



**YOUTH
FOR** SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN
CHRIST®
GIVE LIFE TO YOUR STORY

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friends,

As I look back on 2025, my heart is full of gratitude. This year has been a testimony to God's faithfulness and your partnership in reaching young people with the hope of Jesus. Together, we've walked alongside hundreds of students in Southwest Michigan—listening to their stories, meeting them where they are, and pointing them toward the life-changing love of Christ.

In 2025, we started a new mental health initiative - Rebalance, strengthened our Campus Life programs, trained and equipped our leaders to be more effective, and all of this has led to a year of impact. Because of your prayers, volunteer hours, and financial support, we've been able to invest deeply in the next generation.

This Annual Report is more than numbers on a page. It's a glimpse into real lives changed—students who have found hope, leaders who have stepped up, and a community that believes God can do amazing things through everyday relationships.

As you read these pages, we invite you to celebrate what God has done and dream with us for what's ahead. Together, we are reaching lost young people, restoring relationships, and raising up lifelong followers of Jesus.

Thank you for standing with us in this mission. The best is yet to come.



Chad VanDosen
Executive Director



OUR TEAM



Chad VanDosen
Executive Director



Adam Forrester
*Sturgis
Campus Life Director*



Branson Hernandez
*Burr Oak
Campus Life Director*



Rylie Vizthum
Office Manager



Rebecca VanDosen
*Project & Finance
Manager*



Ken Mills
*Facility / Fleet &
Senior Advisor*



Abby Capps
Rebalance Coach



Maleah Boulanger
Rebalance Coach



Dawn Wisler
*Accounts Receivable
& Payable*

OUR BOARD

Laurie Northrop, Chair
Mike Kline, Vice-Chair
Aaron Miller, Secretary
Dawn Wisler, Treasurer
Tony Bishop
Jim Brott

Rod Chupp
Lanette Conklin
Darin King
John Mikulenias
Brian Oswald

**“THE NEED HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER —
AND YFC HAS NEVER BEEN STRONGER.”**

"I've always believed the teen years are challenging, but never more so than today. The constant pressures of the internet and social media have created a need for Youth For Christ that is greater than ever. There are countless poor choices available to kids, but YFC offers a Christ-centered, positive peer group and a safe environment where better decisions can be made. It helps young people sort out what is real and meaningful from the false narratives they see online.

The need has never been greater — and YFC has never been stronger. Our leadership, finances, staff, board, and volunteers are among the best I've ever seen. As a board member since YFC's beginning in 1986, I'm honored and grateful to still be part of this team today."

John Mikulenias

Board Member since 1986

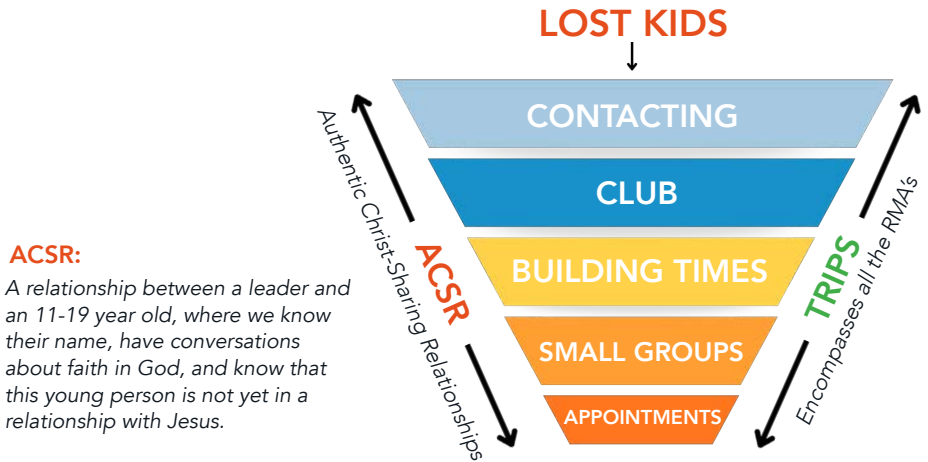




We combine healthy relationships with creative programs to help young people make good choices, establish a solid foundation for life, and positively impact their schools. Campus Life seeks to engage these young people wherever they are found as lifelong followers of Jesus Christ.

