



YOUTH
FOR SIOUXLAND
CHRIST

THE MESSAGE

SPECIAL EDITION
2023 YEAR END UPDATE

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER

By Karl Van Cura, Executive Director

We give all glory to God anticipating 2,400 Christ-sharing relationships built with lost young people over 5 years. Can you imagine the day we report 2,400 in one year? Reaching this milestone together is possible!

Nehemiah's biblical account offers us wisdom, inspiration, and strategy in reaching a Godly aspiring vision together. While in exile, Nehemiah heard about the condition of Jerusalem's walls and people, which lay broken, in ruin, unprotected from the enemy. In extreme anguish, his heart breaks, and his response is to cry out to God, pray, confess sin, and fast. God hearing Nehemiah's prayer, shares a vision and plan, and an opportunity arises to share this plan with King Artaxerxes. The King becomes his financial partner, and God's people join Nehemiah through intense opposition in rebuilding Jerusalem's walls. What an amazing story that shares "We Are BETTER TOGETHER", giving insight into God using partnerships through generous people.

More than any generation before, American youth face a desperate condition of despair, abandonment, and hopelessness. Like the walls of Jerusalem, the hearts of young people lie broken, in ruins, unprotected from the enemy of darkness. Among America's youth, anxiety and depression are running rampant. Suicide is the second leading cause of death. Frustration and anger are dramatically rising. Locally, most young people we serve have been wounded by their fathers through divorce or abandonment. Young people are lying in rubble and brokenness, with no hope or solutions.

But the Gospel of Jesus Christ is and always will be the only solution for the hopelessness in young people's hearts.

Jesus came to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives, and to release prisoners from darkness. God has uniquely positioned YFC to enter the spiritual darkness of 11-19 year olds with the hope of Jesus. God is beginning to raise an army of ministry leaders, increasing staff, volunteers, and advocates in more Siouxland communities. As a mission partner, you help shine the light of Christ into the darkest corners of young people, building

safe Christ-centered communities and relationships. Your generous support impacted ministry results last year. Young people crave being heard and loved. They need the hope and love of Jesus. The body of Christ, armed with God's truth, and the love of Christ is the solution. We are BETTER TOGETHER!

God directed the vision to begin reaching 2,400 lost young people in Christ-sharing relationships annually. You've been part of the team building a foundation of ministry sustainability, growth, and organizational capacity to support, equip, and empower front-line ministry teams. You're making it possible to shine the light of Christ, binding up the brokenhearted, proclaiming freedom, and releasing young people from darkness through the hope of Jesus.

As one of God's valuable partners in this mission, you have an incredible opportunity for expanded impact. By June 30, 2024, YFC's 5-year Strategic Plan can be 100% fully funded, with all administrative and ministry teams fully engaged. This 5-year plan, which began in 2019, has laid the foundation to grow the mission and support building towards 2,400 Christ-sharing relationships with lost young people annually. **Just \$491,000 is needed to launch into 2024 with all the necessary resources in place. By year-end, this can be accomplished through the generous partnership of team champions just like you, who are committed to sharing the hope of Jesus with young people in Siouxland.**

Would YOU prayerfully consider what YOUR participation might be in the \$491,000 needed to launch into 2024 fully funded? By investing now with generosity, YOU will be helping to share the hope and love of Christ with more young people, and setting up amplified growth. We Are BETTER TOGETHER! Like a King and God's people rebuilding Jerusalem's walls, you can be the generous missional partner that rebuilds a young person's heart by sharing Christ, proclaiming freedom, and releasing them from darkness. **Thank you for your prayers and considering a continuation of YOUR missional partnership with a year end gift to support the mission of reaching more young people with the hope of Jesus.**

[Click here to make YOUR year end gift >](#)



Hawarden / West Sioux Communities Ministry

We're absolutely so excited to witness more students attending camp, an organically formed small group developed out of Winter Retreat, and volunteer leaders diving deeper into relationships with students. Our prayers are for spiritual growth in students who attended February's Winter Retreat, and the Lord to work through more volunteers to develop deeper Christ-sharing relationships with students. Our vision is to open more nights for students (5th Quarter), offer more small groups (guy or girl nights), and expand our mentorship program to our West Sioux students. To fulfill the path we believe the Lord is leading, we're encountering some challenges - to move forward we envision 15 more weekly volunteers, additional monthly or annual financial partnerships, and community partners. Our key priorities include assistance from others who can volunteer and contribute to additional nights of programming, provide program supplies, snacks, bake cookies for snack giveaways, and meals for student family meal times throughout the year. Our students have huge appetites! **Would you prayerfully consider volunteering in our programs or sharing resources towards the \$38,000 to fully fund programming through June 2024.**

