

Dear supporters of the Joint Youth Ministry,

Ten years ago three churches (Almaden Hills, Cambrian Park and Willow Glen UMC) felt called to band together in faith to start the Joint Youth Ministry. God has clearly been in this endeavor, taking Lisa and her initial 20 youth to a group that now averages 150 students! Increased membership means increased resource requirements. It is our privilege to be a part of this ministry by lending our support in the form of time and money. This letter celebrates that growth and invites you to share in supporting a ministry that meets our youth in relevant and honest way. Since this letter concerns financial support, we want to be completely transparent about where our money comes from, where it goes, and what increasingly urgent needs we have. It's better to have access to all the information, even if you don't need or read it!

The Joint Youth Ministry is completely funded by donations. Our three churches have committed to support the JYM through the budgets they approve each year. The members of each church make monthly donations (pledges) to help meet their church's budget obligations. The three churches have committed to the annual cost of basic salaries and program support for the JYM, and they split that combined cost by one third. In addition, we do two large fundraisers, along with four babysitting nights a year to provide scholarships, across the board help for trips/retreats/events, crisis help for families, supplements to the program budget and more. Please see the detailed budget attached for more very specific information about our finances.

Again, increased membership means increased resource requirements. In the past few years our "part time" Program Assistant CJ, was paid for 15.5 hours a week, but in reality worked an average of 28 hours a week; and our "part time" Administrative Assistant: Kat, was paid for 10 hours a week, but worked an average of 20 hours a week! While this was very generous of them, it isn't fair to expect any part time staff member to volunteer additional hours to keep a program running. CJ has moved on and Kat will potentially leave as early as March. As we ponder the best path forward, the Joint Youth Council has decided that it makes sense now to hire a full-time Assistant Youth Director. This will require an increased our budget 15 hours a week (our current budget allows for 25.5 hours per week) which translates into about \$15,000 more a year.

Our three churches have all struggled financially on and off for the last 10 years, but in the midst of financial challenges, thankfully, they have kept their commitment to our teenagers and the growing Joint Youth Ministry. Many of the people who pledge in our churches do not have any students in the JYM, yet they continue to faithfully pledge a monthly amount to their local church to make sure that ministries continue to run, lights stay on, janitors clean, maintenance happens and meeting space is available for us. If you'd like to start pledging to your home church, I am sure they'd welcome it! **However, our churches are not able to increase their contributions at this time to fund the additional 15 staff hours and we need your help.** These 15 hours will allow the Joint Youth Ministry to maintain the same level of programs, activities and services that we have had over the past couple of years, while also fairly compensating the new hire for the hours they will actually work.

This is where you come in. About 65% of the active students in the JYM go to one of our three churches. Many that go to our churches with their families pledge to the general budget of the church. Thank you for that generosity. Some of you go to our churches and don't pledge for various reasons. The additional 35% of the youth in the JYM don't go to any of our churches but have come into the JYM family through word of mouth, sibling involvement, friends or neighborhood. We are so grateful you've made the JYM your home. While money WILL NEVER LIMIT YOUR STUDENT'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE JYM, we want to make sure you are aware of the budget needs and we request your help if your family is financially able.

We are setting up a monthly giving link on Joint Youth Ministry Website –www.jointyouthgroup.com. On that page is a link that says "Assistant Youth Director Fund". Click on it to sign up for automatic weekly/monthly/annual donation specifically to the JYM staff fund each month with your debit/credit card through Vanco. This money will only be used for JYM staff salary and will ensure we can meet the growing demands of our teenagers. Make sure you fill out the donation box for **JYM Associate Director Salary**. We would also be happy to take a monthly pledge or one time donation in check form made out to WGUMC if that would be easier. We know many of you have given generously in the past and some of you have the means to do so again but haven't been sure how the JYM budget runs or if there is a consistent need. We now have a very specific and timely need.

In the ten years of the JYM existence, hundreds of students from all over San Jose have come to know a loving God, made healthy decisions, expanded their understanding of serving others, developed a deep and a committed faith community and made integral friendships. Please consider the impact the Joint Youth Ministry has in your student's life or in the lives of those that are being served when you make your decision about a donation or pledge.

With gratitude in Christ,

The Joint Youth Council

Current 2012 Basic Annual Budget funded by our churches

Joint Youth Ministry Director (full time)

1. Annual salary: **\$41,135** plus **\$3,147** payroll taxes
2. Medical expense account: **\$1,000**
(no healthcare benefits are provided)
3. Professional Reimbursement: **\$4,500**
(mileage/gas, cell phones, continuing education, leadership training materials, spiritual retreats, books, one-on-ones with families/students)

Joint Youth Ministry Program Assistant (15.5 hours/week)

Helps plan events, writes curriculum, is present at all youth events, leads trips, helps small groups, does one-on-ones with students, attends week-long camps, mission trips, weekend retreats and sleepovers

1. Annual Salary: **\$14,562** (\$18/hr) plus **\$1,110** payroll taxes
2. Professional Reimbursement: **\$420**

Joint Youth Ministry Administrative assistant (10 hours/week)

Update web sites, take RSVP's, update Youthtracker, make flyers, make reservations, rentals and plan logistics.

