

## NEXT STEPS

### Be a Part of the Network

National Network of Youth Ministries is like the mortar between bricks. We connect you to others locally and nationally with the goal of reaching every teenager for Jesus Christ and empowering them for kingdom ministry. Sign up your network and check out the InDepth resources at [www.youthworkers.net/training](http://www.youthworkers.net/training).

### Schedule the Priorities

Here is your space to build a healthier network! From the QuickStart write down some goals and deadlines that will help you accomplish your plans.

#### Pray Together Action Items

Date

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#### Build Relationships Action Items

Date

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#### Develop Strategies Action Items

Date

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#### Share Resources Action Items

Date

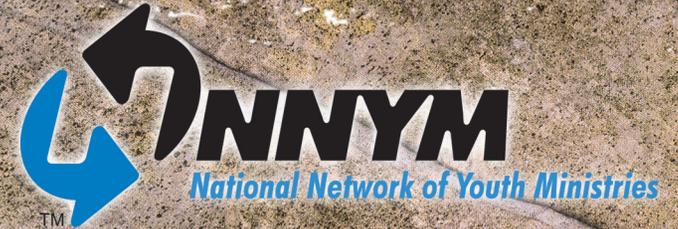
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#### List of Potential Members

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# QUICKSTART

Building a ministry network that brings hope to youth in your community.

> PRAYER

> RELATIONSHIPS

> STRATEGY

> RESOURCES



All over America, walls are being torn down, students are being equipped to share Jesus, and ministries are collaborating as they discover they are **better together**. Here's one story from a network in Escondido, California:

"We didn't have it all figured out... our network just wanted to reach and equip teenagers. As we built relationships over time, we asked the question, 'What are the needs of the youth in our community?' There were more needs than we could even imagine!

After meeting with our community service director, we decided to worship and serve at a local park. We were amazed when 400 students from 13 different churches gathered for a student-led worship night. The next weekend, they did a work project at the same amphitheatre where they had worshipped. The community service director came and shared how good it was to have teenagers give back to the community.

We also partnered with a group equipping youth to do school rallies and on one campus alone, students helped lead 50 of their peers to Christ! All because we worked together."

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### Why Network?

Why work together? Doesn't that take more time? Yes, but cooperating to reach youth in your community reflects God's desire. Take a look at what these passages share:

- + God's Heart: Unity. "...that they may be one..." [John 17: 20-23].
- + God's Process: Equipping. "...one friend sharpens another..." [Proverbs 27: 17].
- + God's Command: Love. "Love one another..." [John 15: 11-15].
- + God's Plan: Partnerships. "It is better to have a partner..." [Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12].
- + God's Call: Discipleship. "...make disciples of all nations..." [Matthew 28:18-20].

### Four Priorities

Networking since 1981, National Network of Youth Ministries has identified four priorities that are transferable principles among healthy ministry networks. These core elements will help you build a stronger kingdom movement in your community.

They are:

- PRAY TOGETHER
- BUILD RELATIONSHIPS
- DEVELOP STRATEGIES
- SHARE RESOURCES

### USING THIS BOOKLET

This 'QuickStart' guide will help you network your community to reach and equip teenagers through interacting with the four priorities. You can work through this booklet alone or guided by a Network coach. Throughout the guide are interactive questions to apply the principles to your setting. Online we have 'InDepth' resources at [www.youthworkers.net/training](http://www.youthworkers.net/training). You may reproduce this booklet for non-profit use.

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## A Healthy Ministry Network includes...

a community of youth workers, students and caring adults who unite by praying together and sharing relationships, resources and strategy to reach and equip teenagers for Christ.

### >PRAY TOGETHER

Discover God's DNA for your community.

- + Connect through prayer.
- + Ask God for His vision.
- + Establish a foundation of prayer.
- + Pray in three dimensions.

### >BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

Build a team that does life and ministry together.

- + Develop trust.
- + Gather your core team.
- + Meet together for nurture and equipping.
- + Establish common ground.

## HEALTHY MINISTRY NETWORK

### >DEVELOP STRATEGIES

Make plans to mobilize youth and adults in your community.

- + Create an Action Plan:
- + Discover
- + Design
- + Do

### >SHARE RESOURCES

Utilize the assets God provides for your community.

- + Recruit more workers.
- + Widen the net.
- + Serve in your strengths.
- + Evaluate, adjust and stay in the game.

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## Discover God's DNA for Your Community

### Connect through Prayer

In working together to disciple teenagers, prayer is your foundation and source of strength. Your relationship with God fills you with His love, which overflows into the lives of those you are reaching. As you connect with Him you are more prepared to connect with others. Prayer is the vital communication we have with Him.

### Ask God for His Vision

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God knows how He wants to mobilize a movement in your area to reach and empower every teenager. Why not allow Him to orchestrate the movement? Ask God to give you His vision and heart for your community.

