



# Life STORIES

EVAN PETERS / Ministry Newsletter / Christmas 2023



## YOU MAKE THIS HAPPEN

In early November we got to give these kids memories that last a lifetime at our annual Boot Camp Retreat. We took our community out to Hepburn Heritage Common (the old Bethany College Campus) and played a tournament!

**Most of the time our students are weighed down by extra responsibility, food insecurity and harmful environments.** We try as hard as we can to combat this while adding the hint of love and community that is so unique to YFCHL. **Our purpose is to keep students safe, feed them well and let them do what they love.** We feel like we crushed all three of these goals this year with an amazing turnout and a really gripping tournament!

**Some of our students are incredibly courageous.** They go up against “the big kids” and don’t even bat an eye. I’m not going anywhere near the goalie equipment, but these young people brave these hard shots, and even excel! **One young man was only 11 years-old, but carried his team all the way to the tournament final.** He got the win in the final game and was crowned tournament MVP!

**The real thrill of this is watching their self-esteem grow as they discover how valuable they are.** There’s nothing like having an 18 year-old lift a tiny student on his shoulders after

a win. They see, feel and hopefully truly know, that they are valuable.

**Becca used some of her recently acquired counselling skills to lead sessions on mental health with our group.** She talked about trauma, triggers and coping strategies. We routinely see this need as a majority of our students come from trauma-filled backgrounds. **Even if the trauma was not your fault, you need to take responsibility to heal from it. Only then can you move past it.**

**We also pointed to Jesus, who knows how our students feel.** Healing from some of these things can be so overwhelming and heartbreaking. **We believe He’s on their side, cheering them on and giving them the power to move through all the pain they’ve faced.**

**Without you this doesn’t happen.**

**Whether its prayers, finances or just good thoughts, thanks for being a part of equipping and healing these young people.**

**You are a part of their hope.**



HERE'S SOME PICTURES OF OUR AMAZING WEEKEND TOGETHER!



*Evan & Berca*



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