1. Annual Salary: **\$5,460** (\$10.50/hr) plus **\$436** payroll taxes

Program Expenses

1. Total: **\$6,800**

Food and supplies for events; training for leaders; curriculum for students; fees for website hosting and email service; YouthTracker monthly database; van rentals; books; teaching materials; supplies copies, envelopes, stamps and much more.

The current total budgeted cost of JYM annually is \$78,570

The entire 150-person Joint Youth Ministry staff and program is expected to run the above funds, with each of our three churches paying one-third of these basic expenses. We have an incredibly in depth, active and high functioning youth program for the amount of money spent.

Annual Fundraisers

You may also wonder why we do two main fundraisers a year and where that money goes. **This fundraising account is completely separate from the JYM budget** and is raised because of the large additional need we have for funds for a program of this size. This account normally takes in about \$32,000 a year, and puts out that same amount for the things we need. All of the money raised at these three events goes to the following: supplement the program, activities, camps, summer mission trips, leader spots on summer mission trips, senior activities, thank you gifts for volunteers, necessary items for teens/families who can't afford them (plus scholarships), van insurance payments and larger needs of the JYM. We commit to three fundraisers each year:

1. "Evening at the Movies" (or Hop, Luau, Movies, etc.). This is the spring dinner/auction/show and normally grosses between \$15,000-\$20,000
2. Walk-a-thon – this normally grosses between \$10,000-\$15,000
3. 4 Babysitting nights a year for families, almost all of whom are unassociated with the churches – this normally grosses between \$1800-\$3000 a year.

We also get approximately \$5,000 a year for our fundraising account (used for the above mentioned items) from memorial gifts, random anonymous donations and donations from non-JYM families.

Programs of the Joint Youth Ministry

Sunday Night programming-

A. Youth Group-We have regular youth group 2-3 times a month. It is our best-attended and main teaching time of the week.

Junior High Youth Group- 4pm-5:30pm

JYM Worship Band-5:00pm-6:30pm

High School Youth Group- 6:30pm-8:30pm

B. Combo Night-4pm-7:00pm

One Sunday night a month we combine 6th-12th graders for a group event of skill-based teaching, worship, dinner and a guest speaker.

Weekday night programming

6:30pm-8:30pm Weekday nights are our intentional spiritual development nights.

1st Wednesday night of the month- HOPE Worship and dinner

2nd Wednesday night of the month- Dig Deeper Bible Study and dinner.

3rd Wednesday night of the month- Guys night/Girls night

4th Thursday night of the month- Leadership Team-7th-12th graders.

Additional JYM Programs

Family Matters – Events for the whole family

Parents Support group- Twice a month

Service Projects- 9-12 different projects a year to teach students about poverty, serving and the needs in their community.

The Journey - Senior Class transition small group

Walk with me – Mentoring program for students

Fundraisers- Evening at the “Luau, Hop, Movies etc”, Walk-a-thon, Babysitting nights.

Sleepovers, retreats, snow trips, summer camps, mission trips- 10-12 overnights (1-9 days depending on the event) throughout the year.

VOLUNTEER LEADERS

In addition we have an extremely active group of volunteers to help support and sustain the vision of the JYM and all our programming. Without the volunteers we have in place it would take a dozen full time staff members! We are grateful for their gift of time and energy.

Relational Volunteer Team- 35 people who have made a yearlong commitment to relationship based ministry

- Sunday night small group leaders, Weekday night small group leaders and “Walk with Me” mentors.

Program Volunteer Team- 20 people who have made a year-long commitment to behind the scene help-

Prayer and Care team, Chefs, Thursday Volunteer crew

Event specific Volunteers- Parents and JYM who help staff one-time events.

_____ Yes! I would like to give specifically to the Joint Youth Ministry Staff fund! I plan on making the following commitment.

_____ Monthly donation online (www.jointyouthgroup.com)

_____ Monthly donation by check (made out the WGUMC)

_____ One time donation online

_____ One time donation by check (made out to WGUMC)

_____ No. I already pledge at my church but I will keep you all in prayer.

_____ No. I am not able to pledge at this time but I will keep you all in prayer.

In addition we plan on sending home a donation receipt at the end of the year with your tax deductible donation history. If you would like it more often than that, please indicate how often _____

Your name _____

Your Home address

Please mail this back or hand it in to one of the staff members at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your generosity.