

YFC MONTHLY NEWS



JULY 2026

YFC ENGAGES LOST TEENS IN CHRIST-SHARING RELATIONSHIPS

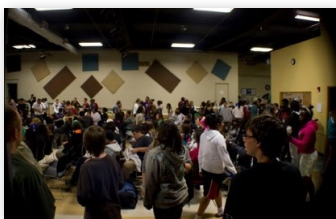
CHANGE IS CONSTANT

I'd like to share an important development with you, for all who know and love YFC - and specifically our program in West Sacramento:

We, the Board and leadership of YFC, believe it is time to sell the Collings Teen Center - while the ministry to West Sacramento teens will continue.

Let me explain.

Since 2004: Over the past several years, attendance at the Collings Teen Center has been sustained through daily shuttling of kids on our YFC bus. When I first arrived at the chapter in 2022, I asked why this was the case. What I learned is that when the Center was founded in 2004, with Chuck Collings of Raley's cutting the ribbon, the only West Sacramento high school was located next door. The perfect location for a teen center! An instant pipeline of youth attendance!



However, around 2010, that high school closed its doors to make way for the brand-new River City High School, opening far to the south. Too far and too dangerous to walk or scooter from school. Walk-in youth traffic, which was normally heavy, immediately turned into a trickle, and thus our busing program began in earnest.

The following few years continued with decent attendance as the Center's reputation preceded itself... but over the years, attendance has dwindled as the logistics proved challenging and availability of bus drivers and vehicles has declined. The building is located in a mixed industrial zone; there aren't too many houses within safe walking distance. Parents and guardians today are less likely to send their kids on a bus, especially if they don't yet know us. Today we have anywhere from 20-30 kids coming daily. This is still a great life-changing ministry, but shuttling has actually become a major limiting factor to the growth and health of the ministry.



More change has come since 2020. With Covid and the onset of people working remotely, we have had fewer staff requiring office space. At 12,000 square feet, the building now holds two office staff three days a week, and our City Life after school programs - for ~25 kids - four afternoons per week. We are leasing

space to some wonderful partner churches - but that is not our primary mission.

All of this adds up to what has become an undeniable fact: **the Collings Teen Center is no longer a good fit for YFC staff and programs.** Founded by Executive Director Gary Fox and a host of partners in 2004 and becoming a fully YFC-owned asset under Executive Director Dan Palmer, the Center has been a tremendous blessing for over 20 years. But time and changing circumstances have rendered the building less than ideal for our current needs. The Center is a large and expensive asset to maintain - especially if underutilized. We'd like to leverage these resources for more ministry to more kids.

Meanwhile, we've had discussions about continuing the program through changing times. Our West Sacramento teen ministry and outreach could relocate to a leased space or church space closer to a neighborhood or schools, providing an opportunity for more kids to attend our programs.

If we sell, we'd utilize the resources in a more efficient and effective way for kids. So that leaves us with the likelihood that we will put the building on the open market. This could happen in the next weeks as we have recently begun discussions with realtors.

Now, as we all know, putting a building up for sale doesn't mean it will sell anytime soon; but we believe moving forward now is the best decision and the best stewardship for the ministry.

We never want to abandon West Sacramento, and we don't intend to. I believe the best solution for relocating the ongoing ministry will become available as a sale comes into focus. In the meantime, it's business as usual in the Center until the day that a sale materializes!

In closing, I hope you'll understand why we are choosing this direction. This brief summary represents many hours of thought, debate, discussion, and prayer that have been invested among our staff and board. Moving on from the center will be bittersweet: Joyful in hope for a great future, but sad to leave what has been a sacred, fun, and effective space. I hope and pray that you will continue to care for and support what we do even with this change approaching. I can guarantee this: **We'll remain anchored to our faith in Jesus** even while times and circumstances are ever changing, adapting our strategies along the way. And we'll take the stories, photos, and memories with us to the next location!



COACH OMAR TURNER RECEIVES THE SACRAMENTO YFC LIFETIME SERVICE

AWARD: Our longtime (30+ years!) staff member and Crossover Basketball founder, Coach Omar Turner,



was recently presented with the Lifetime Service award for his ministry as part of YFC Sacramento. His wife Deborah and son Marcus were present - they have been longtime helpers in the ministry. Coach Omar started decades ago, sensing a calling to work with middle school and high school youth through the vehicle of basketball. Back in the day, he had to start from scratch



to raise funds for his program and his salary - and he was successful in doing so. He started part time and worked his way to become full time. Coach Omar has been a fixture in the Elk Grove and South Sacramento communities. He provides kids with otherwise inaccessible opportunities to be on a basketball team, to be trained not only in basketball skills but also in life skills and the Christian faith. Thanks to Coach and his great team of volunteers,



many kids have met Jesus through the program over the years; and some of those kids have grown up to be professional athletes, community leaders, and Christian ministers. Join us in honoring Coach Omar Turner for his years of faithful service!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **A's Baseball Suites:** Thanks to Chip Maxson and the River Cats, we have reserved two suites at Sutter Health Park for A's games - one on **Saturday, August 1st**, and the other on **Friday, August 14th**. These include a parking pass and abundant food and drink. We'd like to offer a group of our generous donors this experience at no charge - while tickets last! Please contact me if you'd like to participate - and THANK YOU for supporting YFC!

Together for kids,



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

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