Le Mars Ministry

We are humbled to collaborate with a dedicated team of staff and volunteers who share a common mission - guiding young people to Christ. We find inspiration in the enthusiasm of our new students attending the teen center and their growing interest in who Christ is. We experience joy in facilitating small groups and gratitude for valuable community partnerships. Campus Life High School students gather Sunday evenings at our Teen Center, and equally, Campus Life Middle students meet weekly Wednesday mornings at the middle school. Open most days, we hope that Monday afternoons will lead to new ministry opportunities at the Teen Center. Though we face several challenges, our prayers are to witness God's reach extending to more youth through YFC, by opening access to the High School campus and attracting additional volunteers to perhaps establish a weekly breakfast ministry or help facilitate Monday afternoon activities. **Would you prayerfully consider sharing YFC's needs with others, volunteering, becoming a prayer warrior, or sharing resources towards the \$99,000 needed to fully fund all programs through June 2024.**

Sioux City JJM Ministry

We're filled with enthusiasm over the fact that we now have four dedicated volunteers covering Wednesdays and Sundays, sharing the hope of Jesus at the Juvenile Detention Center. We also have dedicated Advocates mentoring and showing up in institutionalized young peoples' lives, bringing the love of Christ to them. Our next big priorities involve seeking grants to establish a Parent Life ministry and creating a Foster Care support program for young adults transitioning out of the Foster Care system. However, current time constraints and financial resource shortfalls have been a significant hurdle in achieving our current objectives. To overcome these challenges, we welcome assistance from partners who can aid us in grant preparation and help identify individuals to take on crucial leadership roles in organizing these programs. **Would you prayerfully consider assisting in our programs, becoming a prayer warrior, or sharing resources towards the \$32,000 needed to fully fund these programs through June 2024.**

Sioux City North Side Ministry

We're excited about North Side students taking on leadership roles in our City Life program and getting involved in local churches. We're also enthusiastic about the growth in our Campus Life ministry, which aims to reach more students and foster Christ-sharing relationships. City Life's goal is to help more young people embrace Jesus and develop as emerging leaders who can minister to their peers. Campus Life aims to connect 300 students in Christ-sharing relationships. Both ministries want to attract and train more volunteers who are equipped in leadership, witness transformation in students' lives, and develop future young leaders, including potential YFC staff members. However, we do face some time constraints, limited resources, social energy, growth challenges in our ministry, and a shortage of key leadership. We are currently in need of 8 volunteer leaders to expand City Life to another night. We're also looking for someone with data entry skills and 8 volunteer leaders for Campus Life who possess the leadership skills to add additional ministry groups on campus. **Would you prayerfully consider volunteering, becoming a prayer warrior, or sharing resources towards the \$63,000 needed to fully fund both programs through June 2024.**





STRENGTH IN UNITY: BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Akron-Westfield Campus Ministry Expansion

What an incredible year it's been for Akron-Westfield! We responded swiftly to the community's pressing need for a safe haven for youth, a place where they could find belonging, purpose, and hope. On October 1st, we officially launched Campus Life for Akron-Westfield High School students. Our heartfelt prayer is that God will continue to nurture a safe haven, building trust, fostering deeper relationships with the school's faculty, local community members, and students. We seek God's sustaining grace to further expand our team of dedicated ministry leaders now in place. With the Lord's guidance, this will encourage greater community involvement and lead to profound, life-changing transformation in the youth culture. One key priority this school year is building a larger team of dedicated community ministry leaders committed to reaching their youth for Jesus. We're earnestly seeking assistance in identifying 3 additional volunteer leaders to help reach Akron-Westfield students in developing Christ-sharing relationships. Additionally, a key priority is to finish resourcing a year's worth of snacks and food. **Would you prayerfully consider diving into volunteering or resourcing the \$2,200 needed to fully fund ministry (and student appetites) through June 2024?**

Rock Rapids Ministry Expansion

We're excited to announce the launch of a ministry in Rock Rapids! After a meeting with local community and school leaders, awareness was raised for the need of mentoring youth and providing after-school activities. Through God's guidance and provision, a collaborative partnership was developed with Atlas of Lyon County to share their building and develop a YFC Teen Center. This November, we are opening the City Life Teen Center to provide an after-school youth program, offering a safe and welcoming space for 11-19-year-olds. Our vision is to collaborate with local churches, schools, and individuals who care about supporting their young people. Amanda Kinsey will be our Rock Rapids community and ministry leader. Her role will include building meaningful relationships with the community and students and developing a volunteer ministry team. Moving forward, one key priority is to fully resource the staff and ministry team. **To properly launch this ministry site, would you prayerfully consider collaborating as a like-minded community partner or church, serving as one of 15 volunteer leaders needed, or resourcing the \$34,000 needed to fully resource this impactful ministry program for the first year?**

