

#BETTER TOGETHER

STORIES OF YOUR IMPACT



**YOUTH
FOR LINCOLN AREA
CHRIST**

GIVE LIFE TO YOUR STORY



**Your Financial Support Impacted
Thousands of Students This Year.**

These Are a Few of Their Stories.

2017 Year End

As always, pseudonyms and alternate photos are used to protect the
privacy of students in our programs.



At Bible studies, on T-shirts, in emails and text messages, we've sent regular reminders to our staff and volunteer teams that we are "better together."

This theme is a constant reminder to all of us that together everyone achieves more. It also reminds us of the unity that Christ called us to in His final prayer before ascending to the Father.

The enemy desperately wants so much for us to be separated, divided, and warring amongst ourselves. We must strive to work together as a team to reach students for Christ. But this team does not stop with us. **This team includes you. We are only able to reach students because of you!**

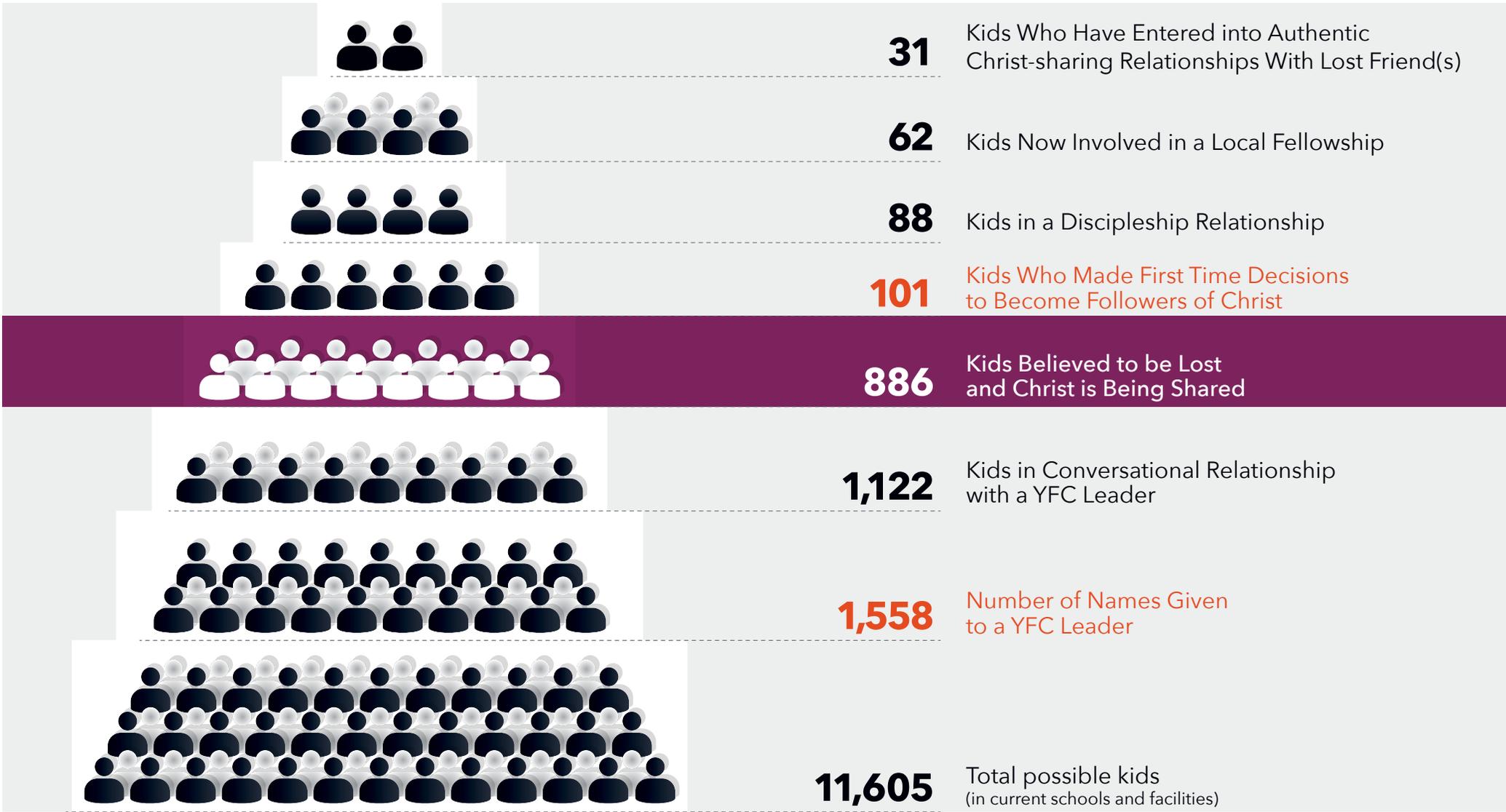
Every time we walk into the high school, you go with us.
Every time we talk to the kid in jail, you go with us.
Every time we visit a teen parent in the hospital, you go with us.

**We are better together.
We are better with you.**

*Matt Schulte
Executive Director, Youth for Christ Lincoln*

Ministry Results

2016-2017 School Year



VOLUNTEERS: 112

INTERNS: 5

PART-TIME STAFF: 13

FULL-TIME STAFF: 8

27,648 TOTAL POPULATION OF 11-19 YEAR OLDS IN OUR AREA



#JUVENILE JUSTICE MINISTRY

Juvenile Justice is better with you. You've helped us expand this year! For the first time ever, Juvenile Justice Ministry will be in a facility in Omaha.

Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility in Omaha houses about 60 kids each night. These teens are held in the juvenile prison for an average of 18 months. For years, there has not been an outside chaplain present at the juvenile prison. This, in part, is due to the excessive regulations and rules the state has put in place, but finally, together, we are starting a program similar to what we do in the county jail here in Lincoln.

Thankfully, we have the perfect staff member for the job! Kyle Lindgren has served on our Parent Life staff for a number of years but recently found his heart pulled toward kids in jail. Starting the beginning of September, Kyle began the five-week process of completing the Department of Corrections new staff training so that he could begin serving as a chaplain in Omaha.

While he begins this new venture at the juvenile prison in Omaha, Eldon Dietrich and Nathan Kroll continue to faithfully serve students at the Lancaster County youth detention center. Each night 40 teens spend the night in jail right here in Lincoln.

Over the summer we offered an intensive life skills course for kids in the detention center. Beth TeKolste, Seth Roepke, and Kyle Lindgren were inside the Lancaster County detention

center three days a week for five weeks teaching students the life skills they need to succeed. The relationships they built during those five weeks were significant and impactful on the teens.

We continue to offer tours of the detention center every other month over the lunch hour. If you have any interest in finding out more about getting involved with JJM, we'd love to invite you to our next See the Story luncheon; give us a call (402-420-7475) and we will let you know when it is.



Not Good Enough

At our last “See the Story” luncheon, our JJM chaplain, Eldon Dietrich, shared about Sandy, a girl who told him,

“I don’t feel like I’m good enough to read the Bible.”

At 15 years of age, Sandy has a meth problem, which landed her in jail. The heaviness of her choices and the lies of Satan were telling her she’s not good enough to even read about Jesus, the One who came to rescue her. Eldon was encouraged a few days later when Sandy asked to meet with a JJM mentor.



That Was Victory

This summer we taught a five-week class in the detention center discussing important life skills. Topics ranged from goal setting, to stress, to family and all other relationships to love languages, to trust and forgiveness to employment readiness and even making homemade ice cream! That’s something a lot of these kids have never done. During the first two weeks, the students were very cold, but by week three some students were opening up and definitely showed they wanted to hear what we had to say. That was a victory!

*Beth Tekolste
YFC Ministry Leader*

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Mikala's Mentor

We had a girl this summer at the detention center who was an avid reader. Her name was Mikala. Because of her love for reading, I offered her "70 x 7 and Beyond" by Monty Christensen. It's a life story about love, pain, and forgiveness, published by Prison Ministries. Mikala read it and said it was the best book she had ever read. She said she could totally relate to the author's meth addiction, but didn't understand where he got the faith. Mikala asked if she could have a JJM mentor. She had already had a different mentor for a few years, and when I asked about that mentor she said she wanted a Christian mentor!

Mikala's intrigue was piqued. I connected her with Kristi, a JJM mentor who's volunteered with us for a few years. Mikala and Kristi are still connecting even though Mikala is now out of the detention center and has transitioned to an academy in Omaha. We just heard from a staff member at the group home how much Mikala likes her mentor, Kristi.

*Eldon Dietrich
JJM Chaplain*

When I Visited Mikala

Mikala celebrated her 14th birthday in the detention center in Lincoln. We play cards together; she is just a joy to be around.

Shortly after she was transferred to the academy in Omaha, Mikala got in trouble there. I visited and she was angry and hardened. But she's been there for three months now, and I visit and she's glowing, saying hi to everyone and doing very well there. Mikala is coming to believe in herself. She loves books and devotions; she'll gobble up anything I bring. She shared with me a quote she found: "Take care of others, but don't leave yourself behind." This was monumental for her, understanding she should have pride in caring for herself, understanding that healthy confidence in herself is good. Mikala has told me her mom always says she's praying for her. Before I end my visit every time Mikala asks, "Will you pray for us?" Most of the girls don't ask for prayer. It's such a joy to watch God changing Mikala one day at a time.

*Kristi
JJM Volunteer*



Mike Attends Bible Study

Mike is a face I've seen before. I first met him at the juvenile detention center when he was still a minor. He claimed faith in Jesus while being in the detention center. Now, an adult by legal terms, Mike's 19-years-old and in the county jail. He messed up again, hanging around with the wrong crowd. But while he's been in the county jail, Mike has been attending chapel and a weekly Bible study. Praise God! His Word is powerful and won't return void! I meet with Mike as often as I can, and the chaplain and volunteers at the county jail also meet with Mike.

*Eldon Dietrich
JJM Chaplain*

Rapping Isaiah 53

I would like to share with you Shawn's interaction with me. He is a young man in the Segregated Housing Unit at the Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility. He is on 23 and 1 lock down, which means he spends 23 hours a day in his room. Shawn is in segregation because of his gang affiliations. He told me he likes to rap so I asked him to write me something. It was incredible. Shawn wrote some very profound spiritual things and even brought Scriptures into his rap. I asked Shawn where he heard that stuff; he said that he'd never gone to church, that all that stuff he has learned while being locked up! What a testimony to the purpose chaplains serve. I then challenged Shawn's rap skills, asking him to read Isaiah 53 and write me a rap about what he thought it was saying. He gladly accepted the challenge.

*Kyle Lindgren
JJM Chaplain*



Afraid to Sleep at Night

Horrible things have happened to Katie. She's 18-years-old and has told me she's afraid to sleep at night. I don't know nor can I share all the details, but this girl, fearfully and wonderfully created by God, has absorbed too many blows from sin's grip on this world.

