



#STORIESOFYOUTHFRONT

growth & transformation | summer recap | diamonds & denim

YOUTHFRONT NEWS

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"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"
2 Corinthians 5:17

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GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION

What an amazing summer of ministry we've had at Youthfront. Over the last seven years, we have been in expansion mode and this last year has been extraordinary. After several years expanding and improving Youthfront Camp West, we have turned to focus on Youthfront Camp LaCygne. Over the last nine months, we've renovated seven cabins, added a water splash park on the lake, a Gaga ball facility, a climbing wall, a zip line, and other new features. We also added five new programs at Youthfront Camp LaCygne focusing on different age groups. For the first time ever, we launched a Day Camp which was highly successful. To do all of this, we had to add six new Youthfront Staff members. We are so blessed to have added amazing staff who are passionate followers of Jesus Christ and love youth ministry. And here are the results:

- Our attendance at Youthfront Camp LaCygne had 1,000 more campers than last year. We experienced an overall 23% growth in camper attendance and we exceeded nearly all of our projections helping us fulfill our mission of bringing youth into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.
- We welcomed 23 new church youth groups to our camps this summer helping us fulfill our mission of being a church-assisting organization.
- We increased our Summer Staff and Teen Staff programs by more than 20%. This is amazing because working with these older adolescents is by far our most profound program of discipleship and leadership development that we have as a ministry.

Even though we have a great staff, great volunteers, and great relationships with churches and youth pastors, the reality is so clear to us – we could not do the life-changing ministry we do every day with thousands of young people if it weren't for our amazing friends like you who pray for us, tell people about us and give financially to make it all possible to see young

people transformed, like Madi. Madi has spent 5 summers at Youthfront Camp LaCygne and she was the Sports Supervisor this summer. She will be a freshman at the University of Missouri this fall studying Documentary Journalism. Here is her testimony:

"My first summer at Youthfront Camp, I had camped week one, and then came back every single week as a volunteer. It was the first time that I think I had actually accepted Christ in my life; even though I grew up in a church, I was just exposed to a whole new light. We were at a campfire doing worship one night, and I can remember sitting there. It was one of my favorite songs but I stopped singing, and I just looked around and saw the glow of people's faces from the fire. I remember I looked up at the stars and back down and then it was the first time I had stood up and just opened up my arms to the Lord; I had never done that before during worship, because I am a shy person. It was a really big moment, because I've had many memories here, but that's one that will always stick with me. Youthfront is a really healthy balance between growing in Christ and having fun while doing it; I feel like a lot of people who don't really know much about the Christian faith, they look on it as just sitting there and praying all day, very straightforward and black and white. But that's not the case...it's having fun, it's growing in relationship with others, and living together and thriving in this beautiful world that we have."

You are a vital part of this success story. Your support results in transformed lives like Madi. Together we can continue to raise up a generation of young people to follow Jesus Christ.



Mike King



YOUTHFRONT CAMP RECAP

#STORIESOFYOUTHFRONT

YOUTHFRONT CAMP WEST

This summer, we explored the “Lost & Found” parables told by Jesus in Luke 15 and what they reveal about God’s nature and love. We invited campers to receive God’s love, no matter where they found their starting place to be and ultimately to be transformed by it, so that, together as the Church, we can become like Jesus. Of course, as a camp for third through eighth graders, so much of what kids take away derives from the “feel” of camp. While we put a ton of work into the program described above, we realize that for this age it is often the cabin leaders, fun, activities, friendships, conversations and community that kids remember. Those moments alongside our theme of Lost & Found made for a transformative camp experience this summer.

“I’ve learned that God doesn’t want us to be perfect; he just wants a relationship with us.”

DEREK FOSTER

Camper at Youthfront Camp West



YOUTHFRONT CAMP LACYGNE

There are times in life when we embark on something that we know will take monumental work and reliance upon the community around us. This is what summer 2017 has been for Youthfront Camp LaCygne. We entered into the summer with a multitude of new staff and everyone in roles they had not tackled before. Every one of our staff set a foundation and precedence for a long future of faithfulness to the Youthfront mission. Our staff worked tirelessly and faithfully. It was an honor to be a part of something that was difficult yet abundantly transformational for each of us. God was present, faithful and bold this summer. Through community, growth, and transformation seen across each facet of camp, we know that God is the author of these good things and we are thankful to be a part of what God is doing at Youthfront Camp LaCygne. Thank you for supporting these new programs!



“Coming to Youthfront for the first time with one of my friends was the first time I ever encountered Jesus...This was the first place that I experienced a Christian community...We do everything together—we eat together, we pray together, we have fun together and play together. I think it’s cool to see a huge group of people living their lives for Jesus together...”

JENNA GILIO

Cabin Leader at Youthfront Camp LaCygne

YOUTHFRONT DAY CAMP

As we ventured into this new territory together, it amazed us as a Day Camp staff to watch kids experience the love of Jesus in new ways. It was great fun talking to day campers who just jumped onto the blob, played on the splash park, or experiencing the zip line, and hearing them explain experiencing these things for the first time. Leading sacred space was also a great experience, where kids and leaders all spent time quieting down before the Lord and learning the value of listening for what God might speak into our normal, everyday lives. No matter the specific activity at camp, it was a fun summer for our Day Camp team growing close together as we grew close to each camper who came to Day Camp. We had several campers from the first few weeks who came back multiple times and had a great summer together! We also continue to pray for each Day Camper from this summer, that they would know how high, wide, long, and deep is the love of Christ Jesus!



