YFC MONTHLY NEWS

YOUTH FOR SACRAMENTO CHRIST®



NOVEMBER 2026

YFC ENGAGES LOST TEENS IN CHRIST-SHARING RELATIONSHIPS

A DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT by Kendra Williams, Gold Country Campus Life:

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." – 1 Corinthians 3:6

There is a fascinating bird called the **acorn woodpecker**.

Unlike many birds that simply find food and move on, the acorn woodpecker has a remarkable habit: it gathers acorns and stores them in the holes it pecks into trees, telephone poles, fence posts, and other wooden surfaces. Some of these storage places can contain thousands of acorns.

One of their most interesting behaviors is that they **continually maintain their acorn stores**. As acorns dry and shrink, the birds move them into tighter holes or replace them, essentially managing a communal food pantry.



If you've seen one around an oak tree in California, there's a good chance that tree is part of a much larger **acorn woodpecker territory providing food for 100's of birds**.

Think about that for a moment.

One bird. One acorn at a time. One hole at a time.

And over time, those individual acts become something much bigger.

That sounds a lot like YFC.



As YFC staff, we can sometimes look at our ministry and wonder, *Is what I'm doing really making a difference?* >We run the club. >We show up at the game. >We answer the late-night text.

>We pray with the student who is struggling. >We have the awkward conversation.

>We remind them that God loves them. >We open Scripture again.

>We encourage them when they feel like giving up. **>We tell them about Jesus–again.**

And sometimes, it feels like we're just making another hole in the tree and placing another acorn.



But **that's the ministry. Every Hole Represents a Student**.

The acorn woodpecker doesn't know what each acorn will eventually become. It simply does what it was created to do: **gather and plant**. In the same way, God has entrusted us with students. **Every student has a story.** Every student carries questions, wounds, dreams, doubts, gifts, and potential. And every time we invest in one of them, we're creating a place for truth to take root.

>One conversation may seem insignificant. >One Bible study may feel ordinary. >One prayer may seem small. >One ride home may not feel spiritual at all.



But we don't always get to see what God is doing beneath the surface. **Our responsibility is faithfulness. God's responsibility is the growth.**

Paul reminds us of this in 1 Corinthians 3:6: "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth."

>We plant. >We water. >**God grows.**

Every Acorn Is a Seed

The acorn may look small, but it carries the potential for something much larger. **That's what a student can be.** When we look at a teenager, we aren't simply looking at who they are today. We're looking at who God may be forming them to become...*a lifelong follower*. That student sitting quietly in the back of the room may someday lead a church.



The student who asks a hundred questions may someday teach others how to love Scripture. The student who has walked through deep pain may someday sit beside someone else and say, *"I understand. God met me there, too."* The student who doesn't seem interested today may remember something you said ten years from now.

We don't know what every seed will become. **But we know that seeds are worth planting.....**

(There's more! Please visit **YFCSacramento.org/stories** and click on Newsletters to read **Part 2** of this essay!)

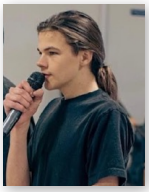
NEW TEAM MEMBERS: Wanda Murphy has joined our team as a Ministry Staff Member for Crossover Basketball and the Collings Teen Center. She has a kind spirit and, with years of experience in the school system, loves kids and knows how to interact with them. Wanda came from our volunteer ranks, and was "sold" on YFC after serving at Summer Camp. Welcome Wanda!



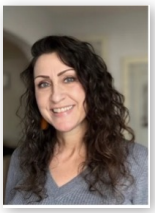
Jeronimo Aquilar has been called to lead our brand-new Campus Life ministry in Rancho Cordova. Jeronimo has worked in youth ministry with his church and has also advocated for kids of incarcerated parents. He has been building connections and partnerships in Rancho Cordova and soon will be opening Campus Life clubs at Mills MS and Cordova HS, which will lead to drop-in opportunities at Cordova Lutheran Church, across the street from the schools. Welcome Jeronimo!



Elijah Waffird has been serving as our part time janitor at the Collings Teen Center. After several years of volunteering with the youth there (under the mentorship of his dad, Justin) we decided it was time to bring him on staff. He is young – but as it says in 1 Timothy 4:12: *"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."* This is exactly what Eli has already been doing as a minister to the kids in West Sac. Welcome Eli!



VOLUNTEER CORNER: We invite you to consider volunteering with us. We are aiming to be "the best place to volunteer in Sacramento!" We will help you get your clearance, orientation, and get placed with our staff on a campus, at a teen center, or even at Juvenile Hall! **Contact Volunteer Coordinator Gina Saraceni** at gina@yfcsacramento.org or (916)982-9748 for more information.



Your prayers and support for this work are crucial. **Thank you!**



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