I began mentoring Katie at the juvenile detention center. Katie used to go to church. She talks freely about faith; she's still exploring it. Katie's mom is very angry at Katie. Sometimes Katie's mom visits; sometimes she doesn't. If I had had a friend through high school, who wasn't my parents, to listen and care and tell me bit about Jesus, that would've been a big deal. God brought me to Himself during my rocky points of high school. He grew my understanding and faith in Him through college. Now with four kids of my own, I'm humbled to be a regular visitor for Katie. I'm a friend to listen and care and tell Katie a bit about Jesus, and every time, she looks at me and says, "I so appreciate you coming."

*Kristi
JJM Volunteer*

Dear Eldon

dear eldon,
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE CARD AND CONGRADULATING ME ON GRADUATING. HONESTLY I TOOK MANY SLEEPLESS NIGHTS BUT IT WAS SO VERY WORTH IT. GOD KNEW HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS FOR ME TO GET MY HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA SO HE HELPED MAKE IT POSSIBLE. I HAD TO WORK VERY HARD ELDON. I AM THE FIRST OUT OF MY GRANDMOTHERS CHILDREN'S TO GRADUATE - BOTH PATERNAL & MATERNAL. I WANTED THIS FOR MYSELF & MY SON AS WELL, I NEEDED HIM TO KNOW THAT A DIFFERENT PATH WAS LAID OUT FOR HIM BESIDES THE PATH OF TROUBLE. I WISH YOU ALL COULD HAVE PHYSICALLY BEEN AT MY GRADUATION, BUT SPIRITUALLY, YOU ALL HAVE A PLACE IN MY HEART SO I TAKE YOU WITH ME WHERE EVER I GO. - YOU ALL LEFT YOUR MARKS IN MY LIFE.



Parent Life Time and Location

We meet every Tuesday Night throughout the school year at 6:00pm at Calvary Community Church. All Pregnant and parenting teens are welcome!

#PARENTLIFE

Parent Life is better with you.

Please welcome our newest team members! We couldn't be more excited for the additions to our Parent Life staff! Dr. Tiffany Leonida, a pediatric and prenatal chiropractor, is now our Parent Life Director. Her passion, experience, and knowledge of the medical and emotional sides of pregnancy have been essential in helping students navigate this trying time of life.

Annie Rohde is our other new Parent Life staff. She recently earned her Masters in Public Health with a concentration in Maternal and Child Health from the University of Nebraska. Annie's knowledge and social work skills add a lot to our Parent Life team as well. Her passion to connect with teens shines through very strongly. You can often see her toting her own two kids along as she meets teen parents across the city.

In addition to Tiffany and Annie, Lenore Berger, on Campus Life staff, has stepped up to help out with Parent Life. We are better together. Between the three of them, they help teach parenting classes in four LPS high schools. These classes give our Parent Life staff a great opportunity to connect with pregnant and parenting teens in our community.

The Tuesday night Parent Life program continues to meet at Calvary Community Church at Superior and First streets. For each of those Tuesday night programs, a small group or individual prepares and serves a meal to the teen families; that same group or another volunteer group provides child care. We are better together. The service from volunteers allows our Parent Life staff and volunteers to invest deeply in the lives of these teen parents and their young children.



Taking Out the Earphones

These past few weeks in Parent Life, I've been humbled and surprised by a particular person who has been showing up and stepping out. It is a teen father who comes to Parent Life. He comes because he only gets to see his daughter on Tuesday nights. Jake normally shows up on Tuesday nights disengaged with his earphones in, but last week, I was able to connect with him on a deeper level. Jake participated in our prayer time and we celebrated his birthday. Opening up to me, Jake explained that his family struggles with poverty. He took the birthday cake and meal that was served at Parent Life home with him because he wasn't sure his family had food for the night. Jake also confided about how tough it is being a teen dad, not being able to see his daughter, and having family dynamics that complicate everything even further. He also told me how thankful he was for the birthday recognition. I'm excited to see what God is going to do in Jake's life.

*Dr. Tiffany Leonida
Parent Life Director*

Talking for Hours

We had multiple outings this summer, which allowed us to continue to deepen connections as well as meet new teen parents. One new couple came with us to a Saltdogs game; they sat and talked to us for hours about marriage, parenting two kids (their second is on the way), finishing school, and battling addiction. We are thrilled to be in their life now and to help them find life as God meant it to be.

*Annie Rohde
Parent Life Leader*





Tough Beginnings

I'm so excited about a student that has been coming to Parent Life for over two years now. Hannah is conquering this teen parent thing. She is going to college, recruiting more teen parents to get involved in Parent Life, and outwardly showing her faith at Parent Life meetings asking for prayers for life occurrences.

Hannah's beginnings were a little tough with her pregnancy resulting from an unwanted sexual encounter and she battles with depression. But, I'm so proud of where she is now and where she is going. Hannah has never embraced the victim mindset, and it has shown in all she has accomplished since her pregnancy.

*Dr. Tiffany Leonida
Parent Life Director*



Woah!

"Today was the day I ignored all my excuses and gave my all to the Lord. Today I got baptized, unplanned, at my church. It was the most amazing feeling and God has been calling my name and today I surrendered to my Savior! I couldn't be any happier with my new journey and to grow in my faith. Woahhh!!"

From a Parent Life participant's Facebook





Parent Life is Family

Macy, a 15-year-old girl, recently told our Parent Life staff,

“Parent Life is...my family.”