Sioux City East Side Ministry Expansion

We believe that there is a tremendous opportunity to develop a greater reach into the 2,200 unchurched students living on Sioux City's East Side. By Fall 2024, we'd like to bridge that gap by initiating greater ministry efforts there. God has already opened doors to connect these students to the message of hope found in Jesus through a developing collaborative school, community, church, and YFC partnership. Currently, we are present in both East High and Middle Schools, providing school support by engaging students through an intervention program and building relationships. But we lack a dedicated space to openly build Christ-sharing relationships and share the gospel. Our vision is to establish after-school programs at both East Side schools, potentially impacting 300 to 400 students annually. Moving forward, key priorities include resourcing, identifying, hiring a community/ministry leader, and developing volunteer teams for future East Side programs. We greatly appreciate your faithful support. **Please prayerfully consider making introductions to key community/school leaders, becoming a prayer warrior, or sharing resources towards the \$25,000-\$30,00 needed for this new community ministry launch to reach young people in deeper relationships in 2024.**

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Initiatives Implemented

- Developed a robust marketing/public relations strategy to communicate a clear identity, mission, and vision through a new website and social media platforms.
- Filled a community engagement, event planning, marketing, and communications position to implement a community-based model of resource development.
- Strengthened ministry staff and volunteer leader base to sustain and grow existing and new ministry sites/communities.
- Invested in capital improvements to enhance and maintain all SYFC buildings.

Initiatives Left to Implement

- Develop a vibrant culture and an optimal organizational structure necessary to attract high-quality staff and volunteers to dramatically increase ministry impact.
- Fill operations and development director positions to increase ministry support capacity, manage our people/systems, and steward our partners/resources to expand the missional reach.
- Ensure the ongoing sustainability of existing and new ministry sites/communities, providing access to more student connections.



Upcoming Events:

- Rock Rapids Be The Story Event - Nov.13
- Hawarden Be The Story Event - Nov. 14
- Giving Tuesday - Nov. 28
- Le Mars Soup Luncheon - Dec. 4
- Hawarden Soup Luncheon - Dec. 6



1807 Nebraska Street
PO Box 1626
Sioux City, IA 51102

712.255.9599 Sioux City
712.546.8883 Le Mars
712.551.3868 Hawarden
478.293.7176 Rock Rapids

www.siouxlandyfc.org

 facebook.com/siouxlandyfc.org

 instagram.com/siouxlandyfc

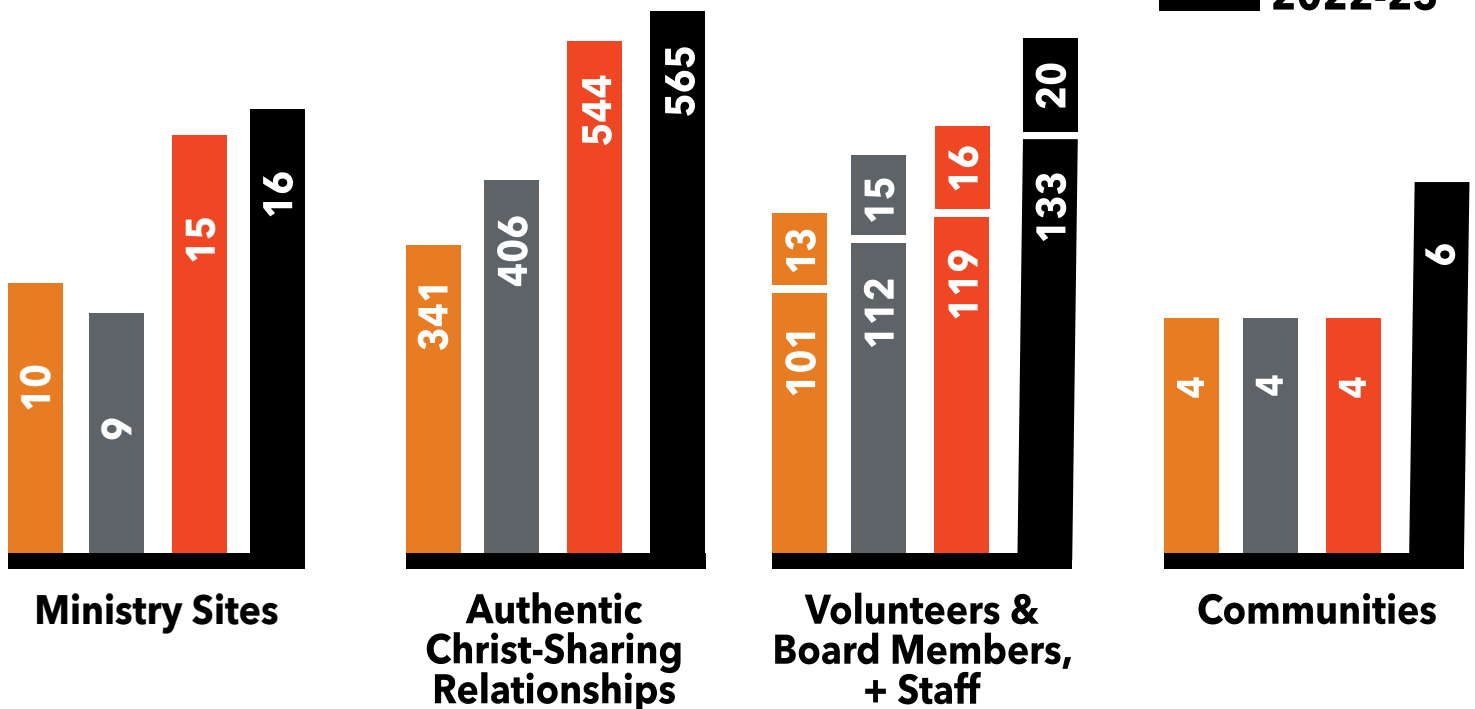
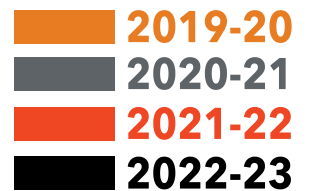
FY22-23 MINISTRY IMPACT REPORT

