



**YOUTH DYNAMICS**

*Let's adventure together!*

# REFLECTIONS

A Newsletter of Youth Dynamics

SPRING 2024

## Bobby's Story

\*Bobby started attending Youth Dynamics as a seventh grader. He loves participating in every drop-in and our weekly Connect nights (regular outreach). Bobby has built great relationships with several staff and volunteer leaders over the past two years.

Early in our relationship, I talked with Bobby about Jesus. I could tell he was uncomfortable but he was gracious to allow me to share about sin, and how Jesus made the ultimate payment for our rebellion through his life, death, and resurrection. Bobby politely listened but did not see the need for Jesus in his life.

A few months later, Bobby went on a full-day Wenatchee River trip facilitated by Stonewater Youth Dynamics. Between the amazing rapids were calm water sections that allowed us to ask students personal and spiritual questions.

As the guide went around the raft, each student shared. When it was Bobby's turn, he looked at the bottom of the boat for a few seconds and then made eye contact with me. Bobby looked at the guide and said, "I am good. I'll pass." We all honored his request and moved on to the next student, but I could tell some processing was happening.

The following year, Bobby attended Youth Dynamics Connect nights regularly, hearing salvation stories from loving and caring adult volunteers. When registrations opened for upcoming adventure trips, Bobby was the first to get his name on the list.

On another raft trip, we were in the same raft again, and the guide went around the boat again, asking students to share.

*\*Name changed for privacy.*

It's Bobby's turn to share, and this time he begins to share with confidence about being more open to receiving the Gospel in his life. He was very clear that a decision had not been made, but it was beginning to become clear to him.

Bobby, now in High School, was invited to attend Senior High Snow Camp at Stonewater Youth Dynamics the following year. Throughout the weekend, the main speaker clearly articulated the Gospel and made an invitation to those who wanted to invite Jesus into their life. Bobby waited until the small group time to share about the past few years of processing the Gospel and stated that he was ready to put his faith in Jesus Christ!

Praise God!!

This is what relational adventure youth ministry is all about. Bobby had been hearing the Gospel from adults—on adventure trips and through weekly Connect nights throughout the year—building relationships with other students and hearing the love of Jesus from other boys who knew Christ. Bobby is also attending the local church and feels welcomed into the community.



Photo: A group photo during a calm section of the river.



Story submitted by Sean Sallis  
Area Director  
Moses Lake, Washington

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# The Youth Dynamics Legacy Foundation Launches in 2024!

All of us would like to leave a lasting legacy to show our lives have made a difference – that we have contributed to an important cause that will benefit the lives of others for generations to come.

For more than five decades, Youth Dynamics has been committed to reaching youth and to see youth transformed by the power of Christ, integrated into the local church, and impacting their world for Him.

The Youth Dynamics Legacy Foundation was formed to help you as you think and pray about leaving your legacy with Youth Dynamics.



Youth Dynamics is partnering with the Barnabas Foundation to set up a long-term legacy fund for the ministry. Depending on preference, gifts can support the general fund, capital projects, scholarship, and/or specific ministry areas and base locations.

For more information, email [foundation@yd.org](mailto:foundation@yd.org) or visit our website, [yd.org/legacy-giving](http://yd.org/legacy-giving).

*Some people's legacies are written on monuments...  
yours can be written on the hearts of youth.*

## Letter From the President

I am reminded of how important you are in God's plan for this ministry, and I share in the Apostle Paul's great words about supporting mission work:

*"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel" (Philippians 1:3-5).*

Here are a few ministry updates that are happening because of your partnership with Youth Dynamics:

1. In 2023, 2,910 youth participated in the life-changing ministries of Youth Dynamics.

*One youth said, "I have been to a lot of other youth events, but I have never felt love like I have here. People genuinely love each other and have loved me. I am beginning to understand what you mean when you say that God is love."*

2. Your generosity this past year is greatly appreciated. Staff and ministry locations throughout the Pacific Northwest are blessed by faithful donors and prayer warriors.

3. A new building in Riggins, ID, was donated for a youth center! This provides a spacious and consistent place to meet students. Praise God.

