



MARKING A MILESTONE

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A Word from Mike

JOYFUL FOR 75 YEARS AND LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

What an amazing year we have experienced celebrating our 75th year of youth ministry at Youthfront. We are filled with gratitude for the ways that God has richly blessed us this year. Our programs have realized dramatic growth. We've launched new programs that have taken off in significant ways. We've added new and super talented staff members. We are just days away from starting our 76th year of ministry with a surge by moving into a new headquarters building that is in the final days of almost two years of construction.

God has blessed us beyond our wildest imaginations this last decade and has poured out so many blessings during our 75th anniversary year. But we are passionately looking toward the future to discover what God has in store for us.

Right now, we are in the middle of a major strategic planning process facilitated by the Paterson Center. Paterson Center is dedicated to guiding world-class organizations from where they are to an even more brilliant future. Tom Paterson, whom organizational guru Peter Drucker declared to be, "the greatest process thinker in the world," founded Paterson Center. Paterson's innovations like the ATM and the StratOp planning process have changed the world we know in many ways. Tom Paterson is 91 years old and occasionally still visits the office. Our leadership team, while in Colorado going through the first phase of our strategic planning process, was fortunate enough to meet and talk with Tom. When the current president told Tom that we were from Youthfront, describing us as "an organization transforming the lives of thousands of young people in the Midwest and around the world," Tom began to weep tears of joy. He was so grateful that his work would be able to add to the future success of Youthfront. We were honored to meet Mr. Paterson and grateful that we are going through this strategic planning process to prepare Youthfront for our 100th anniversary in 25 years. Over and over again, we affirm and declare that Youthfront is about Jesus Christ, as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever.



During this holiday season, I am so filled with JOY. I'm JOYFUL that God became flesh. I'm JOYFUL that the Lord Jesus Christ has brought us the Great GOOD NEWS. I'm JOYFUL that Youthfront has so many heroes, like you, who love, pray, volunteer and give generously so that young people will know Jesus Christ deeply and be inspired to be fully alive, flourishing human beings cooperating with God's work of redemption and restoration. Joy to the World, the LORD has come.

Mike King

NEW AT YOUTHFRONT

Midday Prayer App now available for Android and Apple

After a successful initial release for Apple devices earlier this fall, the Midday Prayer App was expanded for Android devices in November.

The Youthfront Midday Prayer app allows participants to join the larger Youthfront community each day at midday or pray anywhere at anytime. The app includes beautiful prayers that have been prayed for centuries, some for two thousand years, along with daily scripture reflection, silence, prayer for others and meaningful original music written by Youthfront staff. **To download the app, visit youthfront.com/midday-prayer-app.**

Putting the finishing touches on the new headquarters

As the year comes to a close, the last touches are being made on the new Youthfront headquarters and we couldn't be more excited about the potential this building holds. The building is perfectly designed to facilitate the kind of youth ministry needed as we move into the mid-21st century.

The new headquarters will feature nearly 30 private offices for our Kansas City based staff, along with several workstations for our staff visiting the office from our other ministry locations. The office will have more than a dozen collaborative work spaces, a beautiful prayer chapel, two outdoor patios, a reading/study room, four conference rooms of various design, a kitchen, dining room, two large custom glass dividers that open space for larger training and meeting areas, and access to other meeting spaces adjacent to our headquarters.

New Youthfront staff in 2018

Along the theme of growth and change, this year Youthfront has welcomed several new staff members to help drive our ministry. If you haven't already, you can look forward to meeting these new faces of Youthfront: **Xavier Hogan**, Logistics Coordinator for Something to Eat; **Michaela Remijio**, Content Marketing Specialist; **Matt Rich**, Program Director at Camp LaCygne; **Lisen Tammeus Mann**, Director of Development and Marketing; **Abbie Thompson**, Program Director at Camp West; **Whitney Lewis**, Creative Design and Marketing Specialist; **Teresa Cowel**, Food Services & Hospitality Manager at Camp West.





IMAGINE

75TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

A MILESTONE TO REMEMBER

Youthfront's 75th Anniversary IMAGINE gala was a spectacular night! Nearly 300 guests, Teen Staff and volunteers gathered at the beautiful Madrid Theatre to join in celebrating 75 years of youth ministry.

It was a party from start to finish with exciting entertainment, delicious food and wonderful fellowship. We heard stories from Youthfront campers, parents and those in the community who shared the impact Christ has made in their lives.

Your generous giving helped us raise more than \$200,000 (double from last year), creating a vision for what the next 75 years of youth ministry could look like. Thank you for your loving and faithful commitment to the youth of our city. Get ready for Year 76!



75TH ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS

Some dear friends and colleagues wrote us to share their thoughts and well wishes on our 75th celebration. Below is just some of what they had to say.

“Congratulations, Youthfront, for 75 amazing years. It’s been inspiring to see the depth and width of Youthfront’s national impact grow over the years.”

Dr. Kara Powell
Executive Director, Fuller Youth Institute; Faculty, Fuller Theological Seminary

“I believe Youthfront has been one of the most important organizations in all of American youth ministry. The utter integrity of all the whole talented team is evident, and their unique way of practicing a Christocentric spirituality is intoxicating.”