PAIGE’S STORY

Paige goes to a school that has very few girls in her grade—typically 5-7 girls in a classroom of 18. Finding friends has been challenging, and finding Christian friends has been slim to none. She went to Day Camp this summer and she was thrilled to make new friends. Her mom asked her if she notices a difference between kids at Youthfront and her schoolmates. She said a big yes! When asked how, she said they are kinder and nicer at Youthfront, and with much enthusiasm she expressed, “Finally, I have friends I can talk to about Jesus and ask questions since they know him too.” She sounded so happy and relieved to experience this rare treasure of community and fellowship. It deeply touched her mom’s heart to hear her talk about this.

Then her mom asked Paige if she would want to go to a private school someday in the distant future so that she could have a better chance of a Youthfront-type of community at school. She said no, because there are so many important life lessons happening by being in this world. And since this is the world she is going to be living in the rest of her life, she couldn’t see how it would be good to leave it and stop having life lesson opportunities for how to deal with living among those in this world. She truly is being missional in where she is at. Her mom feels like Paige is a missionary where God has her right now, and Youthfront Day Camp energized her to take what she learned back with her into her missionary field next fall.

“I can’t thank Youthfront enough for the amazing way you have touched my daughter. The joy of experiencing a faith community on such an impactful level will stick with her in her heart. And I can tell it will serve as encouragement and a source of joy. She is already talking about Teen Staff and can’t wait to spend her summer there when she is a high schooler. So cool!!”

>>> To read more Stories of Youthfront, check out our blog at www.youthfront.com/blog

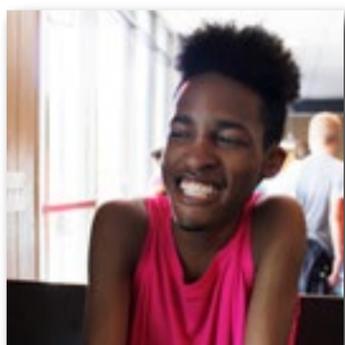
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"As a camper, I was convinced that God was present more at Youthfront; there was no other explanation as to why I would feel so loved and impacted inside of camp...As I've grown and matured in my faith, I obviously stopped believing that camp was the only place I could feel such a deep spiritual connection. I came to the conclusion that the community and Christ-centered routine of camp is what created its magic. The camp creates a perfect environment for campers, staff and Teen Staff to grow in their faith."



Lizzy Arnold

Teen Staff at Youthfront Camp West



"I've really liked the little meetings that we have with each other in the cabins; we've been talking about certain stuff like forgiveness and what is grace—the hard questions that nobody really likes to talk about."

Ricky Chatman

Camper at Youthfront Camp LaCygne

#storiesofyouthfront

"I think that these types of spaces cause me to really contemplate my relationship with the Lord, and help me to slow down...I think Youthfront does a good job of pointing—even us leaders—to Him so that we can pour out into others."

Alex Dressman

Volunteer Cabin Leader at Youthfront Camp LaCygne



"You don't have to go seek really far for help; it could just be in your own backyard. I've learned a lot about the struggles of these people and it's just been a really fun experience because I've gotten to eat at these peoples' houses, talk with these people, help these people with their yards—it's just been really fun."

Micah Broekhuizen

Missional Journey Volunteer in Kansas City



Our Summer in Numbers

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>23 new church groups attended Youthfront Camps</p> | <p>> 4,060 combined number of campers who attended Youthfront Camp LaCygne, Youthfront Camp West, and Youthfront Day Camp</p> | <p>226 1st-5th graders who attended Youthfront Day Camp, our brand new program!</p> | <p>> 90,000 Something to Eat meals packed by campers for those in need</p> |
| <p>Attendance at Youthfront Camp LaCygne increased by > 400% since last summer</p> | | <p>> 10,000 people attended Feed the Funnel parties with Something to Eat or our partner organizations</p> | |

>>> To read more Stories of Youthfront, check out our blog at www.youthfront.com/blog

Or, follow us on social media: /youthfront @youthfront @youthfront

You're Invited!

Youthfront's 7th Annual Fundraising Auction

29 September, 2017

Join us in celebrating the Stories of Youthfront! Enjoy dinner, entertainment by comedian Devin Henderson, live music from country artist Nate Mitchell, silent and live auctions, and more! We have a wonderful evening planned for you all. Don't miss it!

When and Where

6 PM | **OVERLAND PARK MARRIOTT**
10800 Metcalf Ave · Overland Park, KS

Tickets

youthfront.com/diamondsanddenim
913.262.3900 · \$65 per person · \$600 per table of 10



“...being in a Christ-like community in a world where these communities can be difficult to find is a huge blessing. Some of the best moments of God’s kingdom breaking through are when we as a community can truly be better together.”

Thomas Cherian

Cabin Leader at Youthfront Camp West

Read the rest of Thomas’s story at www.youthfront.com/thomass-story

#storiesofyouthfront