



# MAKING THEIR MARK

student entrepreneurs work  
to improve their community

WHAT'S NEW AT  
YOUTHFRONT

REMEMBERING GOD'S  
CALL AT CAMP

THE IMPACT OF  
GIVING



## It's all about Jesus Christ

*"For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." Paul, The Apostle*

I'm frequently asked, sometimes in person, during an interview on a podcast, or while speaking at a conference, "How is it that Youthfront has been around for three quarters of a century and is still seen around the world as an innovating youth ministry organization?" I like to mention our amazing staff, our faithful and generous donors, our programs and facilities, our creative thinking and ideas, plus much more. However, the reason I believe Youthfront has continued to thrive is our focus on Jesus Christ above all else.

Throughout human civilization there has been a quest by human beings to seek the good life, to pursue virtue and character development and to find meaning in the lives we have. Jesus Christ promised to give us life and life in its fullness. At Youthfront we believe that young people can develop a virtuous life of generosity, kindness, honesty, forgiveness and love.

The Apostle Paul declares the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ as the central focus of his ministry and this informs us about what is really most important. We believe that Jesus loves each of the young people whom we have the opportunity to minister with. We believe Christ desires to empower these young people to have abundant lives that will be a blessing to their families, friends and communities.

Youthfront will faithfully continue to pursue our mission to bring youth into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. And when I say Youthfront, I include you, our partners and donors who support this organization because you believe you can make the world a better place through the ministry of Youthfront. You are needed and critical to the success and faithfulness of this ministry to the emerging generation.

Please continue to support these young people who are making a big difference in their communities through the ministry of Jesus Christ at work in the world.



*Mike King*

## NEW AT YOUTHFRONT

### Youthfront debuts YF Family

Looking for parenting (or grandparenting) tips and strategies? You're not alone. We've heard from so many of our families that they'd like additional help for the various stages of parenting.

Youthfront's staff has been hard at work on resources and opportunities for parents and launched YF Family, a monthly email with family and parenting tools, in September. YF Family is also hosting a series of parenting courses for parents and grandparents this fall. To be sure you're receiving YF Family information, sign up at [www.youthfront.com/parentresource](http://www.youthfront.com/parentresource).

### Thank you, camp grandparents!

This past summer more than 100 grandparents came out to camp and worked alongside their grandchildren in our Something to Eat meal packing program. It was a blessing to have the extra pairs of hands for this service project, and a treat to have grandparents out at camp. Collectively, this group donated more than 320 volunteer hours to Youthfront and the hungry in our community.

### Supporting Youth Pastors and Leaders

An important part of Youthfront's mission and ministry is coming alongside churches, their youth pastors and volunteers. Youthfront has added several new offerings to its year-round training opportunities for those in youth ministry. The first in a series of social and networking times just for youth workers was held Sept. 12 at Youthfront's headquarters. Fall dates include:

#### Youth Worker Lab - Thursday evening, Oct. 10, 2019 | 4600 Rainbow

Designed specifically for Youth Workers and their ministry volunteers, our new Youth Worker Lab series will give you hands-on, practical resources for your ministry with space for creative conversation and reflection. Dinner will be provided, and space is limited.

#### Pastor in a Secular Age - a conversation with author Andrew Root | Nov. 7

Root will talk about his latest book, Pastor in a Secular Age, which explores the identity and practice of the pastor, obscuring his or her core vocation: to call and assist others into the experience of ministry. Don't miss this powerful conversation designed for pastors, youth workers, ministry leaders and volunteers.





Imagine Argentine students presented their concept for a pop-up splash park, complete with water gun props.

# Middle School Entrepreneurs Make a Splash

*Water fun and swimming in Wyandotte County is hard to come by with only one public swimming pool. A group of middle school students in Argentine tackled the challenge.*

Youthfront's Imagine Argentine social entrepreneurship program gives young people a chance to wrestle with the most pressing issues facing their neighborhood. On July 18, the students presented "City Splash," their concept for a new pop-up spray park, to a room full of city leaders, business owners, friends and families. They shared their business plan - complete with

water gun props - for "bringing fun, portable water oases to KC's swimming pool deserts."

"It's entrepreneurship for a new world, for God's kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven," said Kurt Rietema, Youthfront Director of Justice Initiatives. "When we have youth look to their neighborhood at the brokenness they see around them, they're

asking themselves, 'What does it look like when heaven comes to Argentine?'"

