

CORNERSTONE Youth Center 2021

Winter Edition



Operation Christmas Drop

Laurie Shepler, Executive Director



Our thanks to the Lead Sponsor of the sixty Christmas Stockings, Blue Collar Realty; along with Cornerstone Board members and volunteers who generously contributed!



As I reflect on our Christmas season and the weeks surrounding the holidays, the word that comes to me is HOPE. Regardless of the path we took to celebrate with the youth, the focus was ultimately the hope that comes from the birth of the Christ child!

Midway through December, the Christmas plans changed. And as we met after-hours with the Friday evening volunteers, the one take-away was that while the plan had to change the opportunity to minister could be elevated to a new level. The youth were not able to come to us, collectively, we would go to them. And *Operation Christmas Drop* was set in motion!

The stuffing for sixty stockings came to us in just the amount needed. Gift cards, socks, gloves, candies, toothpaste and brushes, Chapstick and assorted school supplies were stuffed into each stocking. Over the next few days, they were delivered to our youth - surprising them on the steps and porches of their homes. The added level of ministry was the ability to meet their parents, extending our prayers and greetings to them as well.

Along with the stockings, we delivered boxes of homemade Christmas cookies at each stop. A partnership with LCBC Manheim - Be Rich - has made this possible over the last few years as their families and life groups chose to serve by baking cookies specifically for Cornerstone. Over 70 dozen cookies were received from the bakers and our volunteers packaged assortments of cookies as a special treat for our youth to enjoy.

On Monday, January 4, we welcomed youth back into the building, continuing our mission to share the hope of Jesus to the youth of our community!



**Laurie, Jonathan,
and "Frosty"
braving the cold at
Elizabethtown's
Reverse Christmas
Parade.**

**Our thanks to JB
Hostetter & Sons for
the use of the dunk
tank!**





A Cornerstone Story: Megan Hess, Volunteer

Megan's introduction to Cornerstone and the youth came as she was willing to fill a need for the annual winter retreat. Within days of answering the call, she was on the bus heading toward Dallas, PA to assist with leading twenty teenage girls throughout the winter weekend. And so began her role as a Cornerstone volunteer.

Four years later, Megan continues to serve as her schedule allows during the youth hours or in a supportive role for a special event. She also brings her communication skills to the table for Cornerstone's Communication Team, editing and advising promotional documents. A 2018 graduate of Messiah College, now Messiah University, Megan is employed by Masonic Villages as a Public Relations Coordinator. It is a short drive from the Masonic campus to the neighboring Cornerstone Youth Center.

"I enjoy hanging out with the youth! It is a ministry that the community needs", she replied when asked why she comes to volunteer at Cornerstone. She went on to say that, "you never know what you will hear them say, especially when you're just observing. A lot of them need an adult that can sit and listen to them". On a Friday night there is a good chance that you will find Megan at the Round Table in the Mix with a varied group of youth and volunteers. She enjoys the games and the conversation. She explained that playing games in that group is interesting, just to see how people's minds work. She hopes that the youth see her as someone that they can enjoy being around.

Megan also enjoys the growing relationships with the other volunteers, "I enjoy building friendships in the community and I enjoy the time with the others who volunteer at Cornerstone. Her fiancé, Drew Purdum, is looking to join the volunteer team as well! They are to be married on July 12, 2021 and expect to continue the volunteer hours together!



Jonathan
Weatherholtz
Coordinator
of
Youth &
Ministry

We, as a youth ministry, are continually learning to deal with the changes that come due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Our plans can seemingly be perfectly in place but then the Lord's re-direction brings something better. Even when things seem like they are falling apart, God sees them falling into place. This was made clear to me on a rainy Saturday in December.

It was time to hold another Skateboard Competition at Cornerstone. The plans were in motion for a December competition until a decision was made that with everything billowing around us, it would need to wait until later in the spring. The skaters agreed that a skate trip could still come together with a destination of Overlook Skate Park. Disappointing for some, but for others it was an opportunity to participate.

The day began with rain in the forecast and again, a change in plans. Five youth found contentment with time in our own skatepark at Cornerstone. Our time began with cookies, coffee and Christmas remixes as we waited for all of the skaters to arrive. In the Lord's perfect planning, the time together with my small group was some of the most special that I had experienced at Cornerstone. Out of the four and a half hours that we planned to skate, we were only on our boards for an hour. Instead, we talked about what their lives were like growing up and where they were in their relationship with Jesus. To say the least, God used this time that looked completely different than my expectations and far richer than I could have ever imagined.

Proverbs 16:9 "A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps"

You're invited to ...