After having her baby boy, Macy changed schools in order to accommodate child care. Macy struggles with depression, losing weight after the baby, and finding her identity as a teenager, all while trying to raise her precious Presley. Parent Life has been walking alongside Macy through this difficult time. When Macy didn't make the grades to utilize the school's daycare, Macy had her mother watch Presley until one day Macy came home from school to find her mother drunk and high while Presley lay on the living room floor crying. Macy, only 15-years-old, had to call Child Protective Services on her own mother. Parent Life is Macy's family right now. She needs our support.





#CAMPUSLIFE

Campus Life Time and Location

All students are invited to join us at any time.

Middle School

Lux Thursdays 7:00am @ Gym A
Mickle Thursdays 7:00am @ Gym
Norris Wednesdays 3:45pm @ RM 102
Pound Tuesdays 7:00am @ Gym

High School

East Mondays 7:07pm @ Campus Life House
Lincoln High Mondays 7:07pm @ Campus Life House
Norris Sundays 6:30pm @ Norris Intermediate
Northeast Mondays 7:07pm @ Campus Life House
Southeast Mondays 7:07pm @ Campus Life House

Campus Life is better with you! You've kept Campus Life in place as the backbone of the Youth for Christ ministries. Over the course of this past year, over 1,000 students participated in Campus Life. Adam Forrester, Anthony Godtel, Lenore Berger, Seth Roepke, Ella Peterson, Beth TeKolste, Hannah Boe, Kaleb Andersen, Jarvis Green, Andrew Owens, and our six interns are out there every day meeting students on their turf.

Hannah has begun coaching sports at Lux Middle School with the hopes of connecting with more and more students. Each Thursday morning, as many as 115 kids have attended Campus Life at Lux to have fun and engage with the person of Jesus Christ.

Beth TeKolste continues to lead the charge at Norris High School. Her longtime connections to that school have proven invaluable to the redevelopment of that ministry.

This year, we've been proud to add Kaleb Andersen and Jarvis Green to our Campus Life team. Kaleb has jumped right in at Pound Middle School, and Jarvis is investing in kids at Northeast High School and Culler Middle School. We are better together.

In addition to weekly Campus Life clubs, we engage students through small groups, one-on-one appointments, trips, and events. All these avenues are essential in reaching kids for Christ.

For almost 40 years, we have been taking kids to YFCamp at Quaker Ridge in Colorado. Summer camp is a life-altering experience for many students! This summer was no exception. Out of the 16 students we took to camp, 13 either accepted Jesus for the first time or recommitted his/her life to Christ. Praise the Lord!



After Surviving a Suicide Attempt

Riley wore the coolest hat. I just had to say something. A couple back and forths about hats, and we were down the road of Riley's life story. Riley has attended Campus Life before, and at one point gave her life to Christ, but the daily parental messages outweighed the truth she heard at Campus Life. Riley doesn't feel like anyone has ever loved her because her parents have told her as much many times. After surviving a suicide attempt, Riley came to camp just to get away.

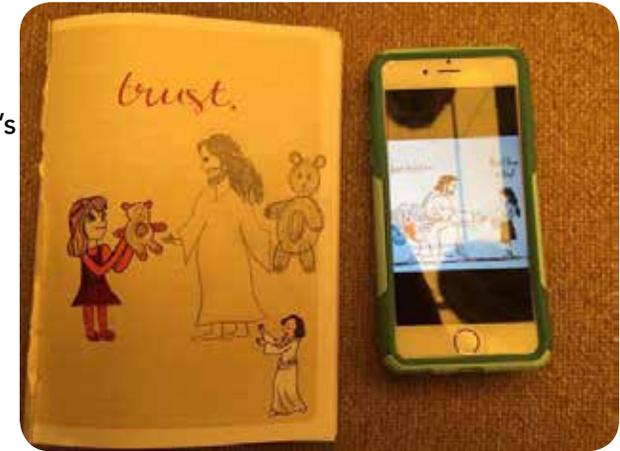
Throughout the week at camp, God was speaking to Riley and showing her how much He loved her. You could see the emotions - anger, fear, sadness, hope, distrust, desire - moving across her face. This girl is working through a lot. Toward the end of the week, Riley said she knows God has kept her alive and she thinks He loves her. Riley is so close to understanding! We connected her with a youth leader who will continue walking this road of faith recovery with Riley as she goes home from camp.

*Adam Forrester
Campus Life Ministry Leader*



Baptized at Camp

Let me tell you what God did at our church's teen camp the first week of June. We talked about allowing the Holy Spirit to activate our lives, and WOW, did God ever meet these campers!



Heather, one of the campers, stood up and said she felt stuck in her faith, like she wasn't loved by God. After Heather said this, one of the counselors stood up and shared that during her devotions that morning, God had given her a picture in her mind and she started drawing. It was a picture of Jesus and a little girl.

The girl was holding a tiny bear and did not want to give it to Jesus even though He had a bigger bear for her. Heather, who has been struggling with trust issues, got really excited, ran to the front, and started flipping through things on her phone. A couple of months ago when Heather needed uplifting, she came across this photo and saved it; the counselor had drawn a picture just like the one Heather had found. God was showing Heather that He is there and she can trust Him. Heather gave her life to Christ and was baptized at camp.

