

# 2024 - 2025 IMPACT REPORT



## HOPEWORTH FRIENDSHIP



# BOARD PRESIDENT, LEROY YOUNG



One student's words capture the heart of the Penns Valley Youth Center: "Whenever I walk through the door, I just feel an instant love!" Since its founding in 2011, that love has been the driving force behind everything we do—whether through our After School Programs (grades K-5 and 6-12), Life Groups, the Table, or the Food Centre. Each program is a practical expression of the love of Jesus Christ, and countless students and families can testify to the impact.

You can be part of this mission first by praying. Prayer is the foundation of all we do. As we engage daily with kids and families facing emotional, financial, relational, and spiritual challenges, we're reminded that the battle for hearts and lives is very real—and spiritual. Your prayers uplift and sustain us in this vital work.

Second by volunteering. The work of PVYC depends on people like you stepping in with your time and talents. Whether helping with a program, mentoring students, or offering a skill, your presence becomes part of the love students feel when they walk through our doors.

Third by giving. Your generosity allows us to keep showing up for this community week after week. We've seen God faithfully provide through the gifts of individuals, churches, and businesses, both in and outside Penns Valley. These gifts make ministry happen—from providing meals and resources to offering safe, welcoming spaces for students to grow.

As you read this report, we invite you to celebrate all God has done through PVYC—and to consider how you might join in. Thank you to those who have prayed, served, and given so generously already. Your partnership has helped us reach youth and families with tangible love and hope.

If you've yet to get involved, now is a great time. We invite you to come alongside us as fellow workers in God's mission. Together, through prayer, service, and giving, we can continue to advance His kingdom here in Penns Valley—one child, one family, and one life at a time.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **President, Leroy Young**

*Retired Director, Bureau of Fisheries  
PA Fish and Boat Commission*

### **Treasurer, Darren Narber**

*Team Lead  
Paul B. Zimmerman, Inc.*

### **Stacy Sublett**

*Gathering Pastor  
Calvary Penns Valley*

### **Vice-President, Anne Yorks**

*Business Owner  
The Flour Box*

### **Secretary, Briany Myers**

*Physical Therapist Assistant  
Penn State Sports Medicine*

### **Carrie Porter**

*Church Administrator  
Penns Valley Community Church*

## 2024-2025 STAFF

### **Executive Director**

Mark Fisher

### **Operations Manager**

Amanda Fisher

### **Program Assistant**

Trevor Fleck

### **Program Assistant**

Lily Woodring

### **Outreach Coordinator**

Levi Sublett

### **Operations Assistant**

Laura Snider

### **Staff Member**

Connor Heimerman



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MARK FISHER

“ Our mission at the Penn Valley Youth Center is to provide students and families in the community with **HOPE, WORTH, and FRIENDSHIP** through a fun and safe environment in order to encourage healthy habits and promote wise choices. ”

This mission drives everything we do. It fuels our commitment to serve the community through after-school programs that help students feel seen, loved, and encouraged. Our outreach events further demonstrate our dedication to giving back and enriching the lives of those around us. Since the beginning, we've been passionate about reaching students and families in the Penns Valley Area School District with a message of hope, worth, and friendship.



This past year, we've seen God's continued blessing on PVYC as we equip the next generation to lead and love their community. It begins with students realizing their unique worth. Our dedicated staff and volunteers welcome them as they are, celebrate their strengths, and walk with them through life's challenges. As they form real connections with peers and mentors, they experience love rooted in lasting values and faith in God. Many students come to us struggling with anxiety, depression, and low self-worth. But through genuine friendship and support, they begin to believe in a better future. They discover that they are not alone—that there is a place and a God who cares deeply for them.

Since 2011, we estimate nearly one thousand students have participated in our programs and events. Our reach now extends to over 400 families through our K-5 and 6-12 After School Programs, the Food Centre, and The Table. As our community grows, so does with it, countless stories of transformation.

None of this would be possible without the generosity of our supporters. Individual donors, community members, and business partners have faithfully stood with us, giving of their time, resources, and encouragement. Because of you, students in Penns Valley are discovering their value, building life-giving relationships, and finding real hope. Thank you for partnering with us. Together, we are making a lasting difference in the lives of the next generation.