Dinner & a Movie

With Special Guest, Auntie Anne Beiler

Speaker, Author, and founder of Auntie Anne's Pretzels

SAVE THE DATE

Friday evening, March 26, 2021

LOOK for complete details coming
to a mailbox near you soon!

**As we plan and prepare to expand our programming
in 2021, we ask you to consider how sharing your time
and talents may be used to impact young lives at
Cornerstone Youth Center!**

- ✓ Sharing a love for music
- ✓ Sharing a love for the outdoors
- ✓ Sharing a willingness to clean once a month
- ✓ Sharing an ability to help with homework
- ✓ Sharing your baking skills

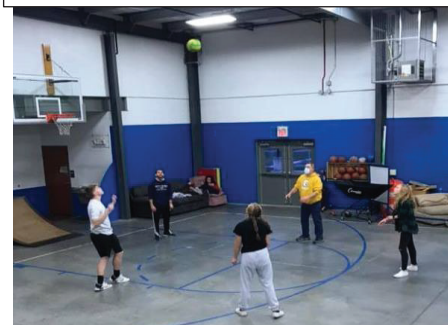
We would love to hear from you!

laurie@cornerstoneetown.org

717-367-0000



Above: A youth & volunteer mall run!



Above: Volleyball season returns!

Cornerstone's Winter Retreat, (dis)connect, takes a turn at Refreshing Mountain – March 5-7, 2021

After several years of participation in the Winter Blast Retreat at Camp Orchard Hill (Dallas, PA), and a continuing theme of changing our plans, we are excited to have chosen Refreshing Mountain (Stevens, PA) for our own 2021 Winter Retreat.
www.refreshingmountain.com

The theme, (dis)connect, looks at the unhealthy parts of our lives that we need to disconnect from while being encouraged to connect to truth and the path that God has planned for us.

The retreat also offers an opportunity for our youth to step away from their day-to-day and find refreshment in the outdoors. We welcome your prayers before, during, and after!



**FOR YOUTH WITH
CHALLENGING HOME
ENVIRONMENTS, AN
OVERNIGHT RETREAT
CAN BE A WELCOME
RESPITE FROM THEIR
DAILY LIVES.**

90% said they learned
more about God at a
retreat.

82% agreed their faith
was stronger after
attending a retreat.

77% of the youth from
unsupported homes
felt supported at
camp.

SAVE THE DATE

- ❖ Friday, March 26, 2021 – *Dinner and a Movie* – Cornerstone's Virtual Benefit
 - ✓ Drive through Dinner, 5:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m., featuring Harvey's BBQ Stuffed Chicken Dinner, complete with dessert!
 - ✓ Followed by Cornerstone's online presentation, 7:00 p.m., Ministry Updates and guest speaker, Auntie Anne Beiler
- ❖ Friday, March 26 through Saturday, April 2 – Cornerstone's Annual Silent Auction (Auction link available 3/26)

All wrapped up with a generous Dollar-for-dollar Match!

Winter Youth Hours

Monday-Thursday

3-6 p.m. (food, fun, friends, and homework help)

Friday

7-10 p.m. (food, fun, friends AND the indoor climbing wall)

Sunday

6-8 p.m. – Skateboarding ONLY, Grades 7 – 12, And Adults!

NEW! Coming in Spring 2021

Youth Hours for Grades 5 & 6 – "The Rockslingers"!

Office Hours

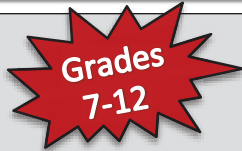
Monday-Thursday 10-3 p.m.

(Friday and Saturday, by appointment only)

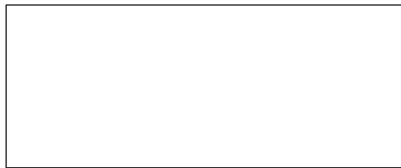
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Laurie Shepler, Executive Director

Jonathan Weatherholtz, Coordinator of Youth & Ministry

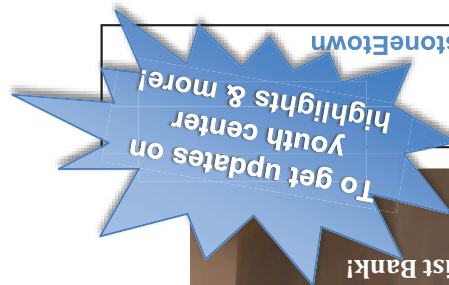


DID YOU KNOW that Cornerstone is available for rentals during non-youth hours? We're certain that your guests will enjoy this welcoming space! To inquire, give Laurie a call at 717-367-0000 ext. 1 and schedule your next special event or family gathering at Cornerstone!



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<http://www.facebook.com/CornerstoneEtown>



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