



YOUTH DYNAMICS®

Let's adventure together!

REFLECTIONS

A Newsletter of Youth Dynamics | Fall 2026

Discovering Purpose

At fifteen years old, Andy* wasn't sure where he belonged or if his life had much purpose.

His family didn't believe in God, and as Andy witnessed the brokenness and lack of purpose around him, he began wondering if there was a point to his own life. But, thankfully, Andy found a place where he felt welcome: Youth Dynamics.

When Brian invited him on a weeklong adventure trip down the Salmon River, Andy was immersed in a completely new world. He had never been camping or hiking, let alone sleeping on beautiful sandy beaches beneath the stars.

Throughout the week, Andy heard stories of how a life with God gives you purpose. A question began stirring in his heart: *Does God have a purpose for me?*

Andy gave his life to Jesus and soon felt called to help other young people experience what he had experienced.

**Name changed for privacy.*

Andy came alive.

The timid teenager who once questioned his purpose became a leader, inviting others to Youth Dynamics and life with Jesus. He led his football team in prayer before games, wrote Bible verses on his gear, and began mentoring his younger peers, all in the hope that others would experience what he did on the Salmon River.

The young person who once wondered if his life had a purpose helped others discover theirs. That's exactly why Youth Dynamics exists: to help teens like Andy discover new life and purpose in Jesus Christ.



Brian Barberg

Volunteer Community Director
Rochester, Washington

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The Generational Impact of Faith and Ministry

My mom died in early September at the age of 81. I will miss her for so many reasons, including the fact that she loved proofreading all my letters to you! I'll have to find a new proofreader now.

But more importantly, I'm a Christian because of her.

My mom invited Jesus into her life when she was 14. She was the most faith-filled person I've ever known. As I've reflected on her life and legacy, I've been struck by how far the impact of that decision has reached. She founded a Christian preschool and kindergarten in Spokane, WA 35 years ago and shared her faith with just about everyone she met.

I found myself tearing up as I thought about how her life changed at 14, and how the impact of one young person saying "yes" to Jesus now spans three generations.

And that brings me to Youth Dynamics.

Our mission is to invite youth to know and follow Jesus Christ through relationships and adventures. Since 1970, tens of thousands of young people—many around the age my mom was—have encountered Jesus through this ministry.

Think about the generational impact of that.

When a young person commits their life to Jesus today, it shapes not only their life, but also their family, friends, and community for generations to come.

I'm so thankful to be part of this ministry, and so thankful for you. Your support reaches young people today, and its impact continues for generations.

May God bless you!



Tom Davis

Tom Davis, President

*P.S. This summer, we led **185** adventures and retreats, where young people experienced adventure, found hope, and encountered Christ's amazing love!*

PRAY WITH US FOR:

- More young people to discover lasting joy in Jesus.
- Ministry teams to transition smoothly from the summer's activities to the school year schedule.
- Staff to experience God's generosity in their support raising.
- Our annual staff conference on October 20–23. Please pray that it would be a meaningful time of connection, learning, and growth for our staff.

PRAISE REPORT!

- Our Summit Internship program is launching this fall, and we're thrilled to have a full group of interns! Please pray that God would equip them to invest in the next generation.
- The excellent staff and volunteers who love Jesus and young people.
- Our amazing donors and supporters. We are so thankful for your partnership in the Gospel!
- Despite wildfires and low water levels, our staff persevered and had a powerful adventure ministry season!

The First All-Girls Salmon Trip

This summer, we held the first all-girls Salmon River trip in Youth Dynamics history! 29 women and girls embarked on a trip of a lifetime.

The theme of the trip was women in the Bible and what we can learn from them. Each evening, after one of the trip leaders highlighted a story of a woman in the Bible, we broke into small groups. Those groups dove into how we were challenged, encouraged, or what we learned from the woman highlighted that evening.

As the week went on, I watched those groups connect on a deeper level. The conversations got longer, and the laughter got louder as the vulnerability grew within the groups.

Each day, I saw new confidence and joy building in their eyes as they navigated the river and learned about God. They faced their fears and began to grow in their faith.

They watched our trip leaders all week as they led with confidence and spoke with grace. And they heard about women in the Bible who led the way for others through their faith, actions, and integrity.

Imagine a girl throwing her hands up in the air, excitement radiating from her face after paddling through a rapid she was nervous about.

Or the giant smile on a girl's face as she emerges from the water after jumping from the highest rock at the cliff-jumping spot.

Every moment of this trip offered something special.

And I hope that one day, if they feel inadequate, this trip will come to mind: the example of the trip leaders or the stories of women from Scripture.

I hope those memories remind them that they are capable, worthy, beautiful, strong, and here for a purpose.

Katelynn Bouldin

Staffing Manager, Stonewater



"She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue."

-Proverbs 31:26 (NIV)

JOY!

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

This year's theme is **Joy**. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NIV) says: *"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."* During a time when it's too easy to focus on all the darkness around us, Youth Dynamics is here to help youth seek the lasting joy that only Jesus Christ can provide.



WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- ◆ **Give** to the general fund. yd.org/give
- ◆ **Volunteer** with a Community Ministry or Adventure Base. yd.org/join/volunteer
- ◆ **Support the Youth Dynamics Foundation.** The Foundation has launched this year to sustain and advance the strategic ministry of Youth Dynamics! youthdynamicsfoundation.org
- ◆ **Give a Year-End Gift.** Bless a staff member, a Community or Adventure Base, a special project, or the general fund.



Thank You!