

EYC
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Youth Director

The first half of 2016 found EYC fundraising hard and heavy for a mission trip to Atlanta. The parish was so incredibly supportive of the project that the children had chosen—a weeklong trip to Atlanta to serve the homeless and needy. Through the DOOR program, they were housed in a church, but spent each day and evening making friends with the population of people who lived on the streets around the church.

The youth learned what it's like to be in that situation, but they also learned to really see the homeless as individuals, as children of God who deserve respect and dignity. So many of the youth came back saying that they started the trip thinking that they were helping the homeless, but that at the end of the week, the homeless had helped them...helped them to open their eyes to the life of people who don't look or live like they do, but who laugh and love just the same.

We were incredibly fortunate to be able to scholarship several of the youth who needed assistance, but through the incredible work of those who led the fundraising efforts, price was kept very reasonable for everyone.

The second half of 2016 welcomed so many new members to our EYC family. We had a large group of 7th graders moving up. New families have moved in. Our youth bring guests who become just like one of us. At our kick-off, we had 32 youth and adults. It was exciting and different. Through the semester, our numbers stayed steadily over 20.

We said goodbye to two wonderful volunteers-Cheryl Sproles and Leslie Criss. We so appreciate the year that they spent volunteering with us. Britt Hester continues to serve as a volunteer. Kamme Riddle and Manuela Wilson stepped up to join the team. Weekly, these adults give up several hours of their weekend to support the youth. We appreciate their efforts and dedication.

We used the majority of our budget on outreach projects this year. We finished off the last by adopting 6 children from LifeCore who the social worker said really needed assistance. Our youth had a great time budgeting and shopping for teens less fortunate than themselves.

The goal for the upcoming year is to continue to make EYC a time when kids can be themselves and talk about the issues of their lives in a safe, supportive environment. Through their friendships, they can reach out more confidently to love and serve the Lord.