### Establish a Foundation of Prayer

Building a local movement means making prayer intentional. With whom can you pray and who will pray for you? Here are some ideas:

- + Make prayer a consistent part of your network meeting.
- + Meet regularly in smaller prayer groups.
- + Take one or more days to have a group prayer summit.
- + Enlist the local Moms in Prayer Intl. group to pray for your network and the schools you want to reach.
- + Set up an online social networking group to share requests. (On [www.youthworkers.net](http://www.youthworkers.net) you can set up your network and share private posts with your group's members)

### 3D Prayer

Prayer can be multidirectional for your community. New England regional coordinator Mark Orr gives this great reminder to hit three levels as you pray:

- + **Pray Up:** Establish the vertical relationship with God through praise and thanksgiving.
- + **Pray Across:** Intercede for one another regularly and at gatherings.
- + **Pray Out:** Listen to God as He reveals your community's needs and resources for teenagers.

### PRIORITIZING PRAYER

In our network one leader served at a small church that had a prayer garden and we met there. Our prayers were about seeking His will, lifting up our kids, and our community.

As we prayed, I saw us mature with cohesiveness and intimacy among us. Then we were prepared to truly help.

*-Venetia Yates, Network Coordinator  
Bosque Farms, New Mexico*

### Connect through Prayer

How is your soul today? How can prayer help you in working together to transform teenagers into disciple makers?

### Ask God for His Vision

Take some time to pray right now. How do you sense God is moving in the lives of teenagers in your community? When can you schedule some more time to get away, asking God what He has to say about reaching and equipping youth in your community?

### Establishing Your Foundation

Who would be willing to pray for the youth of your community? Of the checklist on the facing page, do any of those ideas resonate with you? What action points can you set to get people praying together?

### Praying in New Dimensions

How can you build prayer more intentionally into your networking times with other youth workers?

**INDEPTH** Check out these links at [www.youthworkers.net/training](http://www.youthworkers.net/training)

- + Adding Dimensions to Prayer in Your Network
- + Making Prayer a Priority
- + Listening Prayer: Discover God's DNA for Your Community
- + Birth of a Student Prayer Movement



## Do Life and Ministry Together

A network – like a train – runs on two rails: Relationship [who you are] and Strategy [what you do]. Networks are motivated by intentional relationships.

### Developing Trust

Building relationships takes time and diligence. Hanging out, praying and serving together creates a healthy environment for networking. As 1Peter 4:8 says, “Stay wide awake in prayer. Most of all, love each other as if your life depended on it.”

### Gather Your Core Team

6 God’s timing is perfect. So is His ‘teaming’. As you prayerfully clarify your vision, be on the lookout for others who resonate with you as you share your Great Commission dream with them. And expect God to bring you together!

### Meet Together for Nurture and Equipping

At some point, your ‘core’ needs to expand. It’s time for your first network meeting! Invite others to meet with you and do not be afraid to start small. In time you can reach out to other ministries that can benefit from networking. What does a good network meeting look like? It helps the group accomplish their mission. They balance praying together, relationship building, developing strategy and sharing resources.

### Establish the Common Ground with NNYM

Connecting with the National Network of Youth Ministries increases your effectiveness. Network members are brought together by common values and principles expressed in the Covenant and our doctrinal statement. Our shared values help foster unity between diverse organizations and churches. Also, a strong national movement [75 ministries] helps give momentum to local efforts. We also provide Network Coaching and valuable networking resources at [youthworkers.net](http://youthworkers.net)!

### NETWORKED AND CONNECTED

**My friends, life is about relationships.**  
**What we do in ministry cannot sacrifice the context of relationships. I’m surprised at how unconnected some youth workers are! Many of the questions you are asking, I will then follow up and say, ‘Well is there a context of community that you have?’ and you say, ‘No, I kind of do ministry alone.’**  
**But you need to get networked and connected. That’s what youth ministry is; it’s living in the context of relationships.**

*-Doug Fields: NNYM member, youth ministry author and speaker*

### Developing Trust

What are some ways that you can connect on a deeper level with other youth workers?

### Gather Your Core Team

Who resonates with the idea of working together to reach and equip teenagers in your area?

### Meeting Together

How can you intentionally incorporate praying together, building relationships, developing strategy and sharing resources into your network meetings?

What other churches and organizations do you want to ‘bring to the table’?

### Establish the Common Ground

What are ways that you can use the resources of NNYM to help you better connect and equip youth workers in our area? How can we help you?

**INDEPTH** Check out these links at [www.youthworkers.net/training](http://www.youthworkers.net/training)

- + Making Tracks: Is your Ministry Network on Target?
- + Developing Trust in Your Network
- + How to Start a Ministry Network
- + How your Ministry Network Grows



## Make Plans to Mobilize Your Community

If *prayerful relationships* are the “power rail” that define who you are, *strategy* is the rail that defines what you do. So how do you set and accomplish your network’s purpose?

### Create an Action Plan

Your network helps transform teenagers into disciple makers through sharing the love of Christ. This reflects the Great Commission and Great Commandment [Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 12:29-31]. Teenagers are on the front lines, but need adults to come alongside them and give them direction. An action plan clearly defines your network’s target. Your plan should be fluid; it can adjust as God leads and needs change.

**An Action Plan has three parts:**

#### Discover

You can determine God’s mission for your network by praying together and asking the question, “What are the needs of youth in our schools and community?” You can do that by gathering hard evidence through giving or finding surveys that assess youth issues and available resources. Also, listen to youth leaders and community leaders who can help you discern the real needs and spiritual opportunities, rather than just the felt needs.