## VOLUNTEERS

Drew Stewart

Rose Mast

Deneen Keller

Paul Weiderwax

Trudi Fleck

Anne Yorks

Topher Yorks

Rachael Focht

Carrie Porter

Kim Claar

Tammy Woodring

Spencer Smith

Linda Leitzel

Susan Stewart

Jamie Miller

Jeff Breon

Rachel Sublett

Briany Myers

Penns Valley Youth Center Staff Member Connor Heimerman came to the Penns Valley area in 2023 from Green Bay, Wisconsin with no prior experience working with students. In a new community with dreams of becoming a teacher, Connor started serving at PVYC and built a community he could lean on and trust. Over the past 2 years,



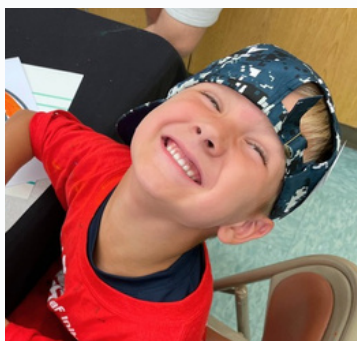
he is certain about his calling in serving the next generation and has transitioned to a YMCA after school program in Baltimore, MD. The impact PVYC had on Connor will help him step into his new assignment in serving the youth and community around him.

**“I felt lost and drifting, but God brought me to a community of friendly faces and accepting people. I found a place to call home, and God told me that this is His plan for my life.”**

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

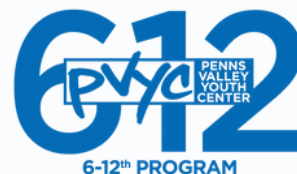
The Penns Valley Youth Center is a safe and fun environment that students can thrive in to reach their full potential. Our after school programs are designed to meet physical, mental, and social needs for all students that attend. The first thing a student experiences as they walk through our doors is a smile, a high five, and a warm greeting to make sure they feel seen and have belonging.

Free healthy snacks are available for them to fuel their time at PVYC to focus on getting school work done, playing sports in our gym space, and concentrating on their art projects in our new Makerspace Art Studio. While applying themselves physically and mentally, they are surrounded by caring adults who see the value in mentoring the next generation. Our staff and volunteers diligently get ready to provide spaces where students feel welcomed and loved.



**GYM / FITNESS TIME**  
**ARTS AND CRAFTS**  
**S.T.E.M.**

**AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM**  
**WEDNESDAY DINNER**  
**YOUTH GROUP**



**OONI PIZZA EVENTS**  
**COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**  
**FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION**

**DINNER + WORSHIP**  
**LIFE GROUPS**  
**GROWING COMMUNITY**



## AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND EVENTS: A YEAR OF GROWTH

**The Penns Valley Youth Center After School Programs grew 20% in the 2024 - 2025 school year, serving 250 kids.**

This is a great reflection of our partnership with the parents and leaders of our community and trust built through the years with the school district.

**We served 2,800 meals** on Wednesday night for youth group as well as offering a wide range of engaging activities throughout the week for students to help grow them in many areas of their life including art projects, competition sports, bible studies, music, workshops, and mentorship. We are driven by our mission to create a space for students to feel loved, encouraged, challenged, and be filled with hope.



Penns Valley High School Graduated Senior, Matt Ruoff started going to the Penns Valley Youth Center in 9th grade. He quickly made many friends and experienced the welcoming environment the first time he stepped foot in PVYC. With all of the fun activities and the tight knit community, Matt continued to be involved throughout his high school career.

Matt recalls, **"One of the most important things I have learned at the Penns Valley Youth Center was how to show love to people when it was really difficult. They taught me that I might be the only glimpse of Jesus someone might see in THEIR life, and THAT changed my whole perspective."**

Matt has learned many lessons from Wednesday night youth group to all of the events and memories that has shaped his life to who he is today. **"They've taught me how to show the love of Jesus to others and live a better life."**



**"All of the leaders and volunteers are AMAZING and I have so many memories from being a part of this community. When they say it's based on, 'Hope, Worth, and Friendship,' they truly mean it."**



# DEEPER CONNECTION

This school year we have seen a growth in Life Groups, our mentorship program. Life Groups exist to help students find a trusted adult to do life with, have accountability among friends, and to dive deeper into their faith. It's a space for students to intentionally share their lives with others, grow spiritually together, and encourage each other through the highs and lows of life.

Life Groups have **40** students intentionally grown by 100% with connecting with a mentor.