Dr. Andrew Root
Professor and Chair of Youth and Family Ministry, Luther Theological Seminary

“Youthfront is among the most significant and impactful organizations who care for our kids in the country.”

Dr. Chap Clark
Department Chair and Professor, Fuller Theological Seminary

“It is no surprise that Youthfront is on the rise, having fearlessly pursued the practice of faithful youth ministry now for 75 years.”

Mark DeVries
Founder, Ministry Architects; Co-Founder, Ministry Incubators

“I’m so proud to be able to point to Youthfront as that rare ministry that actually changes young lives, deeply and profoundly, in ways that last a lifetime. Thank you for being there to lead and inspire the rest of us.”

Dr. Kenda Creasy Dean
Professor of Youth, Church, and Culture, Princeton Theological Seminary

“I am so grateful for how you’ve consistently listened closely to the Holy Spirit, putting a high value on serving the Church - and churches.”

Doug Clark
National Field Director, National Network of Youth Ministries

“ Don’t stop now. The world needs what you do and how you do it. **”**

Bill Tammeus
Former Faith Columnist, Kansas City Star

“May God give you divine insight as you look back on the key milestones and lessons of the past 75 years. May they serve as a platform, in the coming days, for all that Jesus wants you to be and to do ‘until He comes.’”

Paul Fleischmann
President Emeritus, National Network of Youth Ministries



Giving Back

from within the walls

Participants in Lansing's Brothers in Blue Reentry program package meals for the hungry

Lansing Correctional Facility was host to a Youthfront Something to Eat "Cone Zone" packing party through a special partnership.

Incarcerated individuals participating in the Brothers in Blue Reentry program had the opportunity to pack meals for people struggling with food insecurity through a Something to Eat Cone Zone meal packaging party. Brothers in Blue Reentry is a program inside Lansing Correctional Facility that gives men an environment for inner change and equips them to function as husbands, fathers, and citizens upon release. Brothers in Blue offers an intensive, voluntary faith-based program within a supportive Christian community inside Lansing.

Youthfront has had a partnership with Brothers in Blue, whose members helped produce temporary meal bags for Something To Eat earlier this year, but had never had the opportunity to host a packing party themselves. That day came on Friday, Oct. 5, 2018.

"We're really grateful to the staff at Lansing and to the leadership of Brothers in Blue for making the day possible," said Mike King, CEO at Youthfront. "We've had an important relationship with this program, and our entire staff has visited them in prison. Youthfront has provided scholarships for many of the inmates' children to come to our camps. The inmates have volunteered to work on projects for us to help further our mission to impact the lives of young people, so it was a huge blessing to be alongside them this day."

Members packed 4,000 meals, which were distributed to Convoy of Hope in Springfield, Missouri. Youthfront's Something to Eat program is available to groups large and small who want to fight food insecurity. Since 2009, partygoers have packaged more than 4.3 million meals that have been distributed to food pantries around the United States and Puerto Rico.

To learn more, donate, or schedule a "Cone Zone" packing party, visit www.somethingtoeat.org.

IS IT SUMMER YET?



The weather may be getting colder, but at Youthfront we are thinking much warmer thoughts as we are already gearing up for another great summer of camp in 2019.

SUMMER CAMP FOR K-12 STUDENTS

Registration is open for Kids Camp, Middle School Camp, High School Camp, Combined Middle/High School Camp, and Day Camp. Youthfront Camp provides an atmosphere where students can grow in their faith while having a blast and developing meaningful relationships with fellow campers and staff.

Sessions fill up quickly, so don't wait to register. Campers who register by March 1 will receive \$15 in Early Bird Camp Bucks to spend in the Snack Shop. Campers attending with a group should get their Group Hold code from the group leader before registering. Learn more and register at youthfront.com/camp.

TEEN STAFF FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS

Teen Staff is a communal experience for high school students to live, love, and serve together through Youthfront programs and events. Teen Staff get to spend one week or several serving at camp during the summer and can choose from a variety of roles, such as lifeguard, kitchen crew, snack shop attendant, camp ranger and more.

We are now accepting applications for Teen Staff 2019, and students who will be in high school during the 2019-20 school year are eligible to apply. To find out more and apply, visit youthfront.com/teenstaff.

SUMMER STAFF FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Summer Staff jobs are ideal for energetic and fun-loving college students who want to make a positive impact on the lives of kids and youth at camp. These student leaders hold vital roles as Cabin Leaders and Program Staff, making the daily activities and camp community truly special. Summer Staff positions are paid a minimum of \$200 per week, plus room and board. A limited number of internship positions are also available.

We are now accepting applications for Summer Staff 2019. To learn more and apply, visit youthfront.com/summer-staff.



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BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

You make Youthfront's ministry possible.

We hope you will consider a year-end gift - there are many ways we could use your support:



Make a one-time gift or a monthly commitment to sustain our ministry and programs.



Consider donating property such as a car. We also have specific needs in our facilities for equipment, games, and more.



Our ministries count on volunteers. For information visit youthfront.com/donate/volunteer-opportunities-youthfront



Gifts of stock can make a huge impact for our programs and have tax advantages for the donor.



Consider including Youthfront in your estate plans and your gift will have a lasting impact.

Our fees don't cover the costs of programs and facilities. Your gifts of time and resources make our work with youth possible. Contact us for more information or guidance on your gift or how to get involved!

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