

## A New School.... A New Future | Steve Pausch

1800 students dismissed from school at the same time can create quite a commotion on their way to busses, waiting cars, or busy sidewalks. We get to see this exodus each day at our teen center directly across the street from the new middle school. In Brunswick

Recently, we were invited to a meeting with school administrators and other community leaders to begin the process of discovering how we can work together to help young people. This was a very encouraging meeting, and I believe, maybe a first of its kind for Brunswick. More than 30 leaders gathered for a time of discussion and brainstorming that ended with a tour of the new building and facilities. Introductions and conversations between like-minded partners in the community were started that night and a new direction of cooperation is beginning to form.

Please pray that going forward we will see God work in many ways to help these groups work together and meet the needs in the community of Brunswick and that the spiritual needs of teens and families will also be addressed through these newly started partnerships.

*From all of us at Youth for Christ, may you have a blessed Christmas. We're thankful for each of you and your partnership with us in sharing the hope of Jesus with teens. Merry Christmas!*



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FOR CHRIST**

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# CONNECTED

YOUTH FOR CHRIST of Northern Ohio - Newsletter

Connecting Teens To Jesus Christ And His Church

December 2021

## 2021....What a Year | Steve Pausch

2022 is just around the corner. Where has the time gone? We all live in a much different world than we did a few years ago. We think of germs differently; personal space has a unique definition now; and we don't squeeze in quite so tight at church. We all know someone close to us who battled through a case of the virus, and many of us have lost someone close. As a ministry, we have lost several good friends this last year. The young people we are called to reach also live in a different world. Kids get free lunch at school regardless of family income levels; desks are spread further apart; and masks have become a part of everyday life. Teens don't seem to hang around in large groups anymore as their social circles have shrunk and much interaction happens virtually.

I started 2021 in a hospital bed recovering from COVID. That was a new experience for me, since it was the first time I had been in a hospital as a patient. The world looked very different when I got out, and I was left with a new resolve for ministry. All of our adult leaders and staff have been eager to see more ministry happen with young people, but something has changed. It is really difficult to get kids to come to an event. Prior to the pandemic, we were seeing 20-25 teens at our after school teen center, and similar numbers during evening programming. This Fall, it seems like we are working twice as hard and seeing half as many kids at events. Things have changed and so must we.

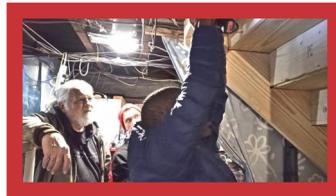
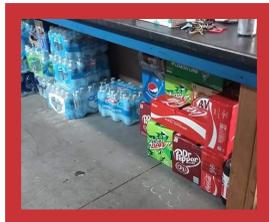
When I first started at YFC, the motto was: Geared to the Times But Anchored to the Rock. We would do things that would draw kids in according to the times, but we always shared the Love of Christ in relevant ways teens could understand. That has never changed. We have been looking for new ways to get more teens involved, and the past few weeks, we have seen an increase across the board at each ministry site. Bowling with a turkey, learning to decorate a cake, and making Christmas presents for family members are just a few of the ways we are gaining the attention of teens.

This work is difficult, but that's not a surprise. We know that sharing the love of Christ with a world that is maybe farther from Him than ever is a daunting task. But it is a task we are willing to wake up for everyday and a task we share with you as you make this work possible. Thank you for your prayers and support that send us out everyday looking for those who need to know the love of God through His Son.

Have a blessed Christmas and may 2022 be a year of great harvest.