Youthfront piloted Imagine Argentine in 2016 with the goal of sparking youth to be passionate changemakers in their community. The four-week intensive program equips youth with entrepreneurial skills and channels their creativity into

social ventures that improve quality of life in under-resourced neighborhoods. In Argentine, nearly half of children under 18 live under the poverty line and only 10 percent are at grade-level standards in math and 12 percent in science.

The Snack Shack KC was the brainchild of the first cohort of youth as a way to address the social isolation of neighborhood kids and the blight of empty storefronts in their community. Snack Shack KC is now a social business run year-round by youth and volunteers, located by the South Branch Library in Argentine. Youth in the second cohort established Boredom Busters, which provides programming, classes and games at the Snack Shack.



**Cover and top:** Imagine Argentine students participated in a neighborhood mural restoration project during their experience. **Bottom left:** Seventh-grade student, Javier, shares about resources that would be needed to make City Splash a reality. **Bottom right:** Imagine Argentine leaders, supporters, friends and family members enjoyed the students' presentation at Pitch Night.



**This year's students have already raised more than half of the start up funding for City Splash, but more help is needed. If you would like to be a business mentor, volunteer or contribute, visit [www.youthfront.com/imagineargentine](http://www.youthfront.com/imagineargentine).**

# a call to worship



*The first time Natalie Holland heard God's voice, she was 12. At Youthfront Camp. Sitting under this tree outside the chapel.*

"It was the first time that the Lord really ever spoke to me. And He said, 'Natalie, I want you to sing for My glory.' And I didn't really know what that meant at that time, but I just knew that it was the Lord," she recalled. "I just knew that He gave me my voice for Him."

Fast forward 20 years, and today, Holland has had a long career as a worship pastor and is now

serving in Gardner, KS. She and her husband, Dave, recently planted Restoration Church, which is celebrating a year in ministry this fall.

This past summer, the Hollands' oldest daughter became a Youthfront camper, which brought Natalie back to camp and her memories of hearing her call to ministry.

"I just know that there have to be other stories," she said of her experience. "I got so encouraged to see my daughter come and to see that you guys are still doing Nightstrike... it's the community of it, it's finding friends, it's the worship, it's the teaching and [Youthfront] is still doing it after 20 years. I just thought it was remarkable to see that."

Holland says her daughter's experience at Youthfront mirrored her own.

"It was really nostalgic...she brought home her little journal and we got to read over it together. I really want my kids to establish a faith on their own," she said. "I love that Youthfront provides that: It lets them hear the voice of God on their own."

Holland says she and her husband have been in ministry for many years, and in those roles, you don't always know how and when you're planting seeds. When she picked up her daughter from camp, she intentionally sought out Youthfront's staff to share her story and how her experience communing with God at camp shaped her future.

"What I think I took away the most at Youthfront is that you're not too young to hear the voice of God," she said.



# THE IMPACT OF GIVING

Youthfront's donors changed the lives of nearly 8,000 young people and families this past year. A huge thank you to all who made it possible:

- » More than 150 children in need were able to experience camp thanks to donor gifts.
- » Donors helped support the more than 100 Summer (college) Staff who led young people's faith development at camp for 10 weeks this summer.
- » Twelve middle school students in Argentine launched a new social business venture through Imagine Argentine, a program growing thanks to the investment of donors.
- » The Snack Shack KC served hundreds of young people in Argentine throughout the summer as a safe place to meet and be together thanks to donor support.
- » Youth and families packed more than 488,533 meals for the hungry, thanks to donor support of Something to Eat.
- » Youthfront provided training and support to nearly 100 youth pastors and ministry leaders, thanks to donor support.
- » More than 300 Teen Staff (high school) students served kids at camp and at Youthfront's mission site in Croc, Mexico, thanks to donor support of Youthfront's high school ministries.

Thousands of young people experienced the love and light of Christ through donor support of Youthfront's programs and ministries. Thank you for being the lifeblood of our mission!



4600 Rainbow Blvd, Kansas City, KS 66103



**Thursday, October 24, at 6 PM**  
**Grand Street Cafe at Country Club Plaza**

Show your support for Youthfront at our annual fundraising gala!

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## **GREAT CAUSE, GREAT OPPORTUNITY**

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Gala sponsors and auction donors receive significant publicity via Youthfront's media channels as well as at the event itself. It's a great way to promote a business or service to more than 16,000 Youthfront friends and families. A range of sponsorship levels are available.

■ Visit [youthfront.com/bignightoutgala](http://youthfront.com/bignightoutgala) to learn more. ■