*Adam Forrester
Campus Life Ministry Leader*



A Thankful Mom

Erik is an 8th grader. He's going through a hard time with his mom. She has not been in his life very much due to some poor life choices. As a result of this, Erik has felt unaccepted and unvalued much of his life. This past school year, Erik made some poor choices that got him into continual trouble and made him miss out on a lot of great opportunities. But, we (Campus Life) were able to connect with Erik through coffee, movies, a bonfire, our overnighter, the Worlds of Fun trip, and finally YFCamp in Minnesota. Erik tried so hard to get a friend to go to camp with him, and I even tried to raise money to help one of Erik's friends go.

in for a big hug and said, "Thanks. This meant a lot."

Since our week at camp, Erik and I have had many talks about Jesus' love and what God has planned for him. Depths of love we'll never fully know. Good plans to prosper and give hope. Erik -- and all of us -- have a lot to be excited about.

The day after camp, I received this text message from Erik's mom:

"Erik had a great time at camp - talked all about it last night. I am kind of glad he didn't have a friend go with him; it sounded like he really opened up to making new friends. I hope it was a great trip for everyone. Thanks for being there for him!"

*Anthony Godtel
Campus Life Ministry Leader*

In the end, Erik came to camp alone. Yet, he did not leave alone. Throughout the week, Erik became good friends with the guys in his cabin. Our group had almost 20 middle school students at camp, and they really bonded through the unique atmosphere and experiences camp provides. Erik discovered the love of friendship and had an awesome glimpse of the great love of Jesus Christ.

Making it back to Lincoln Sunday afternoon, the students were all being greeted by their parents. Erik came back on the bus while I was cleaning, and he just stood there. I stopped cleaning, looked back at him, and said, "Hey man, what's up?" Erik came





Growth in Christ

Anna is a gal who, in middle school, always desired to be the center of attention. She had a hard time listening to others. Anna always felt the need to talk. She rarely attended church; it just didn't seem to be very important in her life then. Now Anna's in high school, and I've watched a change take place from her middle school days to today.

In the last two years, I've seen Anna grow from being one who always needed the attention on her to being a young lady who genuinely listens to others and listens to her Campus Life leaders. She still likes to talk, but she no longer needs to be in the spotlight. I attribute this growth to her growing in Christ-likeness as she is now heavily involved in Campus Life and her church youth group.

Beth TeKolste
Campus Life Ministry Leader



I Can't Wait To Volunteer!

Alexis has faithfully been part of a Campus Life club since starting 6th grade at Irving Middle School. She recently posted the following on Facebook:

"Can't believe it! Tonite was my last club as a high schooler for Campus Life. I am so thankful for the friends I have made through Campus Life and the bond I have created with people because of my youth group. I am also thankful for such caring people like the leaders and for being my shoulder to cry on when needed and just a second person that I know is always there for me. I can't wait for camp with everyone and to be a volunteer for middle school Campus Life next year!"

Not only is this former student volunteering for middle school Campus Life, Alexis decided to take part in our Leadership Academy program. It's a next step in our discipleship journey. We are thrilled to continue sharpening Alexis in her faith and training her in healthy youth ministry.

**#BETTER
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A Volunteer's Perspective

I'm super excited about Andy. He is eager to learn about Jesus. Andy always shows up early to club and never misses a Campus Life meeting. He participates in every discussion and loves to play the games. It's exciting to see how God is making an impact on his life. My hope and prayer is that Andy will truly understand and accept that Jesus loves him for who he is. The frustration, pain, and sorrow that we may feel is beaten through Jesus' love for us. I look forward to Andy's growth in his faith and the peace of knowing Jesus loves him.

*Bailey Brill
Campus Life Volunteer*

Worldwide Impact

Samuel is an immigrant from a war-torn country. His family fled from a hostile government a couple years ago and settled here in Lincoln. It was here that they were introduced to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Samuel has been involved with Campus Life for the last two years, but this year at YFCamp for the first time, Samuel felt confident in his understanding of how much Jesus loves him. That confidence has given him strength to overcome the bullying he receives at school.

*Anthony Godtel
Campus Life Ministry Leader*





Struggling with Fear

Cash was a sixth grader when I started volunteering at Pound. I kept in constant contact with him through middle school all the way up to high school. He struggled with his self-esteem and anxiety a lot; he never really thought he was good enough and always wondered what people were thinking of him. The summer between his 8th and 9th grade years, he skipped middle school camp and came with me to high school camp.

While we were at YFCamp, he really enjoyed the experience but wasn't ready to say "yes" to God. That was last summer. As his 9th grade year began, he still struggled with fearing what people thought of him, but as the year went on, he asked more and more questions about God. This summer at camp, Cash said yes to God!

*Andrew Owens
Campus Life Ministry Leader*

Principal Larson

Mark Larson volunteered for Campus Life at Lincoln High School during his college years. He's now the principal at Lincoln High and still supports Campus Life. At a recent event, Larson shared why:

One statistic of Lincoln High School's student population is that 65% of the students qualify for the free & reduced lunch program. "There's a gap there that we (the staff at LHS) can't meet on our own. It's amazing to partner with great organizations like Campus Life to fill in that gap," said Larson.

Then Larson shared this story of Campus Life in action. At LHS post prom this spring, a student was dealing with teenage stuff and really struggling. Larson asked him, "What do you need?" The student's answer: "I need to talk with Seth." Seth is our Campus Life leader at LHS, and Seth was there at 2:30 AM working the dunk tank at post prom.

Principal Larson said:

"This kid didn't want to talk to anybody else because he didn't trust anybody else, but he trusted Seth. And that was totally fine with me because I know Seth and trust Seth and believe in what Campus Life is doing."