RMA'S (RELATIONAL MINISTRY ACTIONS)

The avenues through which we establish loving relationships with 11-19 year olds



Contacting: Initiating new relationships with lost young people.

Club: A welcoming, safe, high energy, large group meeting designed to help lost young people discover who Jesus is by fostering Authentic Christ-Sharing Relationships and connecting relevant topics to Scripture.

Building Times: Spending time in shared experiences with young people to build new relationships and grow existing ones.

Small Groups: A meeting with several young people to have an interactive discussion about relevant topics and connect them to God's truth.

Appointments: Meeting with young people to focus on their individual needs.

OUR IMPACT



“...MORE THAN JUST NUMBERS ON A PAGE.
IT’S A GLIMPSE INTO REAL LIVES CHANGED”

3,713

Volunteer hours

604

Young people connected to Campus Life in a conversational relationship with a leader

326+

Young people known to be lost with whom Christ is being shared

42

Re-commitments to Jesus

17

First-time decisions to follow Jesus



BRANSON'S STORY

I said Yes to BU@YFC— Here's What Happened. [Scan to Watch](#)



BU@YFC is a collaboration between Bethel University and Youth For Christ. It provides opportunities for YFC's leaders to achieve a college degree at a discounted rate, fostering the next generation of ministry leaders.

Accessibility

Youth For Christ believes in investing in our future leaders. Graduating high school students involved in Campus Life, YFC volunteers, and staff are all eligible for the BU@YFC program.

Affordability

Bethel University offers reduced tuition to BU@YFC students. Plus, all eligible YFC students and leaders may apply for the Graber Scholarship, which covers \$3,600 per year for full-time students. On top of this, we have a local scholarship fund to help students graduate with little to no debt.

Flexibility

Earn an accredited degree while having the flexibility to remain at home and continue to serve with your YFC site. You even earn college credit by serving with YFC.

Possibility

BU offers over 10 majors, 2-year Associate degrees, and 4-year Bachelor degrees. From Business Administration and Computer Science to Ministry Leadership, there are many opportunities to grow your future.

FIND OUT MORE:
www.BUatYFC.com

CONTACT:
office@yfccampuslife.com
(269) 651-1669

A locally-run scholarship fund was established by a donor to aid in college scholarships for these students. If you have interest in adding to our scholarship fund and investing in the next generation of Christian leaders, please call our office.

"We have had two young people graduate with NO debt and both of them are now working at Youth For Christ. We have two more students currently in the program and it is open to anyone serving with YFC in any way."

- Chad VanDosen, Southwest Michigan Youth For Christ Executive Director



Rebalance is a holistic, trauma-informed intervention program designed to help all youth—especially those who may have faced significant challenges—develop essential life skills and resilience. Guided by trained coaches, the program uses **Trust-Based Relational Intervention® (TBRI)**, **Motivational Interviewing**, and **RoundTables®** to build trust, foster motivation, and encourage positive change.

Our coaches help youth address anxiety, distress, and apathy while promoting hope and confidence through engaging, relationship-centered activities. Rooted in the principle of **"Heal and Belong,"** Rebalance focuses on connection before addressing deeper emotional and developmental needs.

KEY COMPONENTS:

- 1. Trauma-Informed Approach:** Incorporates **TBRI®**, an evidence-based method for rebuilding trust, emotional regulation, and healthy relationships.
- 2. Evidence-Based practices:** Combines **RoundTables®** and **Motivational Interviewing** for a holistic, strengths-based approach.
- 3. SEL Integration:** Builds core social-emotional skills—self-awareness, management, awareness of others, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making—to counter the effects of trauma and support mental health.
- 4. Flexible, Engaging Sessions:** Twelve 100-minute sessions blend physical activity, discussion, and character-building experiences tailored to each participant.
- 6. Community Support:** Partnerships with schools, courts, and community groups ensure access to counseling, education, and career resources.