As a society, we are more connected than ever through the devices and technology at our finger tips, yet loneliness has never been higher and continues to rise. We are prioritizing deeper in person connections for kids in their everyday life, that will result in stronger student engagement in meaningful relationships with their peers and the greater community. These connections go beyond the screens they look at daily. Face to face interactions will develop life long friendships with mentors they can trust.

## CLAIRE'S STORY

Penns Valley High School Senior, Claire found a home at PVYC which has been a big part of her life journey. Committing her life to Christ at the age of five and calling herself a Christian over the years, she didn't truly understand what it all meant, but PVYC has helped her know how to truly understand and walk out her faith even through the hardest of situations. In 2021, she was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes and then found out she had a severe fungal infection in her right maxillary sinus that fall. On top of all of that, in the spring of 2023 she ended up needing corrective back surgery for scoliosis. All throughout these medical challenges that challenged her faith, she recalls, **"The Youth Center stood by and supported me and my family. I would receive emails and letters showing their support and love while in the hospital as well as prayer before I went to the hospital. The Youth Center has given me a place to call all who walk through the doors my family. All of the leaders there have made such an impact on my life, and without them I would not be able to call myself a Christian. They have shown the love of Christ no matter what I am going through and are willing to show up for me at any given moment."** We have watched Claire's faith in Jesus and her confidence in herself soar to new heights even through trial and adversity.



**"I want to say a huge thank you to all of the leaders and people at PVYC who have supported me throughout my journey."**

## 2024-2025 Conferences and Retreats:

- » Camp YoliJwa  
Newville, PA
- » Lake Champion  
Glen Spey, NY
- » Life Conference  
Indianapolis, IN

# 84

students attended

Every year we give our students opportunities to dive deeper in their faith with various retreats and conferences that pull them out of their routine and put them in a place where they can ask themselves the hard questions and learn how to overcome life's challenges. They take this opportunity to grow and discover who they are and ground their identity in who God has made them to be.



When we get away for days at a time, our bond as a PVYC family only grows stronger with each trip. Every year, several students surrender their lives to Jesus. Seeing there is a deeper meaning to life than good grades and accomplishing tasks. They have a greater sense of direction and hope for a brighter future full of purpose.



Mason, a Penns Valley High School Junior highlights,

**"Lake Champion and Camp YoliJwa helped me focus on what God has for me. I learned more about God's word and have fun with my friends."**



# STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY



Our commitment to community reaches beyond programs for students on a weekly basis. We meet the needs of food insecurity through our Food Centre. Each week, various food items are received, organized and distributed by a team of dedicated volunteers. People are welcome twice a week to come and select the items they need while making connections with the community. Each food item distributed is another step closer to meeting the physical needs of the area we serve.



We have expanded our program with more portable shelving, dozens of clear food storage containers, a new two door glass front merchandiser, and a brand new A/C unit. These upgrades help us serve the people that come to receive food and to create space for more food donations. Since the small beginnings of a few tables out in the hallway to a fully equipped Food Centre, our goal is to meet the physical needs of our community which strengthen families and provide a healthier tomorrow for students.

## Food Items Provided:

- » Bread
- » Fresh Produce
- » Root Vegetables
- » Frozen Meats
- » Cheese and Milk
- » Various Yogurts
- » Sandwichs and Wraps
- » Olive Garden Soups
- » Panera Bakery Items
- » Salad Greens
- » Dry Goods
- » Flowers
- » Farm Fresh Eggs

*Equipment and supplies were purchased with grants received through Centre Foundation and the Louis E. Silvi Foundation.*

## THE TABLE

Another way we provide opportunities for meaningful connection with others for the families of Penns Valley is through The Table. This gathering is open to all who value connection with others through a great meal and a time discussing the Bible through various studies. Throughout the year, many people have grown tremendously in their faith and connection to this community. People from little kids to older adults connecting with one another and challenging each other to live their lives in a way that glorifies God.



This year we introduced the Kid's Table so younger children can learn the bible with age appropriate teaching and have fun with their friends. Several of our teens from our youth group have been leading this time which has inspired them to explore different avenues of ministry as a career option.

