



Youth Center Renovation Update!



It has been a long, slow road we have traveled with moving forward on the building remodel for our KAYN Youth Center in Vandergrift. However, we are making progress towards obtaining our building permit! Architect Lee Calisti, working with support from Kiski Alumni Matt Fisher, has gotten us very close to our goal of starting renovations. On March 13th, we received approval from the Vandergrift Zoning Board for a variance to build a handicap ramp at our Spruce Street entrance. This was a critical need to meet ADA requirements, and we praise God for working that out. We are almost ready to apply for our building permit; all that remains is to obtain an egress agreement for our main entrance and receive final mechanical, electrical and plumbing drawings. Our goal is to begin work on Phase One later this spring. Our hope and prayer is to open our doors to students at the start of school in fall 2018. This is a real need as we have actually started to outgrow the space we use at the local YMCA for our Thursday night program! We are still looking for a person to oversee the renovation work once we begin. Please contact us or sign up on the volunteer section on our website if you or someone you know may be interested in helping.

Prayer Requests

Pray for guidance for the KAYN board members as they continue to make decisions regarding the **renovation of the Youth Center**. We hope that renovations will go quickly and smoothly once we receive a building permit.

Please pray for the success of **new KAYN programming efforts**. We hope that these new activities will attract even more students to the ministry!

Continue to pray that God would supply the ministry with **dedicated volunteers** who have a heart to reach high school students for Christ.

Send your prayer requests to us at kiskiareayouth@gmail.com or find us on at www.facebook.com/KiskiAreaYouth or on Twitter @KiskiNet



Director's Corner: Exciting New Ministry Programs

It has now been just under a year since I have started my time as the Director of KAYN. This first year has exceeded all of my expectations. I have been able to continue building relationships with those in the community, including local pastors, school administrators and students. I am constantly encouraged by the continual growth of our program and the new students that I am meeting every week. During a recent Thursday night meeting, I had the opportunity to share the gospel and Easter story with the students. I am beyond thankful for the prayer warriors that support this ministry. Please pray for the hearts of our students, some of whom may have just heard the Good News for the first time!

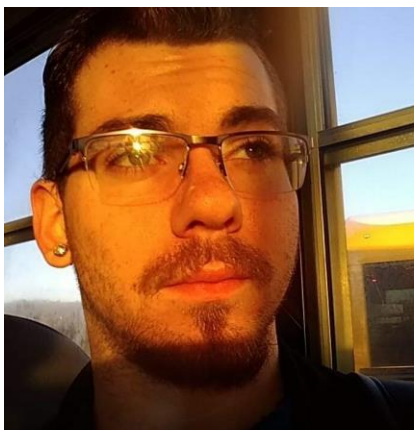
I am also very excited about newly-developed programs that will allow us to reach even more students. Last month, Amanda and I opened our home to students for a weekly small group Bible study. We are taking them through Francis Chan's Basic Series, which has provided us with great topics for conversation. In addition, I was given permission by Kiski Area High School to run Ultimate Frisbee after school on a weekly basis. However, if you live in PA, you know that we have experienced very inconsistent weather as of late, so we have had to postpone this ministry until spring officially comes our way.

As I reflect on this first year, I realize that I could not have possibly anticipated the opportunities that God has provided for KAYN. I feel fortunate to be surrounded by a board that provides me with overwhelming support, and for my wife who is my constant source of encouragement. I can't wait to see what God has planned for the next year! "For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." ~ 2 Peter 1:5-8

In Christ,
Joshua Westurn



Student Spotlight: Austin Fitzpatrick



Nearly four years ago, my friends introduced me to KAYN. At the time, Josh was not yet leading the ministry, but I could tell this could be a place for me to really find myself with God and develop a relationship with Jesus. At first, I saw it as a place to go hang out with my friends, eat pizza, and play some interesting games. As the years went on, I noticed myself listening to what was being said, instead of just hearing what I was told. I started to understand how having a connection between myself and Jesus is more important than pizza and basketball. Every Thursday night allows me to pause the crazy life of a high school senior, and reflect on everything: all of the things that make me who I am, all of my imperfections, and all of my wrong doings. I spend time strengthening my relationship with Jesus, and realizing the ultimate sacrifice he made for me, my friends, my family, and you. Knowing that Jesus loves me no matter who I am allows me to be myself and always feel comfortable on Thursday night. The two hours a week I spend there has changed my life, and the way I think about things I did and what I want to do. I wish to volunteer and become a leader myself for KAYN after I graduate, thus allowing my relationship to forever become stronger and stronger as time goes by.