



YOUTH DYNAMICS

Let's adventure together!

REFLECTIONS

A Newsletter of Youth Dynamics

Fall 2024

Jenna's Story

*Jenna grew up with a mother who struggled with substance use. She told us, "When she was drunk, she got irritable and mean, and there was a new man in the house every week." About a year ago, her mother left and stopped communicating with her.

Jenna moved in with her dad and stepmom and started attending church. She felt alone at first, but "everyone was very loving and nice," and she decided that she wanted to explore her relationship with God. So, Jenna applied for a scholarship to attend a horse camp this summer at Stonewater, our Washington adventure base and retreat center.

It was her first time attending any Youth Dynamics event. Initially, she was shy and scared, but our amazing campers and leaders were warm and welcoming and helped her feel comfortable. Our theme for the summer was "God sees you," and we made sure Jenna felt seen that week.

She said, "I used to think I wanted to be like my mom. I realize now that she lied a lot about who she was. I want to be on the right, godly path, unlike the one my mother ended up on." Jenna learned more about God's love for her during the week through the love of the other campers and our leaders and gave her life to Christ.

**Name changed for privacy.*

When asked what she wanted to say to those who made her scholarship possible, Jenna said, "Thank you for this amazing opportunity. This week, I gave my life to Christ.

Growing up how I did, feeling this safe was strange, and life-changing. I had never felt safe before."

This is just one example of the difference that time with God, with nature, and with people that care can make. Your prayer, your presence, and your partnership are what make the difference.

During Jenna's time with us, she "found God and a new home with her dad and stepmom." Thank you for the difference that you make in the lives of young people.



Tracey Hamilton
Associate Horse Manager
Stonewater, Washington

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Please pray with us that:

- Young people who are looking for meaning will discover the fullness of life in Christ.
- Ministry teams will transition smoothly from the summer's activities to the school year schedule.
- Staff would experience God's generosity in their support raising.
- God will open up doors for new ministry opportunities.
- Youth Dynamics' staff and their families would experience spiritual and physical health as they minister to young people.

Please praise God for:

- The nearly 4,000 participants who went on an adventure trip this summer.
- The amazing staff and volunteers who love Jesus and love young people.
- Continuing to provide the needed resources for the Stonewater renovation campaign.
- A successful renovation of the loft and kitchen in our Moses Lake ministry location.
- YOU!!!! All of us at Youth Dynamics are so thankful for your partnership in making an eternal difference in the lives of young people.

"The type of community atmosphere that was cultivated at Youth Dynamics made me feel safe enough to be myself."

– Student Intern

Letter From the President

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

–2 Corinthians 5:17

Youth Dynamics led 216 Christ-centered adventure trips this past summer, all made possible through God's grace and your support! Here is what a few students said about their experience:

"This week of adventure was an amazing opportunity. I gave my life to Christ."

"My experience from beginning to end was a dream come true. My walk with God got stronger."

"I had so much fun! I grew my faith and horsemanship skills so much."

Partnering with you to reach the thousands of young people who participate in the ministries of Youth Dynamics each year means so much. Your faithful support is vital to our mission to invite and challenge youth to a lifelong adventure with Christ and His church. From adventure trips to evening "Connect" outreach programs to countless one-on-one conversations, ministry happens daily because of you. Scores of young people today are lost and confused and have never heard the gospel message. With God's leading and your support, these same young people are hearing the gospel and becoming a "new creation." Thank you very much for praying, giving, and supporting youth!



Tom Davis

Tom Davis, President

Meet Jose Huerta, our new VP of Communities!

Thirty years is a long time to hold onto a dream. My dream was of a sweet spot ministry, where teens I had been developing relationships with in community would grow and experience Christ through adventures. God's calling to relational adventure youth ministry was evident on that first adventure into the untamed wilderness of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area with my youth pastor, Keith, who introduced me to the adventurous heart of God.

I have spent the last two months traveling around the Pacific Northwest as Bronco Huge, the outgoing Vice President of Communities, helped me grasp the vast reach that Youth Dynamics has. Bronco has transitioned to a new role within Youth Dynamics. He will be serving as the Mission and Staff Ambassador, helping care for staff and furthering our mission.

Now, it's my turn to pick up the mantle and carry the torch as we increase our impact as relational adventure youth ministry experts in the Pacific Northwest.

As we stand at the trailheads of some unsummited peaks, I am glad to be standing shoulder to shoulder with our amazing staff and volunteer leaders as I use my decades of experience to set the course for how we navigate the trail ahead. I am excited to follow Keith's and Bronco's examples, helping Youth Dynamics introduce youth to the adventurous heart of God.



Jose Huerta
Vice President of Communities
Burlington, Washington



Ministry At-A-Glance

Youth Dynamics has three core ministries. Each ministry seeks to create a non-threatening environment where students can experience adventure, build relationships with caring adults, and hear the good news of Jesus Christ.

COMMUNITIES: Relational adventure ministry with youth from a specific community, neighborhood, or location.

ADVENTURES: Professionally guided river trips, backcountry trips, mountain and rock climbing, horse camp, and summer and winter adventures.

RETREATS: Stonewater offers adventures, leadership training, and retreat ministry.



Year-End Theme:

Each year, Youth Dynamics provides an opportunity for you to make a special year-end gift to support a staff member, an area or base, a special project, or the Youth Dynamics general fund. Your gift will help more youth to discover life in Christ.

The theme this year is **Adventurous Hope**. Isaiah said, "Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:31 NIV).



Will you please prayerfully consider how the Lord may be calling you to contribute this holiday season? Be on the lookout this fall and winter for your opportunity to respond. Or go to yd.org/christmas and give your gift today!

"One of Youth Dynamics' strengths is their heart for students to know Christ, not to cram students through a program."

— Summer Staff Member

WHAT'S NEW

- On-line donor portal log-in. Visit yd.org/donate to access the portal.
- Make a year-end gift! Visit yd.org/christmas or scan the QR code below.



WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- 1 Give to the general fund.** yd.org/donate
- 2 Volunteer** with a community or base. yd.org/volunteer-opportunities
- 3 Make a Year-End Gift.** Bless a staff member, an area or base, a special project, or our general fund. yd.org/christmas
- 4 Adventure Scholarship Fund.** Make a special gift to help youth attend adventure trips and leadership programs. yd.org/asf
- 5 Leave a Legacy.** Consider including Youth Dynamics in your planned giving or estate plans. yd.org/legacy-giving

