

## Amazing Adult Leaders continued

students.

...Bringing homemade pasta to the teen center in order to treat students after school to a special meal.

...inviting teens to their home and having a campfire and s'mores in order to facilitate discussion and a feeling of community.

...bringing their tools and equipment after a long day of work and spending two or more hours helping teens fix a bicycle they get to take home.

...helping a teen with their homework even when the "new math" is so much different than what they remember but putting in the work to research and help figure it out.

We are so blessed to have such an amazing team of workers teaming up to reach the young people God has called us to reach.

We have so many great adult leaders but we are reminded of the words of Jesus....Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Matthew 9:37

We are in need of more adults to help with this mission God has called us to. We cannot promise that every interaction with the young people we work with will be immediately reciprocated, but we do know that you will be making a difference in the lives of young people. I recently had a young person tell me, "I love coming to this place, the adults care so much".

Would you be willing to join us in the life-changing ministry that is changing the eternal address of many teens?

**YOUTH  
FOR CHRIST**  
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## Amazing Adult Leaders | Steve Pausch

Youth For Christ works here and around the world, because of all the caring adults who are willing to give so much of their time and energy to help tell teens about Jesus. During a recent reading, I came across this verse that truly describes those who we are blessed to work with...

<sup>4</sup> I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, <sup>5</sup> because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. <sup>7</sup> Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people. Philemon 1:4-7

From my vantage point as executive director I am able to see all of the different ways these adult leaders get involved in the lives of young people in order to share the Love of Jesus with them.

Recently, for the first time in over 30 years our adult leaders were at the Juvenile Detention Center on a Sunday to meet with those incarcerated and share a message of Hope when no one wanted to attend. These young people decided to stay in their pod alone rather than talk with a caring adult. Our adult leaders were not deterred and returned the next available session and shared Christ with the young people. Even when rejected, our leaders persevere and push through.

I have watched adult leaders

....pulling weeds in our community garden in the hot sun in order to spend time with

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## Building Trust | Laurie Beal

Within the last 2 weeks, Wadsworth has lost 3 young gals to suicide and an overdose and another most likely to suicide, not publicly known yet... and I heard a rumor today there was another girl. I pray that is not true. A group of former Garage Ministry kids started a Facebook group last week in response to these recent deaths and the MANY others over the last several years and they named it "Keeping Wadsworth Youth Alive." It is their grassroots and desperate attempt to stop this madness and hold each other above the water. They asked me to join and to be one of the admins of the group. I agreed, knowing the responsibility that comes with that. A thread was started for everyone to mention and remember all the local young friends we have lost. As of earlier today, 32 names were mentioned. 32. Gutwrenching.

So, in response, and to join their efforts, I am hosting a girls mental health retreat / lake day/ overnigher for all the girls in the group that are over 18 at our lake house, Labor Day weekend. You are never too old for a slumber party! We'll be kayaking, stand up paddle boarding, playing games, baking, watching movies, laughing, crying, eating...but mostly, purposefully listening, embracing, building relationships, creating support systems amongst themselves and with us, letting them know we are there 24/7 and begging them to reach out to us...and then praying that they do.



I am looking forward to this opportunity to speak Truth to these gals, to remind them of their worth and that they have a God that loves them and is always there to lean into. And that He has created them with purpose on purpose. I'm excited for the opportunity to build friendships and support systems, and I'm tired of going to funerals.

We have these types of outings regularly for our Garage teens but want to make sure those college-aged young adults know they are not alone, as well. Life's struggles certainly do not end just because 18 candles are placed in a cake. It truly takes a village and we all need each other!

## Starting New | Matt Mountjoy

We have officially started our new school year! As usual, I didn't know what to expect going into the first week, but normally the only unpredictable thing is numbers. The first week is notoriously either a very small group or a huge group. The shocking thing this year was that it was a very average-sized group! However, the one thing I didn't expect was for it to be so quiet at the beginning of the night. This was especially strange since most of the kids have been regulars for some time. As I asked them after the first ten minutes of them sitting in a circle barely talking: "Have you forgotten how to Garage? There's normally people shooting hoops, and playing carpet ball, and people just yelling!"

What I realized is that for the first time in quite a while we had lost a significant part of the group to graduation, and those kids had been a part of the Garage for many years, they were staples of the weekly culture. We had a talk about how this was actually a really cool opportunity. They now had the chance to really take ownership of the Garage culture. They could make it even more welcoming, and more fun than it's ever been before. We ended up playing a game where they had to both run around and also talk about things they were looking forward to happening with the Garage. It was a fun first step to already see new leaders forming and very quickly the vibe changed into a typical energetic Thursday night!

Stay tuned to hear how this new era at The Garage continues!

## After School Energy | Steve Pausch

The staff at our teen center in Brunswick have discovered a new, seemingly endless energy source. It happens every day at 2:45 and repeats the next afternoon. This renewable energy source is in the shape and sound of a group of middle school students who have been in different classes than their friends all day and meet up at the teen center. We feed them, provide a place for homework, and have plenty of ways to burn off some of the energy with ping pong, pool, a volleyball variation and fun crafts. The day ends with a group discussion about a relevant topic and how God's Word speaks today also. We are very thankful for the many caring adults who try to keep up with a roomful of energetic teens and guide them through relationship. We are always in need of more leaders so if you're interested give the office a call and come be a part of the energy!