

YFC MONTHLY NEWS



JANUARY 2025

YFC ENGAGES LOST TEENS IN CHRIST-SHARING RELATIONSHIPS



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: I hope you enjoyed a blessed Christmas season with family and friends, and that you are eager to start a fresh new year! Our December is always filled with Christmastime parties and events with students as they wrap up their school semester - and 2024 was no different. We offered our Collings Cares Christmas celebration in early December, serving a meal and Christmas gifts to a record number of kids and families (an estimated crowd of 350)! We also had a wonderful Christmas celebration as a board and staff team. Most of our staff made it in the Christmas photo inserted near the end of this letter. **Thank you for your prayers for us in 2024**; please keep it up in 2025 as we strive and battle for our youth!

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH: At our year-end celebration our team talked about the importance of "contending for our faith", especially as we embark upon a new year. By definition, to **contend for the faith** means "to actively defend and stand up for the core beliefs of your religion, particularly against false teachings or heresies, by vigorously proclaiming and upholding the truth, essentially acting as a strong advocate for your faith - often with a sense of determination and commitment as if in a contest." This phrase is most commonly found in the Bible, specifically in the book of Jude:



"Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people".
Jude 1:3

We also **contend for our youth** - fighting vigorously for them and upholding them in Christ. This is our calling and our honor. They need contenders on their side in the world today!

JUSTIN TIME: Sometimes as YFC ministry staff, we wonder just how much impact we're having. We don't often see it in kids' behaviors, which can be discouraging; sometimes it feels like a thankless job. But sometimes, when we ask, we get to the heart of the matter. Recently, Justin Waffird was compelled to ask for written feedback about the ministry through the Collings Teen Center, and kids opened up. Xavier wrote, "The time after school when I had nowhere to go, but I always knew the center would be open and I could see Justin's bald head through the window. He'd be quick to ask me if



I was hungry or offer me something to drink. **He always makes me feel welcome.** It kept me from hanging out with people I knew were bad for me."

Sarah wrote, "When I first moved to West Sac we lived in a motel around the corner from the center, a friend of mine that I went to school with told me about the teen center, that day after school I went and I've been coming here now for the last two years. Justin has knocked on our door over the weekends and given us groceries a new coat and even took us to buy new Nikes. Over the summer I went to camp with them. We went to the boardwalk in Santa Cruz, the ocean, and Six Flags on the way home. We have our own apartment now and I still continue to wanna be here **because I feel loved.**"



Jacari wrote, "My sister overdosed from fentanyl two years ago. Justin came to the hospital to visit our family and pray for my sister before she passed. I didn't know him very well at the time, but I knew who he was from my friends telling me about him and how much he cares and loves for our community. We had a car wash to help pay for our funeral expenses and Justin told all of the people that support the center and they came through. We raised enough money to pay for everything and one of his donors paid for her casket in one donation. My mom and I are forever grateful for the Love and support the center has showed us. It was one of the hardest times in my life and their prayers helped get me through it."

What a privilege it has been to be a part of their lives - in Jesus' name.

FUNDING UPDATE: In our December letter we mentioned our year-end goal of raising \$132,500 additional funds by December 31. As of this writing, it's still December, but many generous donors are richly blessing the ministry! We are well on our way to achieving this goal **Thank you, donors!! Your giving makes a difference!** You can find past newsletters at yfcsacramento.org/stories. You can easily give online at yfcsacramento.org/give.

To you and your family, we pray that you will have a blessed/healthy/prosperous new year!

Contending for our youth,



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