



**YOUTH  
FOR SIOUXLAND  
CHRIST®**

# THE MESSAGE

**Summer 2018**

[siouxlandyfc.org](http://siouxlandyfc.org)

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

**I don't need your help, or God's!  
I can take care of myself!**

Jesus came to proclaim good news, freedom and sight for the blind and to set the oppressed free. (Luke 4:18) Jesus came to give life! (John 10:10) You and I know this, but do today's kids?

Kids today are hungry for pleasure and significance they can't obtain. They are trying drugs, acts of sex or cutting their own flesh. They are running, hiding and acting out, but nothing seems to satisfy their hunger pains. We meet them in a state of confusion, extreme hunger, frantically searching and deeply longing for positive relationships. In a sense they are saying "hey, look at me, I'm important, I have value!" Yet others are the exact opposite, deeply hurt, isolated, suicidal, lifeless.

More than anytime in history, today's kids are being devalued by a world that tells them "you're no good, you have no value, you are worthless." Being an 11-19 year old has its normal challenges, but being devalued causes them to adapt by putting on masks of deception, building walls of protection and developing tools for survival. This often leads them down a road of anger, isolation and depression.

**These are today's lost kids.  
Extremely at risk and the burden  
of Youth For Christ and its mission.**

Research shows 3 in 4 kids have given up on church activities, labeling them "lost kids". We are reaching over 1200 lost kids annually, going into their environments, developing authentic Christ-sharing relationships between one adult and one kid. In fact, we develop hundreds of these relationships annually, offering lost kids an opportunity to make a decision and commitment to a life long relationship with Jesus.

Jesus came to Give Life. Who is telling today's lost kids?

**Karl Van Cura**, Executive Director

# CITY LIFE MINISTRY STRATEGY

**Transforming the Lives  
of Youth, their Families  
and Communities**

By Roxie Rahn / Chapter City Life Director

Our vision for City Life ministry is to empower youth in our urban, suburban and rural setting to change their community for Christ. The City Life ministry model has its roots in a rich history of Youth For Christ, desiring to reach high-risk youth.

Originally launched through camps and trips, it later evolved to year round ministry. Focusing primarily on youth in systems, there became a glaring need to develop a ministry model that worked with young people in urban, suburban and rural communities before they might become incarcerated. City Life was born!

City Life is a relational, holistic, community based ministry that desires to see deep change in a defined neighborhood through the raising up of indigenous leaders from the young people in that community.

How do we do this? By keeping a tight neighborhood focus and living in that neighborhood if the Spirit leads. By doing relational, holistic ministry with a critical mass of youth from that neighborhood. By raising indigenous leaders who don't move out, but stay and give back.

Currently we have 3 City Life Teen Center locations in Sioux City, Le Mars and Hawarden. All our City Life staff have chosen to live in the predefined, tight-focused neighborhoods. This is our commitment to lost kids!



## Considering it Pure Joy!

One of our special needs students was recently gifted a 3 wheel bike by Josh's Ride. It was a joy-filled moment at the Le Mars City Life Teen Center for staff, volunteers and students to surprise Tyler with this bike. Tyler is still over the moon about this and tells everyone "I have a new bike without training wheels and it has a basket to carry my stuff!"

This fall Tyler begins his junior year and has been watching all of his peers begin to drive and line up jobs. Tyler knows he will never drive, so the joy of Tyler having a way to get around brought many of us great joy in tears. Tyler is experiencing safety, trust and love from our City Life team...a safe place he can be himself and not judged. Tyler is becoming that indigenous leader who won't move away, but stay and give back. A spokesperson for YFC and God's love for the youth of Le Mars.

**YFC envisions engaging 20% of the lost 11-19 year olds in Siouxland** with authentic Christ-sharing relationships through an empowered and mobilized army of adult and student Christ-centered leaders.



# HOPE RISING IN HAWARDEN

By Tim Cook / Sioux County Area Director

In our second year at the Hawarden City Life Teen Center we are averaging 30 students weekly. This provides an amazing opportunity and privilege to build relationships with students in this community, most of them far from God. We listen and treasure them and look to share with them God's story intersecting with ours. Sharing about the true life giver...Jesus.

