

Are we making a difference?

Every January, I ask my staff to reflect on their last year in ministry, and I do that as well. We set measurable goals for the coming year in ministry and in our personal lives, and talk about triumphs as well as things that we need to change. It can be disheartening to survey our work and see young people who hear about Christ, and seem to be taking steps forward and then fall back into their self-destructive habits; only to repeat the cycle over and over again. Often I ask myself, "Are we making any difference at all?"

Ultimately, we are planting seeds and the rest is up to the Lord. Having said that, we need to work diligently to help prepare the soil, so that it will be ready for the seeds to be planted. Often, we work with a young person for a number of years before they really grasp the truth and chose to be a follower of Christ.

Sometimes, however, God is gracious to us and allows us to catch a glimpse of the work He is doing. I had one of those times this week, when a mother stopped in to talk to me about her teenage daughter. Usually these aren't very positive conversations, and when I heard who it was I thought "oh no, not Serena!" This girl had been involved in our drama club and Project Serve for a few years and seemed to be making real progress in her life, spiritually as well as personally. On our recent trip to Costa Rica, she told me that she could see God at work and knew He was real. I was really discouraged that something was wrong so soon after that trip.

When I invited her mom into my office, she hugged me and tears welled up in her eyes. My reaction was "oh no, it's worse than I thought!". Serena's mom held on to me for a long time, and finally said, "I just wanted to thank you for the influence you have been on my daughter. She's changed! She's doing so well. We're getting along now! I know that's mainly due to you and the things she has been involved in at YFC. Thank you! You have made such a difference in her life".

I was humbled to think that God had used me in Serena's life. We don't often get this kind of recognition from parents and I realize it is God's grace to us when we do, so that we don't become discouraged and lose heart. Please pray that God will continue to pour His love through us.

FEATURE:

2011 in review...watching God at work

Each year, our staff collects their "stats" to send into our National office. It's very exciting to gather up the numbers, and realize just how many teens we have contact with in our drop-in centres, high school and junior high programs. Here are the 2011 numbers for all of Highlands 11 satellites:

- * Number of youth 13+ by direct ministry: 2,003
- * Number of youth 13+ contacted (media): 1,250
- * Number of youth 12 & under contacted: 336
- * Number of youth given an opportunity to be a follower of Jesus Christ: 487
- * Number who responded to the opportunity to be a follower of Jesus Christ: 93

As you know, our chapter of YFC operates The Door Youth Centre in each of our 11 satellite locations. We currently have 20 staff, hundreds of volunteers, and thousands of partners. In addition to The Door, we also operate Campus Life (High school), Extreme Zone (Jr. High), Project Serve and The Door @ StreetLevel. Each satellite has many weekday programs, and we jointly run trips and events throughout the year.

We are so grateful that God has blessed YFC with an abundant, fruitful ministry where we have the opportunity to build relationships with youth, share Christ's love through our daily outreach, and present the Gospel when the opportunity arises. As I have said in the past, we cannot do anything without you, our faithful partners, praying for us, encouraging us and supporting us. God is good! We are grateful to Him, and to you

ORANGEVILLE UPDATE

CAMPUS LIFE - JEREMY BRYDGES & ANN MCCALLUM have finished up Project Serve for now, while we concentrate on drama club and upcoming Dinner Theatre fundraisers in many satellites. Florida trip was amazing, and one of our youth decided to become a follower of Christ! We continue to visit schools and contact many youth on Facebook

THE DOOR - JONATHAN SMITH is back from his leave and has resumed his Satellite Director duties. **JEANNETTE STOKES** (Exec Asst) will continue to handle the administration of drop-in, and supervise drop-in shifts. **ANNA REILLY** will oversee drop-in nights, as we continue to look for a new Drop-in Director. Bible Study & Alt. Ed. Classes continue weekly

STREETLEVEL - ANNA and JEREMY are still consistently out on the streets and connecting with youth in crisis. Now that it is warming up we anticipate many youth needing our services!

