

Residual Benefits | Steve Pausch

Three times a week, at a minimum, our dedicated staff of adult leaders journey behind the locked doors of the Sandusky County Juvenile Detention Center to share the love of Christ with the young people incarcerated there. The curriculum varies from preaching, small group questions, to videos and discussion but each session ends with a young person hearing about what Jesus did for them. This group of amazing adults truly lives out the Gospel message by loving those who, at times, seem unlovely.

Every time our staff gathers with young people, it is just not the teens who listen to the message. There needs to be staff in the room to maintain protocol and these staff are a part of the audience too. Some of the staff are believers and may even jump into the conversation with teens while others are as lost spiritually as the teens.

Please pray for everyone in the detention system as they hear about the life-changing message of Jesus that they will respond and change their eternal living conditions.

We are always looking for more adults to minister to the young people we work with. If you would like to join one of our amazing adult leader teams please email or call the office.



November 2021

The Energy to Ride Out the Storm | Steve Pausch

Our teen center in Brunswick is right across the street from the new middle school where 630 6-8th graders make their home on a daily basis. They are dismissed at 2:45 every day and the parking lot and bus area becomes a whirlwind of energy that rivals any storm.

On Thursday October 21, the teens in our center experienced a different type of storm that was set to challenge their level of energy. It seems every teenager has a cell phone now and at 4:10 they all started making this loud obnoxious warning sound in unison. A tornado warning had been issued for our area. Two of our staff took the students back by the bathrooms, our designated area for storms, and I took the job of checking weather reports and watching out the windows.

After the initial hectic scrambling, the teens settled down and our staff started the "Talk Time" a little early. Each day we let the teens eat, do homework, play games or just relax for the first 90 minutes of the after school time then we have a discussion relevant to their lives. This time is often tough to get through with a group of energetic teens, but this day seemed different. The scare of a life-threatening storm seemed to focus them a little more than normal. From my vantage point I could hear them engaging in conversation, listening to one another, and being more honest. This didn't last very long as parents began calling and picking up their children early but for a moment there was the quiet "after the storm"

It turns out that 8 confirmed tornadoes struck northern Ohio that day, but the one predicted for our direct area did not materialize. Energy either from a storm or from a room full of teenagers can be a good thing to see when harnessed and directed. We often think of a storm as a bad thing, and for some that day it was, but for us it gave a small window to see things differently and dig a little deeper.

Please pray for us as we point teens in the direction of a life focused on Jesus and not out of control, because we all have seen what a storm can do when it runs wild. Thank you for your support that makes our ministry possible we could not give countless hours to meet the needs of teens without your help. Thankful for the storms.

**YOUTH
FOR CHRIST**

P.O. Box 323
Wadsworth, OH 44282
330-273-5794
www.northernohioyfc.com
www.garagezoe.com

Steve Pausch
Executive Director

Laurie Beal
Director of Ministry-
Wadsworth

Barb Pfeiffer
Office Manager

Local Ministry Directors: Board Members:

Scott Hulet
Herb Miller
Matt Mountjoy
Roger Seward
Stacey Stender

John Heese
Barbara Moran-
Engler
Eric Pfeiffer
Bobby Puls
John Roush
Kathy Stehno

Doing Family | Laurie Beal

Garage Ministry has been hopping this semester. There have been many new faces at our teen nights and teen parents group. We were able to give away many homecoming dresses, suits and accessories from our prom boutique ministry. And we have multiple projects underway. We just put up an outdoor give and take winter coat, hats, gloves and boots station and we are currently revamping our baby store, prom area and teen clothing area. We also have a big work day planned with teens next week. It is cool to see God at work in so many ways and in so many lives.

The current teens we are working with keep us busy. God gives us many opportunities all throughout the week to speak Truth and to tell young people about Jesus. Building relationships goes beyond our walls and our lot, and we regularly jump into life with these teenagers and their families. We take kids out to eat, attend their events, go to court, take them shopping and to church and hang out with them. We become family. I'm not really sure what our family role in their life would be called. I'd kinda like to think we are like the cool aunts and uncles! Let's go with that!

Regardless, we are family and just like with our own kids, when our "garage kids" age out / graduate/ move on ... we do not just close the door and say "See ya later. We've got new kids now." We show up for the current kids AND we remain "always there" which really means on call 24/7 to our current AND former kids. Here are some examples from the last couple of weeks of interactions with FORMER Garage teens: attended a funeral with former teens whose dad committed suicide; met with a former Garage gal to kayak, eat and talk about some hard stuff happening in her life; testified in court for a former Garage family; talked with a former teen who showed up to talk about his addiction and need for help; helping a former teen mom find apartment; had two former teens, now homeless, call at 2 am saying they hated to call so late but they remembered me saying if they ever felt unsafe and needed a ride they could call day or night...praise God they believed me. I'm now working on helping get one of them in treatment and one a job. I'm hopeful. Then, just this past weekend, two different gals that graduated a few years ago both messaged me, not knowing that the other had, asking me for help. One, as the gal hurting from the actions of the other and the second saying she really messed up and doesn't know how to fix it. The

Continued 

Plugging In | Matt Mountjoy

Getting kids plugged in to churches is one of our ultimate goals at The Garage and YFC. While we are focused on sharing the Gospel and do what we can to mentor and facilitate discipleship for those that come to know Christ, there is no discipleship and faith-training substitute for being part of a local church body. We are so blessed to have many churches who support us, prayerfully, financially, and reaching out to help specific teens with specific needs. This week we had a cool opportunity to get some kids involved with one of the local churches that has supported The Garage in the past.

Mosaic Church in Wadsworth just recently moved into the building across the street from The Garage. Their youth pastor, Scott, hosted an outreach event filled with games, door prizes, and the Cleveland Browns Chaplain as the guest speaker. This was part of a new monthly outreach program. As we saw the event advertised we knew it would be a great opportunity to take some of our kids to check it out. We had a handful of our football players from Wednesday night and one of our Thursday night regulars attend the event with me. It was a great time and the kids got to hear the gospel. Hopefully, we can continue to introduce kids to this and other local churches! It is our prayer that not only will kids come to know Christ but they will become a full-fledged part of the Body of Christ!

three of us are meeting tomorrow for dinner.

That's a partial list...and all of that "life doing" happened in just the last 2 weeks. What a good reminder that there really isn't such a thing as a FORMER Garage kid! Once a garage kid, always a garage kid!

When these young people lean on us, it feels good that they know they can count on us. But better yet, we then have the amazing opportunity to remind them of the ONE who TRULY is always there and will help them through every step and who they can have a genuine relationship with! ... I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

Thanks to all of you who help us make ministry happen...and happen some more!