



YFC/Youth Unlimited Lincoln Upper Deck Youth Centre  
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Things at The Upper Deck youth centre have been going very good over the past few months. We have been having a great group of kids coming out for drop-in. We have been building many good relationships with the kids, and can see them opening up more and more. Last month one youth who never usually talks to any of the leaders about anything besides a casual "hi" when he comes in, sat behind the counter with Peter. After a couple minutes of small talk with him, he just completely opened up about everything that was going on in his life: his fears, and problems going on with him and at home. He then brought the conversation to God and church, and what his thoughts are on both. This gave us a chance to say what we believe and talk to him about how God can help him through his problems. We have found that the kids you least expect to want to talk to you are the ones who need to be talked to the most.

The after school program has also been going really well. We have five kids who come on a regular basis. However, the kids that do come seem to love coming, and I hear them inviting their friends almost every week.

We are well into our second decade of ministry at the Upper Deck (14 years). It has been amazing to witness the difference over the years in how the teens and pre-teens act or communicate. But no matter the changes over the years, we believe we serve a God who loves them more than

they will ever comprehend. For the first seven years of ministry, most of the youth did not have a cell phone. But for the last seven years, many of our kids have smart phones that are more powerful than some of our desktops at home running Windows 95 (Now 22 years old!). We are now in a day and age when significant change is happening every 1-2 years whereas before significant changes were about every 10 years.

As youth workers at the Upper Deck, we have the privilege of serving our community in Vineland during these changing times and sometimes that comes in the form of meeting with local pastors. One prevailing message being heard from local churches is that their youth ministry is struggling or they are having a hard time keeping their youth pastor (average is 3 years). The burden on the faces of those leading local churches tells the story. But our hope is we can continue telling the story that Jesus is well and alive in 2017. God is up to something in our local churches but every year I am more convinced than ever that the saving message of Jesus is more relevant in a time of uncertainty for many.

We are excited about two upcoming fundraisers. One is our Bowlathon being held Saturday, May 6th 6:30pm - 9:30pm. The other is our annual golf tourney Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to bowl with us, email Peter or Glen. See the accompanying sheet if

you would like to golf and/or sponsor our tourney. As always we continue to appreciate your prayers and we will leave you with a few requests:

- *Peter Juhlke would like to raise enough support to move back to full-time hours. He is currently working part-time with Upper Deck and part-time elsewhere.*
- *Continued good relations with Twenty Valley Public School. We love serving there.*
- *New relationships with students in the community. We are always thankful when new students get connected.*
- *Continue to pray for Stephanie van den Bogerd and family. We are thankful that she has been able to spend time on maternity leave with Matthias and husband Paul.*
- *Glen and Melissa Sparks as they journey through this time navigating treatment for Melissa's brain tumour.*
- *Our volunteers, because without them, we would close.*

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#### **Philippians 4:6 NIV**

**Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.**