



MINISTRY UPDATE

By Jamie Thompson

Dear Youth for Christ friends and family,

According to the 2021 Pennsylvania Youth Survey that over 60 percent of youth ages 12-18 in Erie County reported emotional abuse, 40 percent have withdrawn from activities due to depression and 20 percent have attempted suicide. Gun violence continues in Erie and Millcreek schools and these are only the reported numbers of surveyed youth. While there are many quality youth programs and youth ministries, my question is whether there can ever be enough?

I shared these facts at our Hidden Treasure Banquet along with my own experiences and that of our guest speakers, with the hope to reignite your passion to fight for lost youth. As you consider your year-end giving, know that we have many needs chiefly among them is financial support for additional staff. The number of lost youth reached jumps exponentially as we add leaders and partners to send into the schools. Visit <https://erieyfc.org/pages/get-involved>.

A large part of finding and informing Christ-Centered leaders is our ability to share the mission. With the help of Erin Holcomb, Managing Director at The Home Page Network we are working toward the ability to communicate our mission more effectively with churches, potential volunteers, and community leaders. This helps us build our team and reach **more youth**. Thank you, Erin and Scott Bonnell for making this possible!

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

Partnerships:

The Homepage Network
The Empowered Life CDC
Pastor Daryl Cook

Campus Life Ministry:

Benjamin Wiley

INSPIRE - MIDDLE SCHOOL

New Volunteer Highlight:

Roberta Volgstadt

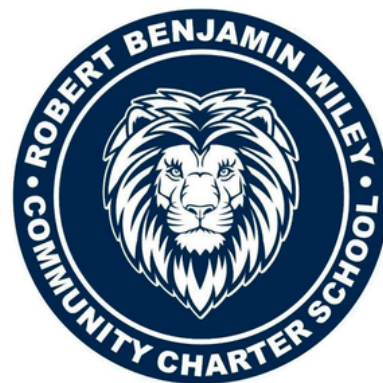
Leadership Connect 2022

Hidden Treasure Banquet

Mark your calendars:
**2023 Golf Scramble
June 24!!**

CAMPUS LIFE

Campus Life Ministry at Benjamin Wiley Community Charter School has finally begun! We have six students joining us every Tuesday morning as our hearts fill with joy and hope watching them be prepared to witness to their classmates through discipleship provided by Minister Lyons, Julie, and Chelsea. Thank you **Pastor Daryl Cook** and the Empowerment Life Community Development Corporation for providing notebooks for the students! They are praying and sharing notes! We praise God for these students who are being equipped to witness to their classmates! We will be giving the students bibles and gifts this Tuesday along with a lesson from Julie Lariccia on the birth of Jesus!



INSPIRE - MIDDLE SCHOOL

Meet Zachary, 14, from Girard. Zachary attends our Middle School INSPIRE (aka Club) at the Summit on Tuesday evenings. Zachary is currently homeschooled due to choices made to hang out with individuals who he sees as "protectors" but, as you might have guessed, are anything but. He has built a beautiful relationship with Gary (my husband) and Donovan, 16 (my son). He gave them a hug when he left last Tuesday and will be there if no one else is! We are honored to be talking with Zachary and two other young men about patience for the coming weeks.



PRAYER NEEDED

Keep us in prayer as we work to launch **High School INSPIRE** at the Glenwood United Methodist Church, **Edmund L. Thomas**, with just one more volunteer to onboard and train, we will be able to begin programming, and **Albion Club** to be able to restart again soon! While Suzanne continues to reach out to students individually, are excited to welcome new students and hearing more testimonies! Avah (pictured to the right) is an amazing young woman in Erie I was blessed to share a meal with after church. She is a young woman with an "old soul" Please keep her in prayer as she transitions from high-school to the workforce this year.



BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

Over 35 students and their families joined for our back to school bash on August 9! Many thanks to Empire Hair Salon and Ambridge Rose Salon for braids and cuts! Students enjoyed styles for a fresh start backpacks, donated by Cornerstone Construction! We hope to continue finding ways to bless students, get the community involved, and engage their families for years to come!



CHRIST-CENTERED LEADERS

Welcome our newest volunteer, Roberta Volgstadt! "Since beginning in April, I have been blessed to be a part of our Erie Youth for Christ Center. As a believer in God, it is my desire to serve Him by serving others. After overcoming many of my life's hardships and obstacles, I was presented the gospel and chose to accept Jesus as my Savior. I then made the decisions to be baptized, attend, and serve at First Alliance Church. It was a long journey, but I have also since graduated college and earned a degree in criminal justice and business administration. And through it all, I have prayed for God to open doors to give back what has been freely given to me, God's mercy, grace, and salvation. Youth for Christ has offered me that opportunity to volunteer, along with a great team. I have been able to share testimony of my life challenges and blessings to our youth to let them know that there is hope through Christ Jesus. And, I continue to pray that we will reach all youth in need."



LEADERSHIP CONNECT 2022



We can reach more youth with more leaders. Members of the Bible Club and New YFC volunteers met for four hours of Leadership Training. Worship with Mclain was a powerful end to a day filled with passionate discussion and the equipping of the saints.



Hidden Treasures Banquet

Thank You Sponsors!!



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Elizabeth Hirz

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

On behalf of myself, our board, volunteers and future youth who will be impacted by your generosity, we thank you! We were honored to have so many honored guests such as Mayor Schember (pictured left), to hear hear stories of how Youth for Christ helped Megan Nichke, a student at Northwestern, began to own her faith through her relationship with Suzanne, Karen, and Misty at Albion Club.

Stephanie Rupp shared how Don Adams and other YFC leaders showed her that there were more possibilities than her current situation as a teen. We exist share a story of hope with lost youth ages 11-19 through authentic, Christ-centered relationships. Students need us more than ever and we need you. Please consider a year-end gift or becoming a monthly partner. For His Glory with souls at the center of ALL we do.

-Jamie Thompson, Executive Director



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

GOLF SCRAMBLE JUNE 24, 2023

7:45AM-2PM Beechwood Golf Course