

*God is  
Spoken  
of Here.*

# *Young People Who Care, Inc.*

P.O. Box 129  
Frenchville, PA 16836

## **Executive Board:**

Sr. Therese Dush  
Sr. Ruth Ann Madera  
Sr. Suzanne Thibault  
Sr. Karen Willenbring

## **Life Line**

Clearfield (814) 765-3225  
Philipsburg (814) 343-4761

## **Bethany Retreat Center**

Adult (814) 263-4855  
Youth (814) 263-4177

## **Marian House**

(814) 765-5646  
United Way Member

## **Advisory Board:**

Alan Hannibal - President  
Carol Baker - Vice Pres.  
Rev. Philip Billotte  
Dr. Ralph Cardamone  
Attorney Timothy Durant  
Patricia Miller  
James Collins  
Shari Collins  
Kenneth Pasch  
Kate Pasch

## **Mission Statement**

*Young People Who Care, Inc. is a Catholic grassroots ministry. YPWC provides a wide, ecumenical circle of care among those who give and those who receive. Its members are committed to creating a holistic and nonjudgmental environment where the exchange of culture, education and training empower individuals and groups. While adapting to changing times and needs, prayer, hospitality, simplicity and service remain constant characteristics of Young People Who Care, Inc.*

Email: [bethanyouthcenter@gmail.com](mailto:bethanyouthcenter@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.ypwcministries.org](http://www.ypwcministries.org)

## **Participant Packet for Service Program**

Dear Volunteer,

Greetings and welcome from the staff of Bethany Youth Center, YPWC, in Frenchville, Pennsylvania. We are looking forward to your participation in our Service Program. This program is designed to meet the needs of the poor and disadvantaged of Clearfield County, Appalachia. Included in this packet is important information we ask you to read carefully, It outlines our program and includes descriptions of our philosophy and guidelines, student responsibilities and a sample schedule for you to review. If you can live this program for a weekend or a week, sign and return the last page to your Group Leader. Keep in mind that if you arrive here and are unwilling to live this program, you will be sent home earlier than your group, at your expense.

Our Service Program is a special opportunity for high school or college students to experience working on service projects to help those in need, while living in a Christian community with other students from different parts of the United States, and living a simple lifestyle. All of this is accomplished within an environment in which each person's spiritual life is encouraged to grown through times of daily morning and evening prayer as a group, and through times of personal reflection and sharing. We have established our program for students who are interested in working hard each day and who want to be active members of a community of young people learning to work together to accomplish the goals and jobs assigned to them. It is designed to challenge participants to grown in areas of leadership, discovery of one's own gifts, and in the area of spirituality. The success of the weekend or week depends upon the attitudes and willingness of the participants to fully enter into the program with enthusiasm and cooperation. We are interested in having as volunteers only those individuals who are excited by and interested in a program such as ours.

## **Program Goals**

- To meet the various needs of the people of Clearfield County.**  
Projects may include, but not limited to, home renovation, building or repairing porches, painting houses, working with the handicapped, assisting at our homeless shelter, visiting nursing homes and shut-ins, providing assistance with yard work, cleaning, work on the Retreat Center Grounds, as well as other similar services.
- To develop Christian leadership skills and provide an experience of living in a Christian Community.**  
Accomplished through students working with adult leaders to assist in organizing the jobs each day, through work on the job sites and interacting with the people of the area, helping with meal preparation and clean-up, assisting in daily routine tasks at the Center, planning evening prayer and reflection time, et cetera.

One focus of the week is building community with each other. There will be recreational and other activities each day with this focus in mind. Exclusive relationships are a hindrance to this goal. Volunteers who come with very close friends are encouraged to spend time not only with their friends, but with others in the group. Dating and dating behavior is not a part of this program. There are appropriate settings and times for this, but in this week, the focus is on interacting with and getting to know people from your own group and other groups instead of exclusive relationships.

3. **To foster spiritual growth in volunteers.**

Accomplished through daily morning and evening prayers, times of reflection and sharing, Mass at least once during the week, other spiritual opportunities, and through a simple lifestyle. If you play a musical instrument such as guitar, flute, violin, etc., please bring it along. Music is a great addition to the prayer services and campfires.