## **Because of your faithful support we have been able to:**

- enter into answering a girl's questions about the Bible, leading to giving her a Bible of her own
- walk alongside the pains and struggles of students as they deal with divorced parents
- help a student deal with his family being so far away in another country
- rejoice with students as they win championships or do well academically
- lead students through the doors of our churches for a Sunday morning service

Youth For Christ cares for the well-being of our students and introducing them to Jesus. We desire to help them with their everyday needs and dreams. At the City Life Teen Center

we live out the life of Jesus as best we can by offering Tutoring, Arts & Crafts, Snack Giveaways, Family Meal Time and Economic Programs and hand out free bikes.

We have developed these programs to help students with life skill development thus producing better grades, or even learning how to use a vacuum and financial literacy. A simple task for some, but the opening of new perspectives for others. We desire for all students to be known, loved and provided for as God loves and provides for us.

## **Moving forward we desire to provide:**

- a high school student only night
- small group Bible studies
- additional Family Meal Time nights

This will require more resources and more leaders to come alongside students to walk, listen and focus on building more authentic Christ-sharing relationships. We are excited about what God is doing in Hawarden and we look forward with anticipation knowing God will bless us with more favor, opportunities and resources to reach, help and impact more students in Hawarden and Sioux County. Hope is Rising in Hawarden!

# SUMMERTIME IN THE CITY

By Roxie Rahn / Le Mars City Life Director

Le Mars City Life is ever changing and growing. We really want to reach every youth we can that might be at risk, which means we cannot wait for them to come to us. We have to be more accessible to them. This can seem difficult, but we have to be creative.

One new summer program added was Thursday night softball league and we averaged 20+ kids! This ended up increasing our Thursday night Family Meal Time attendance as kids came in to eat before they played. That in turn increased our ability to know, talk and love on them. Even our ART classes saw an increased attendance on Thursdays.

As we strategically began to think about building deeper relationships between the adults and kids, we brainstormed a monthly Mystery Dinner. Students sign up in groups of 3-5 to be

hosted for dinner and games at a volunteer's home. This has made a huge impact on relationships with kids. Youth see adult volunteers interacting with their families and experience hospitality within the safety of their peer group. And volunteers get richer, deeper and more intentional one-on-one time with kids. Win-win!

We also started a program to teach youth basic skills in building, home maintenance, and vehicle maintenance. Like building a bench, changing a tire or the oil in the car. Again, more one-on-one time between students and adults, while leading and learning valuable life skills together.

These new programs in ministry have increased the kids we reach, the impact through deeper relationships and the opportunity to share Christ in our everyday lives...living life with them side by side.



# This is real life. These are real questions. This is real ministry.

By Adam Alfredson / Sioux City Near Northside  
City Life Director

Why am I intimidated about engaging lost kids who are different than me? Why do cultural differences, sexual preferences, varying upbringings, and contradicting religious views make me hesitate to build relationships with young people? Why am I scared, feeling uncomfortable or even embarrassed when I try to share about sin in a young person's life?

These are a few of the questions we often ask ourselves, and we are staff at Youth For Christ. The fears seem to be stacked against us sometimes, but thankfully, God is faithful, knows and continues to pursue young people, even when we question ourselves.

The following are examples from staff and volunteers about entering into the real life struggles our kids open up to us about:

- I have one student who is seeking how to have his own relationship with Christ. His parents are divorced. He sees how joyful his mom is in her faith and wants that. But his dad, not being a believer, mocks him for his belief in Christ. He has already said yes to Jesus, but struggles on what that looks like in his life. How can I help him in this struggle?
- One of my students recently said yes to Jesus, but walks in a fallacy of what he believes is true in the bible. He claims that he is gay in sexual orientation. We have had some long conversations about this topic. How do I walk with him without pushing him away or making him feel condemned?
- One of my girls has a lot going on in her life. She struggles with being bi-sexual. She says she believes in Jesus and was recently baptized at her church. She struggles with with deep shame. Her circumstances at home don't help, as mom and step dad constantly fight and she has to take care of her little brother. She is confused, feels alone and no one is listening. How can I be the one that listens to her and shares the power of Christ?

This is real life. These are real situations. This is real ministry. Join us as we pray for these young people and others like them. Pray for our staff and volunteers, who are experiencing the costs for choosing to follow Jesus by reaching lost kids.



## SUMMER CAMP UPDATE

Mid July to early August has been camp month at YFC. This year because of our loyal camp scholarship supporters, we were able to bring a total of 69 kids and their leaders to two YFC Camps and one High Adventure retreat.