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First Day



It was my first day working at Culler Middle School as a para-educator. Around 1:00 p.m., I went to the room I thought I was assigned to (God orchestrates all things), and I saw that a student was becoming very upset. He definitely did not want to be where he

was. I was told my correct room assignment, got settled in my room, and a bit later the upset boy was in my doorway. He had come to my room to calm down.

Through conversation, I found out that his name was Owen, his close uncle had just committed suicide, and his mother was not going to let him go to his funeral. Owen and his mother got into a big argument. He was still very upset at school. We discussed how society says men are not supposed to cry. Owen told me his grandfather had slapped him because he was crying at his father's funeral. I told him that it's alright to cry. I told him how my father passed away my senior year of high school, and I too didn't want to cry, but it took a special family member to touch my shoulder for me to let it all go. Owen brought up God so I told him I was a youth pastor at my church and that he was more than welcome to come to ours or any other church in the area. I love these moments when I can plant seeds of God's love in those who feel lost and alone.

Jarvis Green

Campus Life Ministry Leader

Dylan Coming Regularly to Church

Dylan's been around Campus Life for a while. He started coming to Campus Life in middle school, and he was an "Eddie Haskell" type of kid. When he got to high school, Dylan kept coming to Campus Life to hang out with his friends and to be around girls. He was a respectful kid, but he was not focused at all on Christ. Dylan was Jewish.

I invited Dylan to come to church with me a year ago. Dylan has been coming regularly to Elevate Church since. This past summer, Dylan went with the youth group on a missions trip to Salem, Oregon. They did outreach there. Before the trip, Dylan stated that he was willing to give Jesus a chance to reveal Himself on the trip, as well as in his life. During the trip, Dylan sensed that God was calling him into a deeper relationship with Him. Dylan is even more involved with Campus Life now, so much so that we have even discussed the possibility of him participating in our YFC Leadership Academy internship after he graduates.

Tyler Carter

Youth for Christ Director of Ministry





I Don't Know Where Mason Stands Yet

Mason is a student I met this year at Lincoln High School. I invited him to Mud Volleyball and wasn't sure he would show up. Typically kids only come if they have a friend there or at least know someone who already goes. Mason didn't really know anyone at Campus Life, but he showed up anyway (in a boot no less, because he had fractured his ankle). Not really the ideal situation in which to play mud volleyball, but to try to protect his boot, I made sleeve out of trash bags and off he went.

Mason not only had a great time at mud volleyball, he's been back every week since to play soap hockey, to hang out and talk with us during small groups, and to listen to the wrap up every Monday. (The weekly wrap up is the tie back into the Gospel and Biblical truths.)

I don't know yet where Mason stands in his trust in Jesus, but I am excited that he is coming. He's clearly bought into Campus Life, which means we've established trust. That's a victory. I love when new students join us and find a home amongst people they had no connection to before. I am so pumped to see how God will move in Mason's heart as the year goes on.

*Seth Roepke
Campus Life Ministry Leader*

Years Down the Road

This fall we received this Facebook message from a former student:

"Hi y'all!

My name is Jimmy Le I used to be a student that attended your program (Campus Life) in middle school and high school at Lefler Middle School and Lincoln East. The experiences, lessons and wisdom you guys gave to me have pushed me far in where I am today and I greatly appreciate them all!"



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Welcomed With Open Arms



Rachel's been living in a group home. Rachel's step-dad wanted her to branch out and get involved, so in 8th grade Rachel started coming to Campus Life at Lincoln High. She was extremely shy and hesitant about the whole thing, but now, three years later, Rachel is very involved in Campus Life. She attends everything we do, joins us at LHS sporting events, and texts me often. She has come alive seeing what a relationship with Christ is supposed to look like.

Rachel grew up in a very rule-based environment with God's name put on it. God's grace was not in the equation. Having watched myself and the other Campus Life staff live out our relationships with Jesus for years now, she told me, "This makes a lot more sense." Rachel has recently come out that she thinks she's bisexual. Still we have welcomed her with open arms at Campus Life and initiated the discussion on what the Bible has to say about all that. God loves Rachel. We are seeking to love her back to Christ, not push her away from Christ.

*Malinda DuBois
Campus Life Volunteer
(For 7 Years!!!)*



#CAMP

Upcoming Trips and Events

Campus Life Middle School

December - Dodgeball Tournament
February - Ski Trip
May - Worlds of Fun Trip
June - Summer Camp
November - Thanksgiving Dinner

Campus Life High School

December - Christmas Party
January - Ski Trip
February - Neon Dance Party
April - Overnighter
July - Summer Camp
August - Mud Volleyball Kick Off
November - Red Weekend in Omaha

Parent Life

December - Thanks'givmas Party
May - Omaha Zoo Day
July - Lincoln Zoo Day
August - Self Defense Class
September - School Year Kick Off Scavenger Hunt

For years God has used trips and camp experiences to draw students to His side.

Gary Schulte, our executive director in the mid 1970s and 1980s, remembers taking kids to Worlds of Fun in 1973, the same year that the park opened. Forty-four years later we still take students to Worlds of Fun! Why? Because when you can get a kid out of their normal routine and spend an entire day with them you can have deep conversations getting to know a kid and opening the door to share Christ with him/her.

For over 40 years, we have also been taking kids to summer camp at Quaker Ridge near Colorado Springs. Of course, there have been years we weren't able to take kids because of finances or staffing, but when we do, God throws open the hearts of kids.

Some trips, like Worlds of Fun and our all-nighters, are primarily relationship building times where as others, like Camp, Red Weekend, and Winter Retreat, are primarily geared at being spiritual growth / Gospel-sharing trips.