#### Design

From your findings, gather your team together to develop steps that will mobilize the resources in the community to meet the physical and spiritual needs of teenagers. Prayerfully set measurable and attainable goals.

#### Do

Then put it into action! Mobilize youth and those who work with them to accomplish the vision God has shown you. Afterwards, take time to evaluate what you have done and then rework the plan.

### FLAPJACKS AND JESUS

I coach the FCA huddle at Southeast Polk High School, where I also work. Seven years ago, I began praying with a local youth pastor and students for direction, asking ‘How can we meet the spiritual and physical needs of students at SEPHS?’ God led us to start Flapjacks & Jesus, a weekly outreach led by the FCA club. Some 200 students eat a free breakfast, while students or pastors share the gospel at two different times during the 40-minute period. Pastors mentor the student leaders, and students have met Christ in the past two years through the outreach.

–Barb Tuttle, *Network member & Registrar at Southeast Polk HS near Des Moines, Iowa*

### Create an Action Plan

If the Great Commission and Great Commandment were fully lived out in your community, what changes would you see in the lives of young people and those who love them?

#### Discover

What are some of the needs of youth in your schools and community? What are some specific ways that you can discover their real spiritual and physical needs? What research has already been done for youth in your community?

#### Design

From what you have discovered, what do you sense God is calling you to do together with other youth workers in your area?

Who are some like-minded individuals with whom you can meet to develop the plan?

#### Do

What are some measurable goals that your network can set and put into action?

**INDEPTH** Check out these links at [www.youthworkers.net/training](http://www.youthworkers.net/training)

- + Partnering in Netville
- + Creating Your Action Plan: Discover
- + Creating Your Action Plan: Design
- + Creating Your Action Plan: Do



## Utilize the Assets God Provides for Your Community

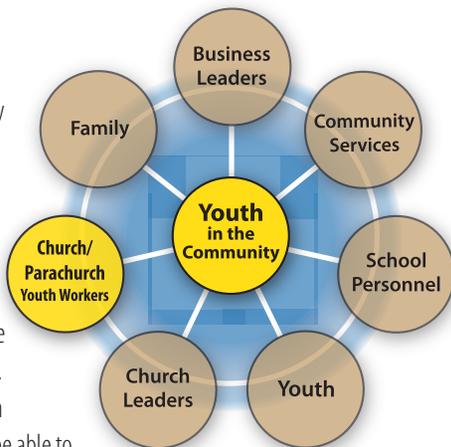
How do you find the resources you need to reach so many teenagers?

### The Harvest is Plentiful

Matthew 9:37-38 says, "What a huge harvest!" Jesus said to His disciples, "How few workers! On your knees and pray for harvest hands! "Where do we find the workers? Believe that God has already called them: as teachers, coaches, probation officers, parents, grandparents, and city council members. According to Jeremy Del Rio, New York City coordinator, 50-80% of the people in churches are already connected to youth.

### Widening the Net

Could it be that we need to start thinking differently about whom God has given us to be part of a team to reach youth? As your network grows, pray about how you might "widen your net" by giving others a voice in your network. The graphic illustrates this principle. Within the larger community, there are Christians in businesses or organizations that are already focused on meeting the needs of teenagers. These people can help you expand your influence in making disciples of every teenager. They may also be able to help you better minister to the teenagers with whom they are connected.



### Serve In Your Strengths

God gives the vision. He also gives the means to accomplish it. Your network can help surface resources and training for equipping teenagers to become disciple makers. Imagine that churches want to do an area-wide outreach. If one church has a gym, the location is obvious. A member skilled at doing graphics can do the publicity. Another one gives the message, as God has gifted them - you get the idea. You're better together!

### Evaluate, Adjust, and Stay in the Game

One test of a healthy ministry network is whether they stay engaged in prayer, relationships, strategizing and resources over time. Take time to celebrate the victories and evaluate your efforts. Be brutally honest. Adjust your game plan, like a football team at halftime adjusts to finish strong. Commit to continuing to work together toward the long-range vision of reaching every teenager in your community and empowering them for kingdom ministry.

### Workers for the Harvest

List all of the paid and unpaid youth workers you know in your community.

### Widening the Net

Make another list of people who love God and care about youth in your community.

### Serving in your Strengths

Note how God has equipped each of the people you've listed with time, talent or other resources that might be used to reach teenagers.

### Evaluating and Adjusting

What is going well in your networking efforts? What are some ways you can help involve others to be more effective as part of the team? What is missing in your plan that could help you meet needs in your community for the next round of ministry?"

### Celebrate and Stay in the Game

How could you acknowledge what God has done at the halftime and conclusion of a collaborative effort, thanking those who've worked, while helping participants to stay committed for the long haul?

### INDEPTH

Check out these links at [www.youthworkers.net/training](http://www.youthworkers.net/training)

- + Mobilizing Your Community Assets
- + Widen the Net
- + Discovering the Strengths of Your Network
- + Execute, Evaluate, Celebrate!