- 42 middle school kids and leaders to middle school camp near Boone, Iowa
- 16 high school kids and leaders to high school camp in the Missouri Ozarks
- 6 high school kids and leaders to serve on the Project Serve team at middle school camp
- 5 high school kids and leaders to a High Adventure/Student Leadership Development retreat in Colorado

This is about a 30% increase in kids and scholarships over last year! And ALL the kids received scholarships in some manner to get them to camp. It's always wonderful to hear from the national camp leadership team that Siouland always gets the right kids to camp. Thank you all that supported financially through camp scholarships in some way!

In the next few weeks we will be meeting as staff and volunteers to evaluate our camp experience and to share stories of life change with each other. It is always a rich and joyous time of encouragement for each other. We intend to share the struggles and successes of life change from YFC Camp coming up in our Annual Ministry / Camp Report. So be looking for this ministry report.

## Campus Life Position Open

We have an exciting part-time position open as a Campus Life director at Le Mars Middle School. We are seeking an energetic individual who will give leadership to the ministry of reaching middle school students on campus and in the community; recruiting, training and mobilizing a team of caring adults; being a community leader and one who enjoys investing in young people.

The right applicant is someone with: a passion to share the Gospel; strong relational and communication skills; ability to connect with teens and recruit and mobilize a team of volunteers. This person must be willing to take initiative, be a team player, and be willing to grow in their leadership and ministry journey. If interested, please contact: Jim Rahn @ 712-546-6311 or jrahn@siouxlandyfc.org



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# Fall Campus Ministry Roll Out

In late August our kids will become students again and be back in their Siouxland schools. So late September/early October means Fall Campus Ministry Roll Out time! This fall we are excited to announce we will be firing up 6 Campus Life programs in Sioux City, Le Mars and Hawarden, including one new Campus Life Club for Sioux City West Middle School students on campus and the beginning development of a Campus Life Club for West Sioux middle school students.

Over the next 5 to 10 years Campus Life will be an important ministry growth and development model for ministry in reaching lost kids. We will be sharing our plans and needs over the next year or so. But in the meantime, please be praying for favor in doors opening into our public schools, for surrounding churches and volunteers to rise up and join us in reaching lost kids on their turf...in the school!

This ministry is in need of start-up volunteer teams, volunteer site coordinators and start-up financial resources. If you would like more information on how you might help please contact any of our Area Directors or Executive Director.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

We Appreciate You! Fall is Appreciation season for our faithful supporters. Whether you pray, volunteer or financially support YFC, we have a mixed bag of gratitude and appreciation coming your way through the fall months. We hope you don't deflect this appreciation, because as the body of Christ it takes a team, a community and a city to reach a kid, and we couldn't do it with out you!

- The Plymouth County / Le Mars ministry center will be holding our **Annual Bowl-a-thon** in late October. This is a fun way to say thanks to our churches, supporters and volunteers, and raise funds through lane sponsorships for ongoing ministry in Le Mars. Be looking for more information soon.
- The Sioux County / Hawarden ministry center will be holding their **2nd Annual Fall Banquet** this fall. This event informs and thanks our churches, supporters and volunteers, while raising funds for ongoing ministry in Hawarden. Be looking for more information soon.
- All 3 City Life Centers will be holding **Soup Luncheons** to appreciate all our partners, supporters and volunteers in early December. Be looking for more information soon.

### YFC Staff

#### Executive Director

Karl Van Cura

#### Tri-City (Sioux City) Area Director

Jim Cole

#### Plymouth County (Le Mars) Area Director

Jim Rahn

#### Sioux County (Hawarden) Area Director

Tom Cook

#### Le Mars HS Campus Life Director

Dan Goodman

#### Le Mars MS Campus Life Director

Open 20 hrs / wk position (hiring)

#### Le Mars City Life Director

Roxie Rahn

#### Le Mars City Life Teen Center Manager

Ellen Anderson

#### Sioux City MS Campus Life Director

Calee Ewing

#### Sioux City Near Northside City Life Director

Adam Alfredson

#### Sioux City Near Northside City Life Manager

Chris Jones

#### Sioux City Near Northside City Life Coordinator

Michal Cole

#### JJM/Aftercare Program Coordinator

Adam Alfredson

#### Chapter Donor Care Specialist/Office Manager

Julie Cole

#### Chapter Bookkeeper/Compliance Coordinator

Emma Curry

### Siouxland YFC Board

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