's Adventure Together!*

## REFLECTIONS

**Spring 2022**  
Edition

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**est. 1970**

## Battling for the Lives of Today's Youth

Dear Friends,

*"To reach a student today is much more difficult than it was in the past. We are in the battle for the lives of American youth,"* wrote Paul Evans, the founder of Youth Dynamics, back in 1990. Thirty-two years later, the battle for the lives of youth is more difficult than ever.

It is a battle between good and evil, hope and despair, and quite literally, life and death.

Ben, for instance, is a middle school student who was first on the scene after his mom committed suicide. Or Caleb, another youth whose parent's recent divorce tore his family apart. Or Samantha, a high school student who has been in a psych ward twice lately after having suicidal thoughts. These are but three of thousands of stories.

This is why Youth Dynamics exists. We exist to step into these battles, love kids unconditionally, adventure together, and help them discover life in Christ. Jesus modeled this love for us. He says, "We love because He first loved us." (1 John 4:19).

We love Ben, Caleb, and Samantha. We love all the kids involved in Youth Dynamics, and we are so blessed to be in relationships with them.

I like how Ben puts it. We asked him what he likes most about the ministry, and he responded, "God is there, and people there love God."

Our staff and volunteers are battling for kids' lives every day, and we cannot do it without your support, encouragement, and prayers. They fuel everything, and we are so grateful for you.

Warmly in Christ,

*Tom Davis*



Tom Davis

.....  
President

Youth Dynamics

## Prayer Request:

Please pray for:

- All of the youth in your area and those coming into contact with Youth Dynamics.
- Staff as they minister to youth.
- Youth to enter into church community with believers and Jesus.

P.S. Thank you again for your support. It is a difficult and challenging time for our youth, but God is moving in powerful ways.

**"We love because He first loved us."**

**1 John 4:19**



### Stonewater Adventure School

The Stonewater Adventure School is a unique and thoughtfully developed program that provides a safe, engaging, and adventure-centric learning environment for self-discovery, leadership, and faith.

In an interview with Ollie O'Brien, Associate Adventures Manager at Stonewater, Mackenzie shares her experience as a student in the first Stonewater Adventure School.

***"Mackenzie, what brought you to Stonewater Adventure School?"***

*"Definitely a combination of the adventure, discipleship, and ministry aspects. This is basically everything I love combined."*

***"What was a defining moment, and what has God shown/taught you that will effect you beyond these five weeks?"***

*"I got baptized during the program! God has shown His love for me and His faithfulness to provide in every situation and has answered many prayers. He has also taught me so much about His goodness and salvation."*



Ollie gives Mackenzie a high five.

***"It was the best experience of my life."***

- Mackenzie Ward



Mackenzie Ward

***"How did you see God working within the other members of the community?"***

*"I saw the passion that was developed throughout the five weeks for getting to know God more. I saw people growing in confidence, in prayer, and in leadership."*

***"What is next for you?"***

*"I will continue pursuing God and the call He has given me to pursue adventure youth ministry through a year-long internship with Youth Dynamics."*

The five-week course integrates Bible teaching and worship with outdoor technical skills and wilderness adventures. The goals are to increase personal faith, Biblical knowledge and application, self-discovery, personal responsibility, teamwork, and leadership potential. Visit our website to learn more!

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



Submitted by Mia O'Brien

Business Manager  
Stonewater, WA



## A New Adventure Base!

Over the past few months, a huge project has been underway for Youth Dynamics. With our faithful Lord laying the foundation and generous donors stepping in to make it happen, Youth Dynamics is now closer than ever to having a fourth adventure base close to the Salmon River in Idaho!

Youth Dynamics has been using the Salmon River as a part of its ministry to teens for over twenty years. Right now, leadership is working diligently on pursuing the opportunity to own a commercial permit for the Salmon River. This will allow Youth Dynamics to work in a region with very little ministry outreach to the local communities. It will also bring equipment and the ability to take more trips with more students, guests,

families, and donors! The Lord is already sending staff to work at the adventure base as well as in the surrounding communities.

Praise be to God!

Scan the QR code to learn more about this amazing adventure God is leading Youth Dynamics on!



Submitted by Paul Spence

Vice-President  
Adventures



## Danny's Story

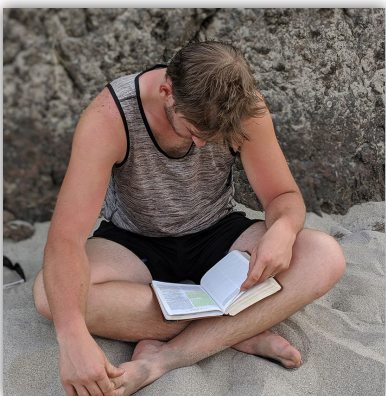
A new house, a new state, nothing was familiar. The uncertainty of his life caused anxiety, and the future felt like an unknown night coming close. Danny\* managed to pull through the change with a maintained bond between his siblings and a hope built by faith.

Over the years, he observed his older siblings' involvement with Youth Dynamics. Waiting for his turn, he fell in at the right age wholeheartedly and engaged willingly. With a sweet personality, endearing smile, and eagerness to be a part of Youth Dynamics, Danny found a community that supplemented his life. But the adventure was just beginning!

With the help of generous donors, Danny applied for and was awarded a scholarship to go on a seven-day rafting trip on the Salmon River this past summer. On this trip, staff noticed a shift in Danny's paradigm. His eagerness to help came from a heart of gratefulness and service to others rather than a sense of duty. He also displayed focus and appreciation during the quiet times of Bible study.

At the end of the trip, when it was his turn to share his big takeaway, he said that he realized how important it was to bring the habits he learned on the river trip into his daily life at home.