Program outcomes are evaluated through tools from the **University of Northern Colorado Social Research Lab**, measuring growth in self-control, decision-making, and relationship skills.

WHERE STUDENTS HEAL, GROW, & BELONG

IMPACT FROM OUR FIRST CLASS

100% Gained a trusted adult

13% Increase of applied life skills
(goal is 7.5%)

20% Increase on the value of *hope*

28% Increase on the value of *resolving conflict*

- Meaningful laughter, bonding, and real conversations
- Emotional and relational transformation
- Clear goals being set for personal growth
- A safe place to be themselves

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING:

"I like Rebalance because I get to hang out with my friends, and I get to learn about different character values."

"I liked being able to meet new people and learn about the topics we discussed."

"Rebalance has taught me a lot of social skills and helped me with my mental health. I learned how to make friends, how to be more patient with others around me. It has taught me how to focus more also!"



EVERY NUMBER HAS A NAME...



KATHERINE

During Summer Rec and Rebalance, **Katherine** told her leader: "Campus Life is my safe place." Her words reflect what so many students experience — a place to belong, grow, and feel loved.

DRAKE

Drake's mom grew up attending YFC and was thrilled to send her son after we handed him a flyer at school. Within a week, Drake showed up to an event — and brought a group of friends with him. His excitement and curiosity show how one invitation can spark a ripple effect.



KEVIN

Kevin, a freshman navigating the challenges of high school, found Campus Life to be a safe and welcoming place. With few friends and a longing for connection, he discovered a community where he can be himself and build meaningful relationships.

MEGAN

Megan, a high school junior, overheard a conversation about volunteering and immediately asked how she could get involved as a student leader. She has come to Campus Life for many years, met Jesus, and continues to get closer to Him. Her initiative reflects the next generation rising up to lead and serve their peers.



LEWIS

Lewis has been involved in Campus Life for several years and truly encountered Jesus last year. This summer, he joyfully shared that he's attending church for the first time with a friend he met at Campus Life — evidence of a growing faith and new community for him.



LEVI

On our Florida trip, **Levi** gave his life to Jesus. Since then, he's been attending church and even playing guitar during Sunday services — living out his new faith with passion and purpose.

...AND EVERY NAME HAS A STORY.

BROOKLYN'S STORY



"YFC is more than a building to me—it is a community where I have grown both individually and through Christ. I began attending Campus Life in middle school and continued throughout high school. During that time, I was blessed to have YFC leaders pour into me, shaping my faith and my life. One of those leaders was Rebecca, who supported me not only as a student but also as a young adult. I am grateful for the relationships I have gained from YFC that continue to draw me closer to God.



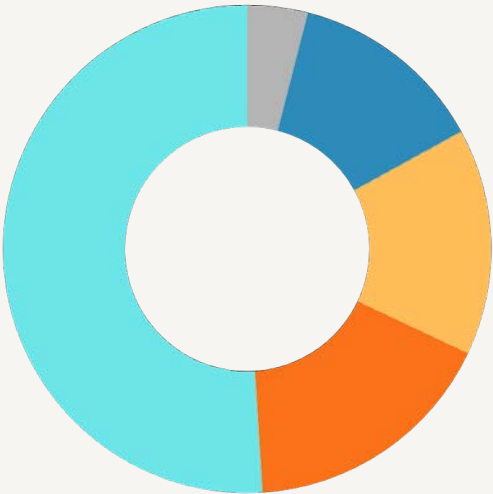
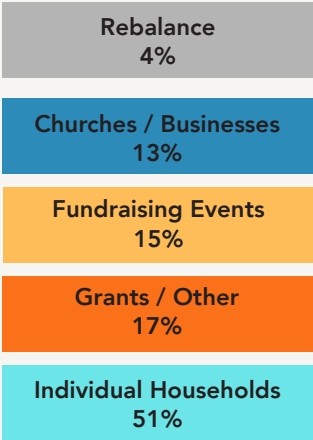
Today, I have the privilege of serving as a YFC leader myself. It is deeply rewarding to share God's love, walk alongside students, and witness the fruit of the Spirit come alive in their lives. **I truly wouldn't be who I am today without YFC and the community it has given me.** I am grateful for the opportunity to now provide students with the same encouragement, His Word, and a place of belonging that once meant so much to me."