These next few stories of kids' lives being changed for Christ all happened on a trip or at camp this summer.



She Wasn't Interested in Jesus

"No." She wasn't interested in accepting Jesus. Rachel is a pretty straightforward kind of gal. Her honesty and spunk are contagious. Mid-week at the high school's YFCamp this summer, a conversation around what it means to believe in Jesus and trust Him as Savior was going on during the girls' cabin time, and Rachel was completely honest. She did not want to accept Jesus. But all through the week and during every cabin time, Rachel was very engaged in the conversation and asked excellent questions.

Rachel has gone to Campus Life since she was a 6th grader so she's heard the Gospel multiple times. Now in high school at summer camp, her questions, pondering, and confirmations were growing. On the last night of camp, Rachel told me,

"I'm so close to saying yes [to Jesus]."

I was thrilled! We're eager to see how Jesus will continue working in Rachel's heart as He draws her step-by-step closer to Himself. Rachel was so excited for Campus Life to start up for the fall semester.

*Ella Peterson
Campus Life Ministry Leader*

7 Out of 9!

We took a total of 20 students and staff from our various clubs to a summer camp in Colorado. Each student made a lot of progress personally and spiritually throughout the week in the Colorado mountains. Out of the nine fellows, seven of the guys either accepted Jesus as their Savior for the first time or recommitted their life to Christ. Out of the seven ladies, three said yes to Jesus for the first time, three recommitted their lives to Christ, and one said she was so close to saying yes.

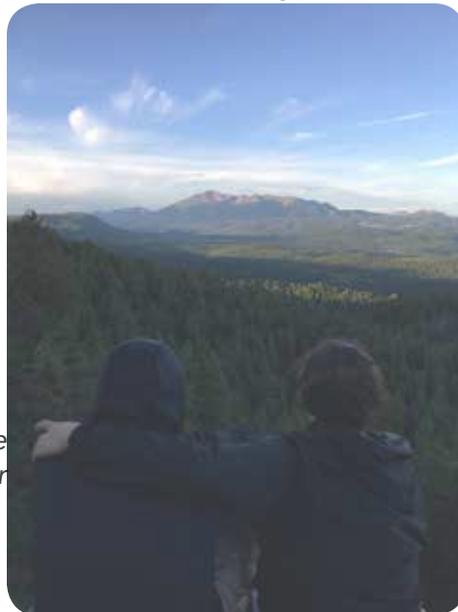




From Foster Care to Camp

Kyle, a student who's in a Christian Heritage foster care home, joined us for high school camp. We met him the day of the trip so it made sense that he was really quiet and off by himself a lot at camp. He seemed to be trying to figure things out. I was sharing a lot throughout the week about praying for a brotherhood to form among the guys at camp. Eventually on "mess night" (i.e. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"), Kyle opened up to our cabin. He shared that he feels no one at his home cares. He needed the guys at camp, the brotherhood that was forming. The next night, "response night" when students are asked to spend time alone with God, Kyle accepted Jesus into his life. During the time the students were alone with God, it rained really really hard and some of the cabins were flooded, including ours. All of Kyle's clothes and such had been left out on the floor. Everything was soaked. Immediately all the guys in the cabin offered to loan their clothes to Kyle, or whatever else he needed. It was really cool to see their response; a "we take care of each other" mentality had formed. The last day of camp, we got up at the crack of dawn to hike Soldier Mountain. Seeing the view from the top, Kyle said, "This is how I know God is real." It was breathtaking, the view from the mountain and the brotherhood that did form that week, centered on Christ.

*Seth Roepke
Campus Life Ministry Leader*



Gymnastics had Been Her Life

Bethany was devastated. She could no longer tumble through her floor routine or twist, flip, and fly between the uneven bars. Her injury ended gymnastics for her. Gymnastics had been her life. Now what did she have? What was her worth? Her parents were thrilled that Bethany agreed to go with the middle school Campus Life group to winter retreat. After hearing the Gospel and writing a letter to God, Bethany was thrilled too; bawling, but thrilled.

She explained to me that her whole family were Christians, and it had never really felt like her choice whether or not she wanted to be one at Winter retreat was the first time she was choosing Jesus for herself. Her heart was ready to say yes to Jesus. She realized that she now had God to lean on through letting go of gymnastics and finding her worth in Jesus.

*Shanna Wolff
Campus Life Ministry Leader*





She Never Said A Lot, Just Cried

A very private girl, Liz never said a lot, but every night at YFCamp she was crying. We would be discussing what the speaker talked about at club that day and Liz's tears would flow. Gathering from bits and pieces shared, Liz does not have a good relationship with her dad. The camp's speaker spoke often about the hurts from his father relationship as well. That broke Liz, and she knew she needed to invite Jesus, her heavenly Father, into her heart. At the end of the week, during the alone time, every camper is asked to take after hearing Jesus' invitation to us, Liz committed her life to Jesus. When she got home, Liz bought a Bible right away and sent a picture of it to me. Liz is on fire for Jesus, reading her Bible daily.

*Ella Peterson
Campus Life Ministry Leader*

Following His Girlfriend

Jack only came to camp because his girlfriend was going. Throughout the week, Jack and I had a lot of good talks about relationships. At the end of the week, Jack committed to the most important relationship of his life; Jack gave his life to Christ. Post camp, Jack and his girlfriend have broken up. Jack and I are still connecting and he is still coming to Campus Life.

