

crossroads farm



Down on the Farm

The Quarterly Newsletter of Crossroads Farm

Oct., Nov., Dec. 2017



Drive-by-Prayer

Throughout the entire month of November, our adult volunteers, Leadteam Coaches, took their carecells of students and hit the road in prayer. Going undercover from house to house, students prayed for their friends and left behind a note and candy in “Ding Dong Ditch” fashion. What could be better than students praying for one another? This is one of four prayer events held throughout our program year.

"I did Drive By Prayer with three of my Care Cell girls on Friday night, and each of them picked 2 or 3 friends for us to pray for and drop off candy to. Each girl prayed for the friends they had chosen when we got to their houses, and when we got to the last girl's friend's house, I said, “Okay, Ashley, do you want to pray for your friend?” She said, “Ok, I’ve never prayed out loud before, but I guess so!” and she prayed for her friend to come to Crossroads, to grow close to Jesus, and to feel better. At the next house, I didn’t have to specifically ask her and she prayed for her other friend. Then, on Sunday night at the Shed, we learned more about prayer during the talk, so at the end of our discussion group we took a few minutes to go around and have each of us pray. Ashley prayed out loud again without hesitation. I thought it was so cool that a sophomore in high school went from never praying out loud before to willingly praying out loud three times in one weekend!

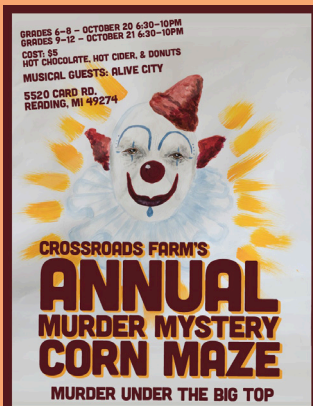
-CeCi, Leadteam Coach (volunteer)



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“Holy Cow! It was so much fun! The kids loved it to the moon and back. There were five of my students in my car. We met at the North Reading Church parking lot because it’s one of our RCI churches and where I go. We bagged the candy and wrote notes on the fly while we were driving. They were pretty nervous at the first house, but by the last one, they were ready for the challenge of a huge picture window and a dog sleeping in the kennel. They dove in the woods after knocking on the door and were just busting up laughing. The kids took the initiative to pray for their friends. We wanted to make each house an individual memory so we prayed before we got out of the car at each place. One kid got tired and just hid in the bushes by a stop sign as we sometimes had to park far away from the houses and he didn’t want to run that far by the end.”

-Zach Thatcher with his fabulous care cell group of 7th grade dudes!!



On October 21st and 22nd, Crossroads Farm hosted its 18th annual Murder Mystery at the Farm, only this year there was a twist in that it was held under a Big Top tent to go with our circus themed maze. The band played off of our brand new stage extending from the back of the Shed. 520 secondary students participated in the two night event and it was awesome! It truly takes hundreds of volunteers and hundreds of hours to put on this Murder Mystery, our largest outreach of the year. But what a sheer blessing for our teams to do it to the glory of God for rural youth!



"Standing to the right of all my kids' classmates and friends at the concert on Saturday night, what came to my eyes were tears and what came to my mind was, 'All these kids . . . we have cheered for them at meets, fed them at team dinners, and prayed for them for years and TONIGHT they will hear the gospel!' We felt so privileged to point them into the maze and serve students cider and cocoa. I will volunteer again in a heartbeat!"

-Rick Nohr, senior pastor, Pine Ridge Bible Church



"The Murder Mystery Event was more than I imagined, not only in the message that was told, but the fun that was had. The girls that I brought with me thought it was a ton of fun and one even accepted Christ as her Savior, which has launched the opportunity for our family to encourage her growth in that relationship. The Murder Mystery event was the catalyst for this young girl's life, and I am excited to see what God will do with it."

-Aimee Beltran, Northpointe Community Church



"This is my first year on volunteer staff. I was privileged to be able to build and run a site within the maze, and was given lots of help from other CRF staff in the process. I helped run the cannonball site - which had the kids work as a team to carry one teammate from the cannon through a hula hoop that was on fire with spider lights.

Outside the maze was an amazing group of volunteers whose simple goal was to love everyone who attended the event. It wasn't a burden, they just served: parking cars, serving cider and donuts, etc

Personally not knowing what to expect turned out to be a blessing to me because I had the privilege of seeing God at work in a mighty way. When the maze is empty and I am waiting for the first kids to show up, I had a feeling of, "Did we live up to their expectations?" We did! They had a riot. But next year, we are going to be even better!"