OUR FINANCES

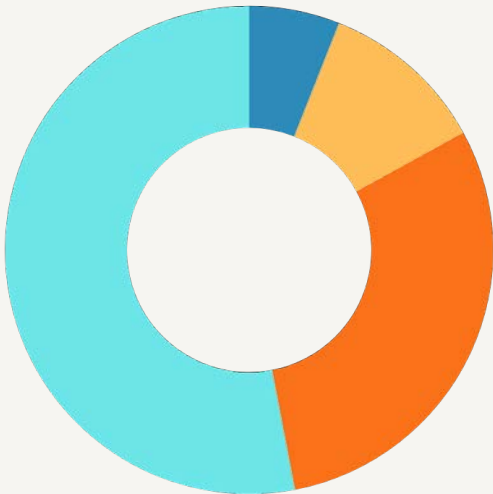
"I have worked with several churches, nonprofits, and other public service groups. YFC of Southwest Michigan has demonstrated an exceptional level of reporting and organization that is incredibly rare to find within an organization such as themselves — **truly the highest level of reporting and organization that I have ever seen within a public service group.** The financials tell a clear story of the activities, goals, and mission that YFC has set before themselves and operates within. Please keep up the good work! It is encouraging to see such an entity thrive."

- Joey Vanator, CPA

Income



Expenses



The Mills Family Legacy Fund



Planning for the future (*especially when it involves wills, estates, or beneficiary designations*) isn't always easy to talk about. But for many of us, it's essential. We want to care well for our families and also consider how our legacy can reflect what mattered most in our lives — our faith, our values, and the causes we supported along the way.

That's why we're inviting you to prayerfully consider including Southwest Michigan Youth For Christ in your legacy plans.

Whether through a will or trust, a retirement or investment account, a life insurance policy, or a memorial gift, legacy giving can help secure the future of this ministry and continue the impact you've already helped make possible.



To support this vision, we've created the Mills Family Legacy Fund — a locally-run, long-term fund named in honor of Ken and Karen Mills, faithful founders and lifelong champions of YFC in our region. This fund is designed to provide long-term strength and stability for our mission.

You can be part of this legacy!

We've seen firsthand what God can do through faithful generosity. A gift made through your estate could be one of the most powerful and lasting contributions you ever make.

And remember: if you're considering naming Southwest Michigan Youth For Christ as a beneficiary of your will, trust, retirement account, life insurance policy, or other estate planning tools, we encourage you to speak with your financial advisor, attorney, or estate planning professional.

If you'd like to learn more about how to include YFC in your legacy plans or how the Mills Family Legacy Fund will be used, just follow the QR code or visit our website. We'd be honored to walk with you through your options and answer any questions you may have.



[yfccampuslife.com/
mills-family-legacy-fund](http://yfccampuslife.com/mills-family-legacy-fund)

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Legacy



Platinum



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PRAY

Pray and share the mission of YFC / Campus Life with others.
Sign up to receive prayer text alerts by texting the keyword **PRAY** to 269-222-7956.

SERVE

Volunteer directly with young people, send mailings, make cookies, drive a bus or vehicle, etc.

GIVE

Write checks to YFC (send to: PO Box 382 Sturgis, MI 49091)
Text the keyword **GIVE** to 269-222-7956



Online donations at
yfccampuslife.com/give
OR SCAN THE QR CODE



YOUTH FOR CHRIST®
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