



Bringing young adults to the table

Traveling across the state to engage Christ in community

BY DAVID RURIK

Each fall, around the end of September a special gathering occurs. The CYAK Young Adult Retreat brings together young adults from across the state for a time of faith formation, learning and growing in community. The weekend starts simply enough, some of the group plays basketball in the gym, others play games or catch up with friends from other college campuses. As the opening session gets under way attendees get the chance to engage in deep and full worship.

This year's retreat was marked by intimate focus on Psalm 139 and the fact that we are created in the image of God, both fearfully and wonderfully made. Saturday evening, I sat in a small group of students reflecting on that fact. Many offered that they had not carefully thought about what it means to be created, to be created in God's image, or what it means to be fearfully and wonderfully made.

I had one young adult share with me about growing up homeless. Now gainfully employed, they are trying to identify exactly what role God has for them in his Kingdom work here on earth given their experience. The individual related a story of caring for a homeless and intoxicated woman in Fairbanks several years back. The

woman was filled with gratitude and now sends prayer requests and updates to this young adult. It was the movement of Christ in this young person's heart that led them to reach out to someone in need. The simple act of sharing this story in our discussion group made an impact on the others around the circle wrestling with their identity in Christ.

Young adults show up to this retreat from all walks of life and from all places spiritually, emotionally and physically. You may relate to the significant growth and maturity that comes through these important conversations during the formative young adult years. The Young Adult Retreat constantly delivers the time and space for Alaskan young adults to engage with God on a personal level. It allows them to step outside of the life they are living and engage with a loving community of people who are going to love them no matter what.

The role that CYAK plays in this retreat is that of facilitator. You, as a part of the network of believers and partners, are the ones who create pathways for students to attend. God does good work through his family of believers and it takes both staff and partners around the country respond-

ing to God's call to set the table for these young adults. CYAK strives to make this retreat accessible and affordable. The retreat is subsidized, removing financial barriers so that the every young adult has the opportunity to sit at the table.

The backdrop of Psalm 139 allowed students to recognize the beautiful tapestry they collectively represented. The impact that our partners have on students in Alaska comes full circle each year at this retreat. The story of a once-homeless young man who has used his faith as guidance in reaching out to others exemplifies this impact.

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Partners like you sense a desire to give back toward the time of growth and renewal that they felt during their young adult years. The retreat costs approximately \$130 per person to put on. CYAK charges students \$75 on average and invites partners into sponsoring the rest. Making a gift today gives young adults the chance to come to a retreat to engage with who God says they are. Thank you! For information and how to make a gift follow the link below.

Continue Your Impact Today

www.cyak.org/YourImpact



Covenant Youth of Alaska

PO Box 203356
Anchorage, AK 99520
(907)222-1432
www.cyak.org

Covenant Youth of Alaska is a relational outreach, discipleship and leadership ministry for Alaska youth and young adults. A ministry of the Alaska Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church, we work in partnership with 19 churches across Alaska for the cause of ministry to young people. To join our efforts or to learn more, go to www.cyak.org.