



Photo: One of the girls who attended the summer open enrollment horse camp at Stonewater.

Lori's Story

Lori didn't want to come to camp, and she let us know within the first hour of arriving. On top of that, her best friend was killed in a senseless shooting two days prior. She was angry, sad, bitter, and struggling. It was the first time I felt like we might have a "runner" or significant disruption to the flow of camp.

As the week progressed, Lori opened up, and her walls slowly came down. She shared her frustrations and asked questions that come from experiencing life's traumas. Those conversations were precious.

After camp, Lori wrote this in her evaluation:

"I have a better appreciation for God's creation. I grew in a deeper understanding of who Christ is, and I am closer to inviting Jesus Christ into my life. I appreciate how you share Jesus, you don't force Him or your faith on us. You share truth from the Bible and give us the opportunity to ask questions."

Recently, I got a text from Lori wondering if she could spend time with me at Stonewater. I said, "Heck Yeah!" We spent the morning moving horses, hay, and poop! We enjoyed a beautiful afternoon on the trail, and she got to ride one of the Mustangs in the arena when we returned. We had a great day together, and I know God is working in her heart.

Thank you for helping teens like Lori discover life in Christ through your support and prayers!



By Tracey Hamilton
Associate Horse Manager
Stonewater

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Letter From the President

Dear Friend and Supporter of Youth Dynamics,

Young people today desperately need undistracted opportunities to hear the good news of Jesus Christ. They need time away from their devices, as we all do from time to time. It's hard for anyone to make space for God when none is available.

Christian research group, Barna, writes, "Devices and algorithms are claiming and shaping the attention of Gen Z." Further, they report, "Data shows that nearly seven in 10 teens (68%) agree that devices keep them from having real conversations."

Youth Dynamics provides opportunities for young people to experience real conversations with caring leaders. The youth quickly realize that their leaders love and support them as they form genuine relationships and engage in transformative outdoor adventures.

I was blessed this past summer to help lead a seven-day, 50-mile kayak trip on the Owyhee River with my son, Sam, and several of his unchurched friends. The theme of our trip was "Who is Jesus?"

Surrounded by God's beautiful creation, we navigated rapids and rocks through the third deepest river canyon in the USA. We discussed



Photo collage of various trips this summer. Bottom photo collage is the Anacortes Youth Dynamics guys trip on the Owyhee River.

this critical question every night without their devices and everyday distractions. Each morning, we provided quiet times with their journals and newly issued Bibles.

One student, Darin, said, "I appreciate your approach to sharing Jesus with all of us. You don't force anyone into anything. You just share the truth and provide opportunities for us, which is very special."

Thank you for your prayers and faithful support to reach youth like Darin and many like him. They are experiencing undistracted opportunities in their lives to hear the amazing news about Jesus.

Warmly in Christ,

Tom Davis

By Tom Davis, President



Please pray for opportunities this fall to share with teens the good news of Jesus.



Photo of volunteer, Keith Spicer, who guides a raft of students down the Deschutes River. Bottom photo collage of various trips this summer.

Reflection on Volunteering

Rafting, rock climbing, challenge courses, and backcountry! Wow! All to share the great news of Christ with kids? Sign me up!

In 2016, I retired and took a sabbatical from all areas of service to spend an uninterrupted year with my wife, Nancy. At a family gathering about half of way through the year, a nephew who had just been hired on at Youth Dynamics suggested I check them out. He knew I loved the outdoors and adventure.

I contacted the Youth Dynamics Oregon Adventures Base while Nancy and I were chasing the sun down south. They suggested I call back in the spring when I got back. Spring came around, and I arranged a meeting to find out more. When asked what I wanted to be a part of, I said, "Everything!"

This old dog had to learn some new tricks. I learned how to read a river and ways to keep everyone involved together during a challenging course. I also became wilderness first aid certified!

Often, the only place a person hears of God is in church. At Youth Dynamics, we make it a point to talk about God all day. In the morning and evening devotion time, on the rock, in the raft, and while working through a challenging course.

I continue to be a part of Youth Dynamics because there are very few places where you can play for God and have a spiritual impact on someone's life. The excitement and challenges of the activities open the door for conversations about life—both today and forever. God is a big deal in our lives, and we lead students to understand He can also be a big deal in their lives.

In my life, I have come to understand service as a form of worship. I have the privilege of being God's hands and feet when pitching a tent, cooking a meal, guiding a raft, etc... Youth Dynamics has given me a place to worship God.



By Keith Spicer, Volunteer Youth Dynamics Adventures Oregon



To learn more about how to get involved, visit yd.org/join-our-team

31st Annual Golf Marathon

A huge thank you to everyone who donated and participated in the annual golf marathon - the event raised over \$100,000 so that more Northwest teens can hear the good news of Jesus!

A very special thanks to our awesome 2022 sponsors:

Hohimer Wealth Management
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Munro's Driving School
Nicole Haun Realtor
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Save the Date
for the 32nd
Annual Golf Marathon
on August 21st,
2023!

Thank
you!

Let's Adventure Together!

Giving Opportunities

- 1** Give to the general fund to provide a solid foundation to reach more students. yd.org/donate
- 2** **Giving Tuesday, Christmas, Year-end Giving:**
Consider making a special gift for Giving Tuesday and for Christmas. Give by December 31, 2022. yd.org/christmas
- 3** **IRA Charitable Roll-over, Stock Donations, Planned Gifts:**
For more information, visit yd.org/legacy-giving
- 4** **Adventure Scholarship Fund:**
Make a special gift to help youth attend leadership programs and adventure trips. yd.org/scholarship-fund
- 5** **Youth Dynamics Reward Programs:**
Youth Dynamics signed up to receive awards from Amazon Smiles and Fred Meyer. yd.org/rewards

For more information:

Phone: 360-757-1337

Online: yd.org/donate

Email: donations@yd.org

