



"WE NEED YOU!"

Not every participant is going to be a regular program attender. Don't write off or forget about any youth. Three words everyone needs to personally hear from their congregation at least twice a year are, "We need you." People need to be valued. Youth are either leading or they are leaving. "We need you to help with an art project... usher... run a booth at the children's carnival... demonstrate how to... help at the service project... whatever a growing list of tasks from your congregation can be.

HERE'S THE PLAN

At your weekly staff meetings bring a list of five or more youth you don't know, or have not seen for some time to your meeting. Ask the questions, "How and where can we invite this person to serve?" "Who will ask, and how?"

Keep it simple. Don't over evaluate. Don't guess how the youth or their parents might answer. If you never ask you are already saying, "We don't want you, nor do we value you."

STEP #1

Check-in on any responses or reactions you got from last weeks asks. Keep molding and revising your approaches.

STEP #2

Add to the needs list. How can people plug in? As a staff person, what can you not do in order to allow someone else to participate? Let people lead! Many of the tasks can be kept very simple.

Start small. Grow your list and experiences. Work with staff who are comfortable including youth in their area of ministry.

STEP #3

Keep a template list of ways to respond. Pick, adapt or add to your responses one of the ways you will respond. Decide which staff person should make the contact and if this will be an email, phone call or other form of communication. The more personal, the more likely a person will respond.

STEP #4

Pause for prayer. Bless and uplift each young person.

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NEEDS LIST

What are the needs, places, and events where youth can be include?

Create your own!

Review and add to it each time you meet.

| Department | Task | Date | Who Is Asking |
|---------------------|--|------------|---------------|
| Youth Ministry | Creating prayer stations for a family service. | 3/15/2014 | Ace |
| Youth Ministry | Teaching me Photoshop | 3/15/2014 | Fry |
| Worship & Music | Flute player | 5/15/2014 | Dude |
| Children's Ministry | Field Trip to... 4 youth to help walk with | 10/15/2013 | Burger |
| Special Events | Advent Fair... 10 youth to run crafts | 12/15/2013 | Titan |
| Art Gallery | New Display 4 youth's art work | 1/15/2014 | Beatrice |
| | | | Bin |
| | | | |

"WE NEED YOU" Template

Rewrite each of the messages in your own words.

Personalize each time you send or call.

Call? Send? Other? --- The more personal the better response!

#1. YOUR TALENT IS NEEDED

Greetings Jayden. We need your help! One thing I know you are good at is... I have seen... (e.g. I remember the time... someone told you have a passion for...) Coming up is... I think you are the person we need. Please think about it, I'll give you call...

#2 WHAT SHOULD WE BE ASKING YOU?

Hello Janna! You are one busy and talented person. We want to be sure to include your leadership here at (St. Joe's). Can you share with us some of your passions and a couple ways you would be willing to plug in this year at church? Your name came up today at our staff meeting. We got to share prayers for you. I hope you sensed a little extra blessing! I look forward to hearing back from you.

#3. WE SUPPORT YOUR MINISTRY

Julie, I hear you (are busy working at... made it in the play... get to go with the choir to.... are part of our winning basketball team...) We shared a prayer for you during staff today. You are (St. Joe's) gift to our community! We believe your relationships in the midst of (work, the musical, the team) is our front lines of ministry. By caring, welcoming and affirming your (friend's, coworker, team members) you are being the light of Christ. Please keep it up. We are here to support you. Let us know what we can pray or how we can help!

#4 DON'T MISS THIS

Juniper! How are you doing? Hey, we are putting together a WED night series on ("Everything Changes," OR "How Media is Painting Youth," OR "The Spirituality of Butterflies," OR...) I think this would be a great time for you to join in! You always add so much to discussions. As you know, we have no expectations for WED night. We don't consider ourselves a club. We work hard at being a place people can come to when ever they can. Hope to see you there!

#5 NEW PERSON

Greeting Jaffer! I hear you are new to our community. I am anxious to meet and get to know you. We include all our youth in various ways through out the year. Some people choose to come to events every week, others come when they can, while still others plug in according to their own passions and time. Can we meet next...

#6. A BIG NEED, CAN YOU HELP!

Jack, I was just asked by our (e.g. homeless shelter, local food shelf) to get a small crew together to help next week. Here is what is happening... (we now know that we have 1,500+ homeless youth in our city.) Jim, we could really use some extra help. Let me know if this can work. As always, bring a friend or two with!

#7. PRAYING FOR YOU

Jaclyn. Good morning. Part of my day is to pray. I always keep you on my list. Here is my prayer. God... One of the things Jaclyn makes me think of is... Thank you for her gift of... Be with her as she navigates her day, her friends, family and the soccer team. Bless her in all these relationships, as she cares, welcomes and affirms others. – Amen.

#8. EXTRA HAND AT CHURCH

Jamie, we have (____) coming up at church next week and we need some extra help. I was thinking you would be the perfect person for this. Can you rearrange your schedule to help us out?

#9. I HEARD ABOUT...

Hey Josh, I just wanted to let you know that I heard (parents are separating, your friend is in the hospital trying to take his life, you got into some trouble at school, etc...) I know sometimes people tend to avoid the church when tough stuff comes. First, I want you to know there is no judgement here! I have learned every person, including myself has a difficult life story. Second, I want to be supportive. I would love to find a time to meet up... (or a time to talk...)

10. TRAGEDY

Joseph, you know about the... (e.g. car accident that took the life of... from ___ High School). Tomorrow night we are holding a candle lighting worship. This is a time we need all our youth, even if you did not know ___ personally. Please feel free to invite others who will can use the extra support. This is a time to gather for some quiet, for some reflection and to be aware of God in the midst of tragedy. We need you to lend your support, your heart and your faith.

#11. PEER MINISTRY LEADERSHIP CARE TEAM

We are beginning a new element of our leadership team. This group is going to be available for one on one caring and welcoming for others. Jane, you are a person who connects well with other people. We need you! This team will train for a weekend and then meet once a month. The group will be willing to take on some mentoring assignments such as meeting with a young person as they find out their parents are divorcing, or after a friend has died, or someone is new to our community! You may be invited by one of our pastors to go with to the hospital when one of our young people are there. I want to to talk more to you about why I think you should be in this group...