- Total youth in Siouxland ages 11-19 = **17,000**
- Youth that are accessible to YFC = **8,300**
- Goal: build **2,400** Christ-sharing relationships



MINISTRY GROWTH PATTERNS

YFC is truly grateful for the growth in the last 4 years that God has provided. He has blessed us with faithful partners who share the same mission of guiding lost young people towards Jesus and we believe He will continue. As the organization expands, so do the needs, but we have seen God provide partners who act in obedience to Christ to financially give, pray, and support. All the glory and thanks goes to God for continually sending missional partners like you to aid the mission of reaching lost young people throughout Siouxland.



BETTER TOGETHER

Prayer Warriors

Prayer partners' commitment to set aside moments of private prayer on behalf of YFC's mission is truly commendable. Prayer partners are warriors, actively engaging in this mission because God has placed a special calling on their hearts, to intercede for lost youth in Siouxland. While the world may not see these efforts, the Lord sees and values prayers. **Matthew 6:6 declares, "But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."** Can you fathom the profound impact prayers have had on countless souls? **Romans 10:1 cries out, "Brothers, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation."** Prayer warriors have been effectively impacting positive and transformative change in the lives of numerous young people through the YFC mission. If being a prayer warrior is your calling, pray more lost young people into salvation by joining the SYFC prayer team.

[Click the Prayer QR Code >](#)



Faithful Volunteers

Volunteer ministry leaders are an incredibly valuable asset, the heartbeat of YFC's mission. Volunteers are the front-line ministry teams who willingly dedicate time away from their personal lives to wholeheartedly embrace the mission of sharing the hope and love of Jesus. They step into a youth's world to build trust, encourage, and love in profoundly meaningful ways. **Galatians 5:13 exclaims, "For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love."** For a volunteer, the ministry of serving and loving young people is the bridge that connects God's story, a volunteer's story, and a teen's story, enabling the development of authentic Christ-sharing relationships. SYFC volunteers are vital! Coupled with prayer, God uses teams of equipped and empowered volunteers to forge a robust, influential, joy-filled community with one singular goal: leading youth to Christ. If serving young people is your area of giftedness, love more lost young people into a relationship with Jesus by joining a volunteer team.

[Click the Volunteer QR Code >](#)



Helpful Communities

Community can be defined by youth as the safe locations of our ministry sites, and thus highly valuable assets of our mission. Communities can be defined as the neighborhoods or towns where front-line ministry teams serve. But community can also mean those collaborative partnerships we share with the members of the body, such as churches, faith-based businesses, and other like-minded organizations and individuals. **1 Corinthians 12:12-13 states, "For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body..."** Community, whether a ministry site, neighborhood, or partnership, is where the body of Christ serves and loves lost young people Better Together. Together we connect God's story, a volunteer's story, and a young person's story, creating beautiful Christ-sharing relationships. If serving and loving young people in a creative community partnership is your thing, bless more lost young people into a relationship with Christ by joining a community partnership team.

[Click the Community QR code >](#)