*Seth Roepke
Campus Life Ministry Leader*



#LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

We are not looking for those who want a job. We are not looking for those who want to check a box or fulfill a commitment. We are looking for those who are passionate, those who are brave. We are looking for those who want to make sure that the Name above all names is known.

No bones about it, this won't be easy. At some point you will walk into a room of teens... teens you barely know, but you will walk in with purpose. You will walk in to extend grace and show love. You will walk in to build relationships with teens whom otherwise may never hear the Name... that beautiful Name. The Name that extends mercy and grace to the broken and weary.

In His name, you will tread the hallways of local schools. In His name, you will paint your face blue and act a bit crazy. In His name, you will sit knee-to-knee with a kid in jail. In His name, you will visit a teen parent in the hospital.

Christ bids you come and join Him. Join Him in the great work of making disciples among the teens of Lincoln. Join Him in caring for the second-chair clarinet and the captain of the football team.

If this is you... if you are passionate for Christ, if you are willing to take a risk in His name and speak truth, if you are considering a career of service in His name, then Youth for Christ's Leadership Academy may be right for you.

Youth for Christ's Leadership Academy is a paid ministry position for college-aged students, but let's be honest, you aren't motivated by the dough. You are motivated because you want to point others toward Christ.

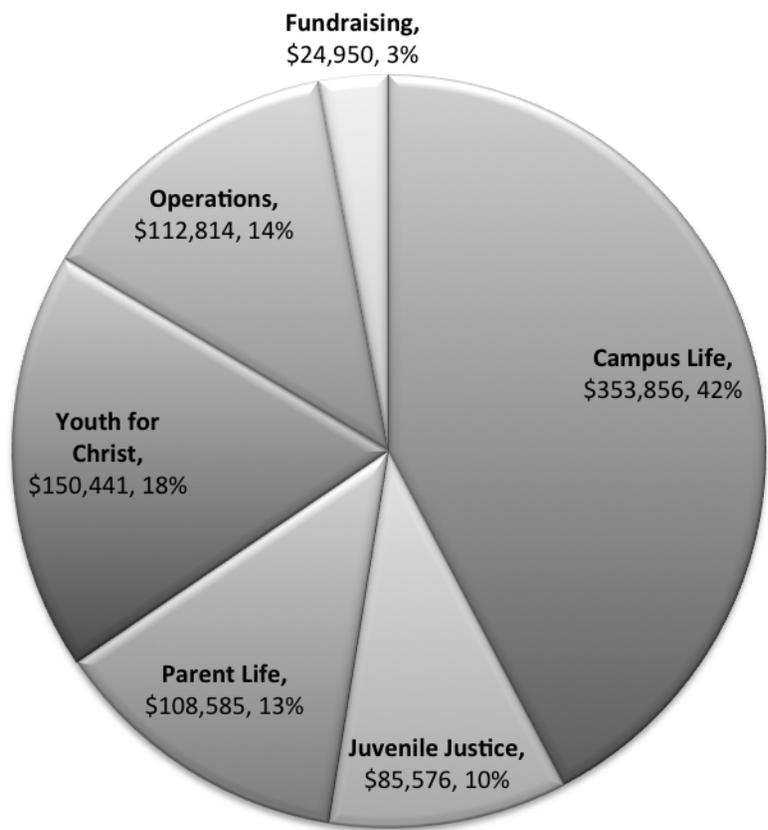
Join Us. Reach the Lost.

Watch the Video and Apply Online:
<http://academy.yfclincoln.org>



2017-2018 Budget

Total: \$837,000



YFC By the Numbers

\$343: Cost Per Teen Involved in the Ministry

1,843: Kids who Attended a YFC Program Last Year

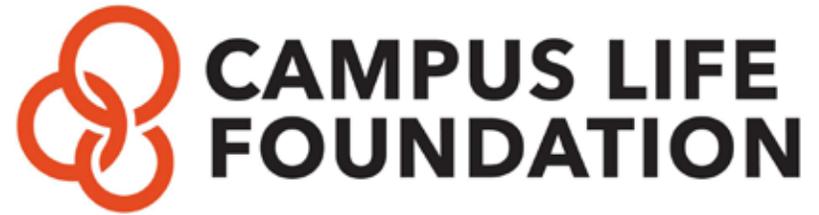
76% of Teens in Relationships with our Staff and Volunteers were Non-Christians

99: Teens Who Made a First-Time Commitment to Christ Last Year

122: Volunteers Actively Involved with Students

25: Staff and Interns on the Team This School Year





Leave a Legacy

If you believe in the mission of reaching lost youth with the message of the Gospel, you may want to consider leaving a bequest to the Campus Life Foundation.

Campus Life has been an active pursuer of lost students in the Lincoln area since 1969 and will continue to develop Christ sharing relationships with students for decades to come. Your gift to the Campus Life Foundation will be dispersed over a period of up to 20 years leading to a long-term significant impact on the youth of Lincoln.

Giving to the Campus Life Foundation is as easy as adding the following wording to your estate papers:

*I hereby will, devise and bequeath to
Lincoln Campus Life Foundation, a
Nebraska not-for-profit corporation,
(Federal Tax # 71-0882771), the sum
of _____ Dollars (\$ _____) or _____
percent (_____ %) of the remainder of
my estate to be used for the benefit of
Lincoln Campus Life in such a manner as
the Board of Directors thereof may direct.*

The foundation also accepts gifts of stock, real estate, personal property, and charitable trusts.

For more information about the Foundation contact Tim Bohlke, Nathan Kroll or Matt Schulte at: (402) 420-7475.



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