-Grace VanCamp, Leadteam Coach



"My first experience with the Murder Mystery event at Crossroads Farm simply blew me away. I was privileged to work with a great team handling all of the stage production for this event. "Alive City" was an awesome band that kicked off the night before students headed into the maze to solve the murder. My expectations were high in terms of the quality and attendance of the event, but both were exceeded. By far the most enjoyable moment was seeing dozens of students over the course of two nights raise their hands and say "YES" to Jesus Christ. No matter how long any of us serve, first time life changing decisions will never get old."

-John Pomeroy





A BARNSTORMING WEEKEND

- and that's what it was! A Crossroads Farm flurry of travel, vision casting, testimonies, music, and opportunity to share and hear what God IS and HAS been doing in the lives of students. What an exciting opportunity for so many people in three locations - Detroit / Reading / Traverse City - to hear the reports and challenges of the expanding vision of CRF. As a board member, I was so pleased to be there in

person, working at each event and seeing with my own eyes CRF fulfilling the mission to reach rural teens for Jesus Christ. We heard three student testimonies, two new

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It's the most wonderful time of the year!

225 students (and 40 adult volunteers) crowded around the towering, live Christmas tree anxiously awaiting the moment when, for quite a few, they are able to open their only real present this season. The annual Christmas party is a highlight for us here, but also for friends in the metro Detroit area and beyond. What began as a generous gesture of Christ's love several years ago, has become a more extravagant outpouring of the same. For the 250 friends that purchase, order, bake, make and pack these gifts, the party that they will never attend, with students they may never meet, this event is a part of their giving tradition. We can never express the thankfulness we have for these many

who sacrifice so much.

This year many students prayed to accept the gift of the peace child and ended their war with God. Outside of the gifts, games, music, skits, and food, their receiving Christ may be the most incredible thank you ever given. We will celebrate that together later.

Crossroads Farm also wants to take the opportunity to thank many local volunteers for their labors in decorating and food preparation. As always, we are humbled by the commitment of our volunteer staff, our professional team, and our board. Merry Christmas to all. And to all, a Goodnight. 🌟

"Last night we had five girls in my care cell that said yes to Christ! I got a couple of texts later that night thanking me for caring about them... God is so good."

-LeighAnn, Leadteam Coach



"Three of my guys accepted Christ tonight! I was bawling like a baby! This is so awesome!!"

-Zach, Leadteam coach



"I can't believe how much is in this bag!"

-female student



"That was the best night ever! The socks were my favorite."

Devlin, senior



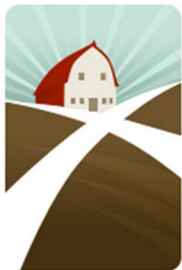
("Barnstorming Tour"
continued from page 3)



missionary staff members, and Doug and Dawn all share their calling from God to serve HIS Kingdom purposes. Have you joined the CRF team? God is on the MOVE and we need your prayers, volunteer hearts and financial support. Don't hesitate - Give today - support our missionary staff or send a check to Crossroads to use for it's ongoing outreach programming. Join me and the other CRF partners in supporting this expanding work. Need to know more about the vision? Check out what's on the horizon for NW Michigan, NW

Ohio, and several other rural communities. If you were there, you were blessed, filled and challenged! If you missed it, get informed - touch base with one of the CRF staff. There are many, many more rural youth who need the life saving message of Jesus! Blessings to you and yours! 🙏

- Rick Stewart, Board of Directors



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Loving The Rural Teenager



Prayer Closet

Yahoos:

- Murder Mystery Outreach! 37 students made decisions for Christ!
- A new shuffle board table added to the Milking Parlor Game Room
- Outdoor stage completed off the back of the Shed
- New missionary candidates in process
- The successful move to the Northwest region of CRF missionary, Jerry Bernard and family



Take It To Jesus:

- Jerry Bernard and family as they work with the Northwest MI communities, churches and volunteers to launch our next branch of CRF
- John (CeCi) Pomeroy, Joe (Traci) Castaneda, Jake (Faith) Monroe, and Luke Marshall, all missionary candidates in the ministry partner development process
- 2018 ministry year! May God do truly more than we could ask or think in the lives of our students, unreached students, and in this ministry organization's staff, board, and ongoing growth process.