## God in Action | Laurie Beal

There are so many integral pieces that help all of our Youth for Christ sites function! God creatively uses people in a variety of ways to provide services, keep our buildings ready to serve and to minister to teens. A recent example is a story that revolves around our FREE prom boutique that is open year-round to teens and provides many teens from multiple cities with dresses, suits, shoes and jewelry so they can experience the joy of attending their schools' dances! Our donations of dresses have significantly grown over the last couple of years, due to lots of generous responders to our Facebook posts! So, we decided to move our baby store for our teen parents to an upstairs space and expand the prom boutique into all three rooms in the basement. As we were switching up the spaces, a group from Grace Church, that had helped by doing a big workday in the summer, messaged and asked if their ladies Bible study group could take on a project or space at the Garage. They were thinking of the formal dress area. Absolutely! They showed up days later and began. We had a gal come from another city to dress shop while they were there. The gal had some struggles and had brought her mom along to help her shop. Unfortunately, due to our older shallow steps to the basement and mom's knee she had to remain upstairs. The ladies jumped in and helped the teen shop and we made it work. But, I started wondering if we could remove those old steps and build new sturdy and standard ones so that this didn't happen again. I asked my dad that night, and of course, he said he'd head up that project and also, we could teach some teens how to build some steps. The NEXT morning, I received an email from a couple from the Chapel asking if we had any specific needs, because they wanted to make a donation. Not knowing their budget, I listed a variety of items: diapers, lights for our new prom space, etc. AND new basement steps. The couple dropped off all the items I had listed, that week, AND a check to cover ALL the expenses for new basement steps! We then had our workday and the teens who came learned how to remove steps, measure for new ones, use power tools, build steps, and during lunch break how to play the guitar! It's hard for my dad to be somewhere and not find himself with a guitar in his hand and sharing that gift with others! Plus, during the workday, Freshwater Community Church hosted a pop drive and refilled our pop supply! Our mentors who organize regularly, big workdays, a ladies Bible Study, Facebook donations of dresses, a generous donation from a local family, a church pop drive, adults and teens building together...God in action! It's a true blessing to be part of this greater team working together to create a space for teens to come and be in a safe space, to be cared for and to learn about the Hope and Truth of Jesus. Thanks to EACH of you who are part of the TEAM! We need you, and we appreciate you!



## A Week in the Life | Matt Mountjoy

Oftentimes people wonder what kind of things go on in a week of ministry at The Garage and YFC Wadsworth. Is it just the nightly ministries that take place? I can tell you that there is a lot that goes into it, and by a lot of people. However, I'm going to take the opportunity to fill you in on some of the details of my small sliver of the ministry work that is done on a weekly basis!

Monday starts off the work day the way all of them do with prayer and praying for all of the individual kids. I normally do any work that needs to be done administratively like contacting people about various things or writing newsletters when its that week of the month, etc. If I'm honest, a lot of times, though my intentions are good, the newsletters are a day late (I say that as I'm writing this on a Tuesday night). Monday I begin to plan and study for my Wednesday night lesson, as well as contact whomever is planning on providing the meal for the Wednesday night group to confirm everything.

Tuesday is one of my lighter days as I spend finishing the Wednesday night lesson details. I try to get done any of my household/family stuff on this day, then I work on social media particularly talking with the Wednesday night crew trying to drum up interest in the following nights meeting. I'm not a fan of Snap Chat, but it is effective with the kids!

Wednesday, I plan for the game that night. Game planning isn't hard these days because I have quite the stockpile built up from the years. However, any physical prep or purchasing of materials for the games takes place then. Wednesday is also when I begin my prep for Thursday night lessons and focus social media on reminding the Wednesday night crew that I'm excited to see them all later, while messaging the Thursday night crew to try and get them excited for the next day. As evening rolls around, its Game Time! Steve Pausch and I get to actually do the fun part and hang out with the kids and share God with them!

Thursday is very much the same as Wednesday but wrapping up the lesson and game plans for the coming evening. Again, the social media marathon begins. Kids are weird and one once sent me a string of 40 pictures just of a kid's eyeball filling up the entire screen. However, contacting the kids works regardless of how weirdly they respond! At 6 PM the pizza and leaders begin to arrive at The Garage and we have a leaders meeting to discuss the game plan and from 6:30-8:30 we are hanging, talking, and teaching with the kids.

Friday is a heavy prayer focused day. With the weekly planning out of the way it's a nice day to be able to just look forward to Friday Night Hangouts. Since football season ended, Laurie Beal and I have started Friday Hang outs back up every other week. Its one more opportunity to hang out with the kids and provide a meal from 7-9 on Friday night.

One thing I can say for sure I never realized social media would be so much a part of ministry. It makes our work on call 24/7, and the kids definitely know we are there and they take advantage of reaching out to us any time. I hope you all have enjoyed just getting a little snapshot of what my week looks like! Please continue to pray for all of our leaders and all of our students involved in all the ministries that take place at Wadsworth YFC!