Danny continues to spend time with his personal Savior while reading his Bible.



Students spend quiet time reading the Bible every morning on the Salmon River.



Submitted by Ryan Bentley  
.....  
Base Director  
Horseshoe Bend, Idaho

*\*Name changed for privacy*

“For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.”

2 Corinthians 4:15

2021  
IN  
REVIEW



2,797  
TEENS HAD  
CONTACT WITH  
YOUTH DYNAMICS  
*126% Increase  
from 2020.*

858  
YOUTH HEARD  
THE GOSPEL AND  
WERE GIVEN AN  
OPPORTUNITY TO  
RESPOND  
*155% Increase*

150  
TOTAL ADVENTURE  
TRIPS  
*157% Increase*

102  
CHRIST-CENTERED  
HOSPITALITY  
RETREATS  
*187% Increase*

## New Staff and Interns!

Seven new staff and one intern become fully funded last year. We also hired two new folks in Support Services!



**Brandon Burie**  
Marketing  
Horseshoe Bend, ID



**Aleia Haslett**  
Accounting Asst.  
Burlington, WA



**Ben Jackson**  
Area Director  
Horseshoe Bend, ID



**Maria Kavalsk**  
Food Coordinator  
Stonewater, WA



**Jennifer Mauch**  
Marketing Manager  
Burlington, WA



**Mia O'Brien**  
Business Manager  
Stonewater, WA



**Brian Paine**  
Area Director  
Okanogan Valley, WA



**Sean Sallis**  
Area Director  
Moses Lake, WA

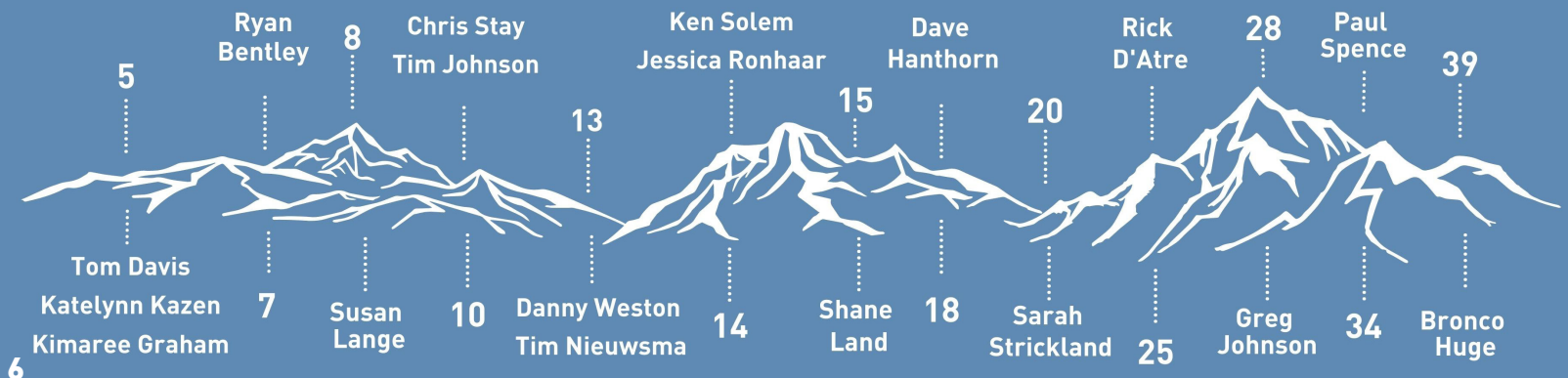


**Josh Van Dyk**  
Finance Director  
Burlington, WA



**Mackenzie Ward**  
Intern  
Stonewater, WA

Shout out to staff who have been with Youth Dynamics for five years and more!



## 31st Annual Golf Marathon



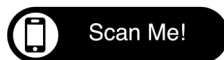
**August 22nd, 2022**

You are invited to join us on August 22nd, 2022, at the Avalon Golf Course in Burlington, WA.

Participation in the Golf Marathon is an essential part of 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.

Scan the QR code to go straight to the Golf Marathon website!



## Retreat at Stonewater

Need a place to rest, restore, and renew? Stonewater is a 158-acre property with rolling green pastures, wooded trails, complete with a picturesque red barn and mustangs. There are also plenty of hiking opportunities and river spots to enjoy in the area, and the town of Leavenworth is only sixteen miles away. Visit the website or call the office at Stonewater for more information.

**[www.yd.org/stonewater](http://www.yd.org/stonewater)**  
**(509) 763-3161**

## We Want to Hear From You!

We are going to redesign Reflections in order to serve you better! There will be a brief survey sent to you through email by the end of April. We ask that you please take about five minutes to fill this out. Your answers will help Reflections be a better production.

## Giving Opportunities:

### 1 **Support Youth Dynamics**

Give to the general fund and help provide a solid foundation for Youth Dynamics to reach youth. Visit [www.yd.org/donate](http://www.yd.org/donate).

### 2 **Amazon Smiles**

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

### 3 **Fred Meyer Community Rewards**

Sign up at [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards)  
Search for Youth Dynamics or DM237.

### 4 **IRA Charitable Roll-over**

Roll-over up to \$100,000 of your IRA to Youth Dynamics! 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 / [donations@yd.org](mailto:donations@yd.org)

### 5 **Planned Giving**

Prayerfully consider adding Youth Dynamics to your estate giving plans.

*Thank you for your generous contributions to Youth Dynamics, you are greatly appreciated.*



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

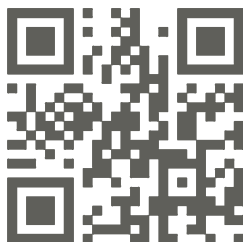
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Permit No. 30

**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.*



**Give us a ring!**  
360-757-1337



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