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YOUTH FOR CHRIST of Northern Ohio - Newsletter
Connecting Teens To Jesus Christ And His Church
November 2026



My Family Doesn't Go to My Events | Steve Pausch

School campuses are bustling with activities and not only during the school day. There seems to be a never-ending array of sporting events, art shows, concerts, musicals and the like happening every week at the local school. High school sports often draw large crowds of cheering fans willing to sit on a hard bleacher or stand in the rain, but some of the other activities are less of an attraction. We do work with athletes in our ministry and do enjoy big varsity games, but we also work with other populations of teens who are involved in other venues.

The middle school band concert is often one of those events that are not a huge draw for spectators outside of immediate family. Family members have been used to the sounds of an instrument making a noise not quite on key but the general public does not often experience this. Middle school choir concerts combine music with the ever-changing voices of teen boys to create a very unique listening experience. Plays, art shows, quiz events, and lower-level sporting events usually have plenty of seats available, and the crowd is not overwhelming.

Recently, I received an invitation to a middle school choir concert from a young lady at our teen center. We have a sit-down meal each day provided by local churches, businesses, or individuals and have a time of

discussion around the table. One quiet, reserved young lady asked if I could attend her choir concert, happening in hours. I was not able to that night due to a prior commitment, but we talked about it a little more. She shared how no one from her family ever attends her events at school. I try not to make assumptions around family situations but have found that many of the young people we reach have the same issue. I could not make it to the choir concert, but I asked to be invited to the next one. Our staff make it a habit to be in the stands for as many teen events as possible to show our support for the teens we work with and cheer them on. In a packed crowd at a football game a teen may not feel our support but in a sparse crowd of a couple dozen at a concert we can encourage face to face. Our goal is to be involved in the lives of teens and support them in what they do as we build into them and introduce them to Jesus. Your financial support makes it possible for us to attend events and support those who may not have a big support group.

Thank you for helping us be involved in the lives of young people in many ways and in many venues. It is a privilege to be let into their world and be able to share these experiences. Please pray for us as we share with young people and help them understand how much God loves them. We appreciate your prayers and support and we will save you a seat at the concert if you want to join us!

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It Takes a Village| Laurie Beal

This week, I attended the annual "People Helping People" night sponsored by the Eagles #2117 in Wadsworth. They host this event annually, and it's a night that their organization gives away money they have diligently raised throughout the year.

The first time I was invited to come out and receive a check for The Garage, it was from the funds they raised at a trike-a-thon. I believe we were the only recipients that year? Or maybe they handled each fundraising event distribution separately? Regardless, each year since, they have hosted an event where they invite the non-profits that they are blessing with funds to an evening of food and community building.

This event grows every year, and this week I sat in awe as representatives from 64!! local non -profits got up and briefly spoke about how their particular group impacts the community. It was a LENGTHY presentation which is usually not the best mix with my attention span. However, it was captivating to hear and see how each of our groups plays a role in making life easier, more rewarding and doable by lifting our neighbors up. It's also a great opportunity to meet the people we talk on the phone to when we collaborate to make the best plan for those we are jointly serving.

It's a blessing to be one of the "dots" that can be connected to help a teen navigate life! ...and an honor to be one of the "dots" that also helps guide them towards the possibility of an eternal life with the One who cares most about them!

We are so thankful for the Eagles and all of you who see the importance of being there to embrace teens in this stage of their life and beyond...and who step in to financially make this possible. "It takes a village" sums it up well!

Riding a Wave| Matt Mountjoy

This year has been a very exciting year so far at The Garage in many ways. We have built a lot of great relationships, had a lot of great conversations, and met many new kids. As the Wednesday night group has continued to be strong, the Thursday night group this year started a little slowly and inconsistently. Then suddenly a few weeks ago a small group of middle school kids showed up. We had never met them before, but they seemed to really enjoy it. The next week they were all back, and invited a bunch of friends...and then the next week the whole group came back again. And suddenly we have a huge group of consistent kids down at The Garage that are having a great time, and we have been able to have awesome Christ sharing conversations with them.

One really cool moment came this past week on Thursday night after the lesson. I was sharing with them about times of suffering and what the Bible says about that. We talked about the verses in Romans discussing the paling comparison of the suffering we face to the blessings of God and the gift of Christ, and we read through a Psalm of Lament showing how it's ok to go to God with our burdens and unload, but then to remember who He is and worship Him. As is often the case with large middle school through young high school groups, there were a handful of kids that weren't paying attention, but I could tell there were many who were very locked in. Afterwards one of the eighth grade girls came up to me slightly teary eyed and just said, "Thank you.. .thank you for sharing that. I've had so many conversations with my parent's and counselors about hard things going on and no one has mentioned anything like that to me. I've never thought of using God as a resource. So thank you." It was such a cool moment and I feel blessed that God gave me the opportunity to share His love with her!