Penns Valley Residents  
Spencer & Annie Smith highlight,

**"Being part of The Table has been such a blessing for us. Even though our kids are grown, it's been wonderful to see children and youth find a place to belong, build friendships, and grow in their understanding of God's Word, while parents also find meaningful community. We've been encouraged by how many people are able to step in and serve, each bringing their own gifts and strengths. That shared leadership makes the group feel vibrant and welcoming, creating space for everyone to contribute in meaningful ways. For us, it's been inspiring to experience—and to be part of—such a life-giving community."**





# BEYOND OUR WALLS



In July, PVYC and a partner church brought a team of 10 students and 7 adults to the north side of Pittsburgh for the second time to serve with Urban Impact. We helped with their summer day camp by organizing outdoor games and a field day for the youth. A small part of the team split off and did some renovation work to an old house that two missionary families will be staying in. The week culminated to a big Youth Fun Day consisting of bouncy houses, free food and giveaways, fun kids activities, and a gospel presentation hosted in a neighborhood Urban Impact wanted to reach. Over 30 local youth gave their lives to Christ that day and our team got to pray with each student. We are so grateful for the partnership we have with Urban Impact. This experience deeply impacted the students and affirmed that they have been created for a purpose and can make a big difference despite their age or limitations.

**“This was my second time going to Urban Impact, and once again, it was the highlight of my summer. The heart of God shines through them as they create a loving atmosphere filled with hope, love, and connection for students which is exactly what the youth center strives to do. It was a privilege to share this experience with two of my kids, and I'm so thankful PVYC partnered with Urban Impact to make it possible.”** - PVYC Parent

Our outreach efforts also involve supporting our local school district and community. We offer a devotional time every Friday morning before school begins in one of the classrooms. Breakfast is served alongside a conversation about how God's word can change our lives. We are able to connect with students in school hallways and classrooms to encourage them to find a safe haven, hope and mentorship at PVYC. We also take the opportunity to serve the teachers and faculty when we can for a Teacher's Appreciation Breakfast to say thank you for how our local teachers pour into the students throughout the school year.



**“I've seen students that need hope, worth, and friendship find it at PVYC. Their staff shows up for each student, accepts them as they are, and creates a safe and loving space for them. PVYC continues to be a trusted and reputable community resource that we often recommend to parents for their students that need support and connections. We know time and time again, students are met with a deep sense of belonging at PVYC.”** - PVHS Teacher

## STUDENT TRAINING PROGRAM PIZZA OUTREACH

Over the last 4 years we've been growing our Pizza Event program which consists of pop-up events at various neighborhoods and organizations to spread the message of hope, worth, and friendship one slice at a time. We now use 3 pizza ovens, a refrigerated prep table, and a host of other supplies all stored in our new enclosed trailer to host each pizza event with excellence. This has started to blossom into a student training program that will teach them good work ethics, customer service, entrepreneurship, and business management.



# 300

Handmade Pizzas

# 10

Catered Events

# 900

People Served



# HOW TO GET INVOLVED

At Penns Valley Youth Center, we rely on our monthly donors, business sponsors, and individual gifts to support our free programming and services to the Penns Valley community. You can be a big part of helping fund our mission and vision to provide students and families with Hope, Worth, and Friendship. Each of us working together allows us to take care of 250 students and over 180 families on a weekly basis.



## MONTHLY DONATION

Penns Valley Youth Center is funded on the generosity and support of the community through monetary monthly and one-time donations.



## VOLUNTEER

We need passionate people who have a heart for students and their community to reach the next generation through hope, worth, and friendship.



## WEDNESDAY MEAL

Every Wednesday Night we feed around 70 students and staff dinner that's provided by churches and community members.

**"My family and I feel blessed by PVYC over the past two years, which has embraced all of us starting with the original founders, board, directors, staff, and volunteers. To us this is a testament to the organization's purpose, credibility, and mission. PVYC spent time getting to know me personally, my background and why I wanted to volunteer. This was crucial to me and provided me with the security of fulfillment to their mission and wellbeing of the kids and parents PVYC served."**

- Drew Stewart  
PVYC Volunteer and Supporter



**Contact us to get started:**  
[info@pvyouthcenter.com](mailto:info@pvyouthcenter.com)



**Visit for more info:**  
[www.pvyouthcenter.com](http://www.pvyouthcenter.com)

## WAYS YOU CAN GIVE

- » Check or Money Order
- » Monthly or Recurring Donation
- » In-Kind Donation
- » Stock or Securities Donation



*Financial Information will be available upon request. For a digital copy of the information, email [info@pvyouthcenter.com](mailto:info@pvyouthcenter.com)*

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