

# YFC MONTHLY NEWS



NOVEMBER 2024

YFC ENGAGES LOST TEENS IN CHRIST-SHARING RELATIONSHIPS

**FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** Our recent Comedy Café fundraiser was - well... FUN!. Besides a few laughs, a LOT of desserts, a presentation to the Collings family, and recognizing Gary Fox with the YFC Lifetime Service Award... well, what else could there be besides all of that! Oh, of course we had youth on stage to share the YFC ministry story, and the crowd supported us with over \$10,000 in giving. Please visit our website at [yfcSacramento.org/events](https://yfcSacramento.org/events) for results from our recent Golf Challenge and Comedy Café fundraisers. Once again, **Thank You** to all of our sponsors and donors!

**17 YEARS OLD:** One young lady involved our ministry in Citrus Heights discovered she was pregnant - at age 17. Thankfully, this teenager is in a close relationship with her mentor on our staff. The girl's mother, aware of this mentoring relationship, took her daughter to talk to our staff member about their predicament. Knowing no other options, they were planning to take the girl to Planned Parenthood to end the pregnancy. Our staff member encouraged them strongly to try our wonderful Christian nonprofit partner, Alternatives Pregnancy Care Center, first. After some convincing, the girl went. There she received counseling, support, resources, and - importantly - an ultrasound. **God intervened in the life of a precious baby;** this teenage mom just had her baby in October, a little girl, and her family is helping take care of her. Because YOU mobilize our paid staff to be able to connect with kids all around the Sacramento region, a life was saved, a future was created, a family was transformed - in the name of Jesus Christ!!



**17 YEARS AGO:** I have to tell you about another teenage mom who connected with my previous YFC ministry, and one YFC volunteer in particular, approximately 17 years ago. This girl, now a 34-year-old woman, made a phone call this week to her YFC volunteer mentor from her teen parent days so long ago. She called out of the blue because something she heard in church reminded her of the love and support she received so many years back. She said to her former mentor, *"I was really in a tough spot, and for no reason, you brought me into your home and into your life! You took me to the park, you spent time feeding ducks with me, you cooked meals for me and my son in your home, you cared for my child - for nothing in return! No one in my family ever did such things for me. I just want to say Thank You!"* The volunteer was blown away, and asked how she and her son are doing after all these years. The girl (now a woman) said, *"You won't believe this... but I went to college and got my teaching degree, then got my Masters in Special Education. I work in the school system."* And her son? *"He is a 17-year-old senior in high school, an honor student, in the marching band!"*





Sometimes, we are privileged to encounter Christ's redemptive love through the lives of those to whom we minister. Sometimes it's like a little bit of heaven on earth. You might say at these times that **"the veil between heaven and earth is thin"**. We don't respond to this call on our lives in order to receive thanks or awards... but when we do, we give the glory to God, who makes all things new - even in the lives of teenage moms!

Matthew 25: <sup>35</sup>For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup>I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

**17 Years.** Two teenagers, two babies. Lives saved, lives changed. Though our work and our calling is temporal, our reward is eternal. But I still wonder... where will the mom and daughter from the first story be in **17 years from now?**

**AN OCEAN RETREAT:** Our Gold Country Campus Life team took 20 kids and several staff and volunteers on their annual "surfing and soul care" trip. At least nine of the students had recently experienced great loss: death of a parent, death of both parents, divorce, death of a best friend, etc. The trip included surfing, hiking, skateboarding at a popular skatepark venue (Tony Hawk's son was there!) and a tour of three colleges for our graduates. There were also daily devotions, evening campfires, and spiritual conversations. Kendra introduced the week to the kids like this: *"This week we want you to imagine there is a God, and he is good."* This led to lots of questions and conversation; by the end of the week, seven said Yes to Jesus! Please pray for these kids, plus at least one more boy who is "on the fence" regarding his faith.



**STAFF DEPARTURE:** YaHyl Rogers served for just over two years in our Crossover Basketball program and at the Collings Teen Center. He has taken a role with LEAF Wraparound, a support organization for adoptive families. We'll miss YaHyl but we're excited for his new calling and career journey!

**DATES TO REMEMBER:** (Sign-ups and information are available at [yfcsacramento.org](http://yfcsacramento.org))

- **Thursday evening, November 14: Annual Thank-a-Thon.** Our team will gather to call and thank as many supporters as possible. If we have your number on file, you may get a call!
- **Thursday November 28: Happy Thanksgiving!**

**YEAR END NEEDS AND FUNDING:** Your weekly, monthly, and yearly giving powers this ministry. We could not mobilize staff, buy program supplies, pay vehicle expenses, get kids to camp, etc. without our donors. **Generosity spreads the Good News;** *this brief moment of time we have on earth is the only time our temporal treasures can be converted to eternal value!* As the year end approaches, many people are thinking about where to give a little extra.

**We have a year-end goal of raising \$132,500 additional funds by December 31.** Here are some of our gaps in funding - our needs and the things additional funding will help cover:

**\$25,000 for a new HVAC unit** for our Collings Teen Center. We have six total. These were installed 20 years ago - but they were already used when they were installed! They are failing and getting beyond repair. We really could replace three or four. Let us know if you are connected to an HVAC company that can help us! In the meantime we'll shop for the best deal possible.

**\$27,500 for five Point Break workshops** for schools that can't afford it. Our life changing assembly is beloved by the schools and can lead to kids getting involved in Campus Life, and a great way for our mentors to interact with kids on campus. But many schools do not have the funding to allocate for this.

**\$80,000 toward four part-time staff members** for the Collings Teen Center, Sayonara Center, Crossover Basketball, and the Barn (\$20,000 each) for 2025. Staff lead the ministry; we have gaps to fill to help us reach more kids for Christ.

As we begin the holiday season, I hope and pray you are anticipating wonderful times with family, friends, and your church. We hope and pray the same for the kids in our ministry. Thank you for loving and supporting our kids - in Jesus' name.

Together for our youth,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Kaczmarek".

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Part of our staff team at Comedy Cafe

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