

Accompanying Program

Highland Presbyterian Church Youth Ministries

Youth Ministry is taken seriously at Highland because we know that youth and children not only represent the future of the church, they represent the present! The spiritual and moral lives of our young people are likely the most fragile and precious gifts with which God has entrusted us.

We seek to offer many entry points for youth of all ages to get involved in the life of the church. It is our goal to encourage a sense of belonging and ownership so that as adults, our youth will look back on their years at Highland and say, “Church is a good place to be!”

One of these key entry points within youth ministry comes in the form of summer spiritual retreats and work camps. These experiences offer youth a new perspective on life, spiritual nourishment, service opportunities, and a time to bond with other youth within the group. In fact, these trips are so important that many graduates frequently recount summer trips to Montreat or Work Camp as some of their most formative times within their spiritual journey.

While these times are extremely important, they can also be extremely expensive. The cost of Montreat Youth Conference has been growing by approximately \$30/year since 2005 and now costs \$484.20 per youth to attend the conference. The costs of Work Camps vary year to year, depending on the destination, but costs for these trips range from \$250 - \$750+. Of course, because of its focus on youth ministry, Highland maintains a line item in its yearly budget to help offset these expenses. Unfortunately, this amount typically ends up offsetting only \$20 - \$50 per trip because of the number of trips and the number of youth who participate in each opportunity. Though this amount helps, summer opportunities can still be a significant burden to families, particularly if they have more than one child and/or they plan to attend Montreat Youth Conference and Work Camp.

As a way of helping to offset these enormous expenses, the Youth Ministry Committee is enacting an “Accompanying Program” to further assist the youth in attending these wonderful summer opportunities. Such a program does not provide scholarships, but rather allows the youth to earn credits towards each trip by engaging in service within the Highland community. As a result, not only will the youth learn responsibility and the rewards of hard work, but they will also be exposed to several different arenas of service while being supported by their Highland family. The main tenets of this program would be as follows:

- Each youth will have the opportunity to participate in this program and, through it, to earn credit amounting to no more than half the cost of each trip.
- Students will earn credit based on a rate of \$10/hour by volunteering at Highland Presbyterian Church or one of the community service organizations supported by Highland (see below for a full list of Highland ministry opportunities).

- Highland Youth Ministries will aim to offer a monthly service opportunity in the community.
- All volunteer hours outside of those mentioned above must be approved by the Youth Director.
- Credit will be earned out of the Dorothy Bauer permanent fund.
- A youth's credit will remain available as long as they are involved in Highland Youth Ministry and will not expire until they graduate. However, all credit is non-transferable and will only apply to the youth who earns it.
- The Accompanying Program is not designed to replace scholarships but rather to work in concert with need-based assistance. Scholarships will still be available for those that need them.
- All youth must completely fill out and submit a timesheet for each block of volunteer hours to be counted (see attachment).
- In the event that hours are accumulated after a trip has been fully paid for, each family may decide to bank their hours or to be refunded the amount earned by the youth, up to no more than half of the total cost of the trip.

Through the Accompanying program, we will ensure that Highland summer opportunities remain affordable for our youth and their families, educate our youth about the need within our own community, provide a sense of accomplishment, pride and ownership that only hard work can bring, and open the door to even larger and greater opportunities in the future.

Highland's Outreach Opportunities for Youth

AIDS Care Service - empowering and serving those in our community living with HIV/AIDS and educating our community in the struggle against the disease.

Bethesda Center - providing shelter for homeless men and women through a day shelter and an emergency night shelter.

Community Care Center - Volunteers providing free medical care to low-income, uninsured families in Forsyth, Stokes and Davie counties.

Crisis Control Ministry - a Christian-based ministry assisting people in crisis to meet essential life needs and to become self-sufficient.

Family Services Domestic Violence Shelter - assisting women, children and men who are victims of sexual assault or domestic violence.

Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministry - providing Christian Ministry, counseling and re-entry guidance to the incarcerated in our area.

Habitat for Humanity - building quality homes in safe neighborhoods for qualifying families who meet income and work history requirements.

Hosanna House - helping individuals who are returning to society after time in jail, shelters or substance abuse programs. The agency provides individuals with a safe environment in which to live as they prepare to enter or re-enter the workforce.

Mental Health Association - promoting mental health for all persons in our community through advocacy, outreach, education and support services.

Presbyterian Campus Ministry - ministering with and among the students and faculty at our local institutions: North Carolina School for the Arts, Salem College, Wake Forest University and Winston Salem State University.

Prodigals Community - serving those struggling to overcome addictions to drugs and alcohol through a residential treatment facility with an emphasis on spiritual growth.

Riverwood Therapeutic Riding Center - providing quality, professional equine assisted activities for both children and adults. Equine assisted activities help to improve muscle tone, balance, posture, coordination and motor development as well as emotional well being.

Samaritan Ministries - providing Christian ministry while serving the hungry, homeless, and people in need through a soup kitchen, men's shelter and residential substance abuse recovery program for men.

Second Harvest Food Bank - reducing hunger and malnutrition in northwest NC by sharing the abundance so no one goes hungry.

Senior Services - coordinating and overseeing in-home services, as well as offering direct services for seniors, enabling them to live with dignity and remain at home for as long as possible; serving as an information and referral source for seniors, and providing adult day care services.

Shepherd's Center - an interfaith ministry promoting and providing volunteer opportunities, life-long learning and support programs for older adults.

Trinity Center - an ecumenical center for counseling, spiritual formation and education, fostering healing and wholeness, and serving a diverse client population that includes men, women, children, adolescents, single people, married couples, professionals and those who are unemployed.

Winston Salem Youth Arts Institute - developing youth authors who publish, stage and film their life experiences so that they can transform their lives, become leaders and effect change in the world.