

In all things, **God is at work**. 2020 was a year none of us could have imagined. It was full of many challenges and hurdles to overcome. Public health measures have required us to cancel many of our programs. These measures have also made in-person programming and contact nearly impossible. Although this is not the way we want to ministry, and all the youth of our community need real human interaction, we know this is a season. A season that will soon be behind us. We are so excited for where God is leading us in 2021.



Here's a quick snap-shot of 2020 for YFC Altona. Earlier in the year we were operating as usual, lots of kids coming to our nightly programs. On average we would have approximately 20 youth attend each night we were open. Quickly restrictions changed and we were forced to shut down. As much as we did not want that to happen, in many ways it was a blessing. It quickly became very evident

how precious every moment we have with the youth truly is. It also became very evident how little contact information we had for each teen, making staying in touch with them during the first closure nearly impossible. So we took that learning experience and fixed those “holes” in our ministry. We now have a contact/ info sheet for nearly every teen who comes to our programs. It's incredible how something so simple has enabled us to increase the ministry's effectiveness. In addition to having contact/family information we are able to carry out simple acts of love that make a big impact. Acts of love such as delivering a special gift pack for each teen on the week of their birthday. It's so simple, but reminds them of how much we love them and shows our love for Jesus. Even with our programming being largely affected in 2020, the ministry was able to have a direct impact on **over 300 different teens and kids!**

Though restrictions caused the cancellation of nearly all of our regular fundraisers, we were still able to support the ministry through our weekly summer BBQs. Even before the BBQs were able to begin Sunvalley Co-op sponsored our “**Fresh squeezed Fridays**” lemonade deliveries. With the inability for us to host many fundraisers, financial stability became a concern. But in many ways God was preparing for this moment, and reminded us that **God provides**. Grants that had never been available, became available to us and the community found unique and interesting ways of supporting the ministry. Such as the Altona Chamber of Commerce partnering with us for their Christmas delivery program, raising \$4800 for the ministry! Because of the generous financial support we receive from our local residents, churches, organizations and businesses we have been able to support the youth of our

community through this pandemic. Although online chats, video calls or messages will never be as good as in-person. Many of these conversations have grown relationships and led to meaningful discussion about life, purpose, family and our need for Jesus. I personally am looking forward to restarting the guys Bible study and taking on these tough and important questions.

We know that 2021 will be a big year of growth in the ministry. We will continue to follow God's lead in knowing where to go, and what to do next. One of our most immediate needs in the ministry is **the need for a female staff**. In the coming weeks we will be finalizing the details of that position and officially listing the position. So please join us in prayer, that the perfect person for the job is found. Also that certain hurdles like fundraising would not be a barrier for the job candidate. YFC Altona is blessed to have many amazing female volunteers, but we know that the female staff would only increase the ministry's ability to reach the young women of our community. For 2021 we also have a renewed focus on evangelism. We never want to take for granted the time we get with each youth, and a big part of that is **making sure our staff and volunteers are spiritually healthy**. We have added Brad Fehr as our ministries Prayer Coordinator (volunteer position) and look forward to the overall spiritual health and growth we will see in 2021.

Our prayer requests for YFC Altona are: The health of our youth, volunteers, and community (physical, mental and spiritual), Female staff candidate, Ministry expansion, and that as a ministry we always remember to go to God in prayer first. In addition, as staff and the board of YFC Altona we follow God's vision for the ministry. **Thank you again for your support of YFC Altona's ministry**. Without the support of our community, we would be unable to impact the youth of our community.

PARTNER WITH YFC ALTONA IN 2021

Thank you for supporting YFC Altona's ministry. Our ministry has been serving the community since 1999. Without the generous support of our local churches our ministry would not be where it is today. Please prayerfully consider following the vision for 2021 God has put on YFC Altona's ministry. Increasing your financial support in 2021 would make adding a female staff a reality. We know that with the combined effort of our community churches this goal is not out of reach. Thank you for your time and consideration. If there would be any opportunity to share and address questions regarding YFC's vision for expansion in 2021 please let us know. We would love to connect with you (in person or online). Thank you and have a blessed 2021.

Psalm 107:9 "For He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things."

Sincerely, Sheridan Sawatzky
Executive Director, YFC Altona

