



## Excitement, Zeal, Hope, Momentum...

The last year has presented its challenges due to COVID-19, but God's faithfulness is always evident. As I write in the summer of 2021, we are looking ahead with **excitement, zeal, hope, and momentum**. I used these words with intentionality. Let me explain.

**Excitement:** With unique opportunities on the horizon, we are thrilled to expand our core ministries of City Life, Campus Life, and Juvenile Justice Ministry to increase the quality of our ministry as well as the quantity of the youth we serve.

**Zeal:** The last year has been a brutal one for youth, and we are zealous to engage in authentic, Christ-sharing relationships with them that gives life to their story.

**Hope:** Our culture is divided on a host of issues, and we are desperately in need of hope—hope rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ and His transformative influence on the youth in our community.

**Momentum:** With excitement, zeal, and hope shaping us, we are charged with momentum to carry our mission forward in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

We enter the season ahead with great eagerness. This reminds us of when the Apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:14, "For the love of Christ compels us..." The richness of God's loving grace extended to us leads us forward with urgency and hope. We are compelled to respond with the love of Christ moving us forward as "ambassadors for Christ" (2 Cor. 5:20).

So will you join us? Consider how to invest your time (we need volunteer ministry leaders and meal teams), talent (we rely upon the diversity of gifts among God's people to reach youth), and treasure (we need faithful investments in God's kingdom) as we mobilize "ambassadors for Christ" in our community.

All for His glory,

Haddon Anderson, Executive Director



# Ministry Updates

## City Life

We have regularly engaged youth in recent months through City Life at the Swedish American YMCA. We are also in the process of expanding this outreach to include additional programming. Additionally, we are receiving a significant grant from the Kiwanis Club of Rockford focused on creating initiatives between local youth and law enforcement. All of these plans are coming together, and the vision for City Life is huge. We invite your participation as this means increasing needs for volunteers and meal teams.

## Campus Life



We launched Campus Life in the Harlem School District amidst the past year's challenges. Connections with youth and the school have formed. Plus, we even have an off-site location that has served as an oasis for youth. The vision for the upcoming school year includes many activities inside and outside the school that extend hope to Harlem students. We are also evaluating the presence of Campus Life in connection with other schools in the Stateline area.



## Juvenile Justice Ministry

Our Next Steps group continues to meet regularly, and our team is consistently involved in mentoring appointments with vulnerable youth through this ministry. We are also tapping into new connections with correctional facilities, resulting in opportunities to sow seed among other youth. The needs are vast in the juvenile justice system, and we are committed to serving this population through creative and redemptive efforts.

## Camp

Camping experiences are highly fruitful in the lives of youth (as well as leaders). We are planning a camp experience for our youth in early August. We are also looking forward to planning additional retreats throughout the year that create unique shared experiences for our youth.



## We Believe in You(th)

We are thankful for the response through our We Believe in You(th) campaign. This has contributed to momentum! We would like to specifically thank our sponsors for their support of this: Subway, Service 1 Financial Group (Paul Loner), Baird Financial (Gary Love), SVL Productions, Advanced Machine & Engineering Co., Hennig, Rick & Lana Engen, Karen Blomgren, Bill & Terri Roop, Field Fastener, David Anderson, K9 Junction, Culver's, MembersAlliance Credit Union, John Widell Construction, State Farm (David Zierke).

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