**Program Guidelines and Policies**

- Students must be 16 years old, out of sophomore year and have a signed medical release form with emergency contact phone numbers.
- All participants must have had a tetanus shot in the past 7 years. Information given to adult leaders of any medication that is needed for the period of time at the Center.
- No smoking policy for anyone under 19. If you are a smoker and cannot go without a cigarette for this program, then you should not apply.
- Be willing and able to live a simple lifestyle:

This program challenges volunteers to live an alternate lifestyle. It is an opportunity to become aware of what it would be like to live without some of the luxuries, appliances, diet and conveniences that most of us are accustomed to having as part of our daily lives. We are not deprived of the necessities – just the luxuries. In order to have a brief experience of “doing without”, as well as for many practical and globally responsible reasons, our program embraces a simple lifestyle which includes:

- No television, radios, I-Pods, cell phones (except for adult leaders). Private use of Mp3 players or electronic devices.
- Absence of soda/junk food – we do have some homemade snacks for desserts and campfires. Snacks you bring with you may be used on Sunday night or stored for your return trip.
- Recycling everything we can.
- Limited water supply:  
This means one shower every other day if you are servicing during Spring Break. If you are servicing during the summer – this means one shower during the week. However, there is time for a swim each day in the river. The water is clean, warm and refreshing after the work day. Bring biodegradable soap and shampoo (Ivory, Suave or other brand) river shoes, and modest 1-piece bathing suits.

**Program**

- Common bunk rooms for males and females in different buildings.
- Jeans or work pants are worn on the job sites. Shorts, sweat pants, running pants or pants with holes are not work clothes. Bring work boots and gloves for construction jobs. *(See Packing List for more details)*
- The phone is a business phone and is only available for emergency use by volunteers. Group leaders need to arrange a phone tree that can be activated by one phone call.
- Illegal drug and alcohol use is strictly **FORBIDDEN**.

**In order for the week to be as successful and positive as possible for everybody, any individual who causes a negative experience for others in the program through an unwillingness to follow the guidelines, disrespect to adult leaders, staff or other students, or involvement in any drug or alcohol use, will result in the person being sent home early. This would be done in cooperation with the student’s parents and adult leaders.**

**Student Responsibilities:**

- Work Projects each day.
- Attendance at all meals, organized recreation, prayer times and other scheduled events with a positive spirit.
- Assist with meals and clean up and other chores as assigned.
- Assist in planning one evening prayer during the week.
- Follow the guidelines of the program and cooperate with those in leadership.

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Our Program is for those willing to accept the challenges, responsibilities, and guidelines described above. If you wish to be a participant in this Service Program we want you to know that hundreds of high school and college students from across the US have found this Mission week to be an incredible, life-changing, exciting experience in which they have learned new skills, ministered to wonderful people, made new friends, grown closer to God, and created memories that will last them a lifetime. We welcome you and look forward to meeting you! A sample schedule will give you an idea of what a typical day will look like. **Please pay attention to the items on the packing list** (especially if you are doing service work during the summer.)

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**Prepare yourself for an adventure!!!**

Sincerely,

The Bethany Youth Center Staff

### Sample Schedule for Weekend or Week long Service Program

7:00 am	Breakfast (not optional)
7:45	Morning Prayer and Job Assignments
8:30	Leave for Job Assignment
4:00	Return from Job Assignment
4:15	River Swim – in the summer
	Showers – at other times of year
5:30	Dinner
6:45	Personal Time, Recreation
9:30	Evening Reflection
11:00	In Bunk Houses
11:30	Lights Out

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If you are willing and able to live the program described above, sign this form, cut along the dotted line and return it along with your application to your Group Leader. All participants in this Service Program must also complete the Medical Release Form.

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Website: [www.ypwcministries.org](http://www.ypwcministries.org)

I have read the above statement, Participant Packet and the Retreat Center Guidelines and would like to be a volunteer in the Young People Who Care Service Program for the time period of: \_\_\_\_\_.

Participant Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_