**You are a valued ministry partner!** I cannot express enough how grateful I am for you. I am truly amazed at your generosity and faithfulness in sustaining this ministry so that students can hear the good news of Jesus.

*"... always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:20 NIV).*

The need for relational adventure youth ministry is great, and your partnership is vital. We could not do God's work without you!



*Tom DAVIS*

Tom Davis, President

# Joy's Journey: A First Adventure Experience

Joy, a regular student at every Youth Dynamics afterschool program in her local area, went on her first adventure trip last summer.

She eagerly participated in a thrilling white-water rafting and rock-climbing expedition and embraced all the trip had to offer. Joy was the first to volunteer to help, and she engaged in the group conversations at the end of the day.

Joy was so thankful to be part of the trip. She was able to go because people gave to the scholarship fund. While she was only able to cover half the trip's cost, her determination to experience new adventures was unwavering.

Joy's challenges extended beyond financial constraints. Living in a trailer with her mother and sisters, she lacked the stability of a permanent home. Despite her circumstances, Joy's spirit remained resilient, and she yearned for more opportunities to explore and grow.

Recognizing Joy's enthusiasm as well as her difficult home-life, she was awarded a full

scholarship for a second adventure trip. This experience proved to be monumental in Joy's life, igniting her sense of adventure.

While she hasn't yet decided to follow Christ, she began grappling with profound questions about God and the pain in the world around her.

As Joy continues her journey, surrounded by uncertainty and challenges, staff who support her offer prayers for her peace and guidance.

Through her explorations and reflections, we hope that Joy may find solace and a sense of belonging in Jesus, who offers companionship through life's trials.



Story submitted by Daniel Weston  
Area Director  
Burlington, Washington



Photo collage of various adventure activities that challenge students beyond their comfort zone.

## Let's Help Teens go on Adventures

As summer quickly approaches and adventure trips fill up, there are teens who need scholarship assistance to go.

Right now, there are over 600 students who need financial help to go on a life-changing adventure trip this summer! Students receive a scholarship based on need, the average scholarship amount is \$140. Every dollar counts towards removing the financial barrier to getting a teen into God's creation.

Adventure experiences, such as whitewater rafting, kayaking, rock climbing, hiking, mountaineering, and backpacking, offer life-changing benefits to teens.

**The Adventure Scholarship Fund drive is going on now for summer adventures.** Please consider making a special gift to help a teen go on an adventure this summer.



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



# Ministry Experience for You!

Join us on the river this spring as a guest paddler!

Did you know Youth Dynamics typically runs over 150 raft and kayak trips to help share the gospel with thousands of youth each year?

Did you know that each spring, Youth Dynamics (re)certifies many staff, interns, and volunteer raft guides before launching into a safe and impactful summer full of youth ministry?

Did you know you can register to be a **guest paddler** so more guides can get certified, so more kids can experience God on a river adventure?



This will be an excellent opportunity for you to experience the ministry and see firsthand how Youth Dynamics uses this tool to share Jesus with youth.

If this sounds interesting to you, please visit [yd.org/adventures](https://yd.org/adventures) for more information.

"The most impactful part of my experience was the people. There was so much unconditional love and support, it was incredible."

– Life and Leadership Intern, an Adventure Scholarship Recipient



## WHAT'S NEW

➔ On-line donor portal log-in. Visit [yd.org/donate](https://yd.org/donate) to access the portal.

➔ Check out the 2024 adventure catalog! Visit [yd.org/adventure](https://yd.org/adventure)



## WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- 1 **Give** to the general fund. [yd.org/donate](https://yd.org/donate)
- 2 **Volunteer** with a community or base. [yd.org/volunteer-opportunities](https://yd.org/volunteer-opportunities)
- 3 **Register to be a Guest Paddler.** Experience the ministry and help train new guides. Must be at least 11 years old. [yd.org/adventures](https://yd.org/adventures)
- 4 **Adventure Scholarship Fund.** Make a special gift to help youth attend adventure trips and leadership programs. [yd.org/asf](https://yd.org/asf)
- 5 **Leave a Legacy.** Consider including Youth Dynamics in your planned giving or estate plans. [yd.org/legacy-giving](https://yd.org/legacy-giving)