SATELLITE UPDATES

(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

ALLISTON - The Door remains open on Friday nights, despite the fact that we still do not have a Director. **KAREN KNAPPER** has done such a great job of leading our wonderful volunteers. Bible Studies continue, as well as focus nights during drop-in times

ANGUS - We are continuing to search for a Drop-in Director, but **RON BIRCH** and the amazing volunteers are running drop-in, many events, and helping at the high school in the meantime. Where would our organization be without the faithfulness of volunteers?

ARTHUR - **JEFF & SHARI SHOEMAKER** work hard at keeping the Door open for drop-in, girls' night, Project Serve and Sports night, along with their efforts in deputation raising. Please pray that enough funds are raised for Jeff to come on permanent staff

CENTRE WELLINGTON - **DOUG CALDER** reports that many plans are crystallizing, resulting in new programs starting. **KELLY CULP** has increased her hours, allowing her to start Project Serve and Home with a Heart. **KAREN BAST** is working on an art project and helping with art in the school, and continues to lay groundwork in Guelph. **EVELYN HAS-ELLISON** has cut back her hours to finish her schooling but still takes drop-in shifts and offers support to teens through Door Fit and one-on-one appointments

COLLINGWOOD - **DANIELLE WHITE** continues to work with the new teens at the centre, but still struggles to maintain drop-in 2 nights due to a lack of volunteers. **AARON WHITE** has launched Campus Life and spends many lunch hours connecting with teens in the high school. **Dave Ridgeway** has been working with Jr Highs in the elementary schools and many have been introduced to drop-in. A Jr High drop-in night is in the works.

ERIN - Sports Nite continues, thanks to Hillsburgh Baptist Church volunteers. Currently Friday drop-in is suspended until warmer weather. We badly need a new Director! PRAY!!

GRAND VALLEY - **JOHN OOREBEEK** has seen an increase in the number of youth attending Boys' night, Girls' night and drop-in weekly. 3 young people have made decisions to follow Christ, so a new discipleship/Bible study has started for them.

HUNTSVILLE - We are pleased to announce that **ELIN PROCEK** has joined our staff as the new Door Youth Worker in Huntsville. She is currently raising support, although she has been volunteering for a number of months during our transition time.

SHELburne - **MANDY JOHNSON** has been working hard at raising support, and also getting to know the community and the youth. **JOHN OOREBEEK** continues to oversee the existing ministry and will be Mandy's supervisor as she learns the ropes.

STAYNER - **JENNIFER GERRIOR** continues to run drop-in and many other programs, including self-image for girls in the elementary schools. This satellite is still in great financial need, and although Jen has raised her hours to 30, much more income is needed for sustainability. Please pray that clear direction is provided for Jen and the committee.

How God has blessed YFC through your faithful prayers and giving! It seems like the needs of teens are endless, and we are so thankful that God allows us to continue to be involved in the lives of hurting youth. Please don't ever minimize your part in this venture - you are all vital to the stability and growth of the outreach ministry in each community. Thank you for standing with us! Please continue to pray for more workers, for encouragement, for the Gospel to go forth clearly, and for our financial needs. Thank you for giving to support our staff!
Ann McCallum.... Executive Director

HYFC

HIGHLIGHTS

- More new staff hired and raising support
- Successful Project Serve trip to Costa Rica

PRAYER

REQUESTS

- **STAFF NEEDS** Alliston, Erin, Angus
- Volunteers needed in all areas
- A new location for Fergus & Stayner
- Financial needs of staff and satellites

PRAISE

REPORTS

- A new worker for Huntsville
- Staff have all returned from medical leaves
- The Staff Needs list is shrinking!
- Teens respond to the Gospel

UPCOMING

EVENTS

- Dinner theatres
- Project Serve Levels I & II

All of our YFC staff appreciate your on-going support. Please consider how you can assist the staff in your community:

Prayer _____ Ministry Volunteer _____ Steering Committee _____ Financial gift _____

STAFF MEMBER NAME _____ MY NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ POSTAL CODE _____

_____ Please remove my name from your mailing list