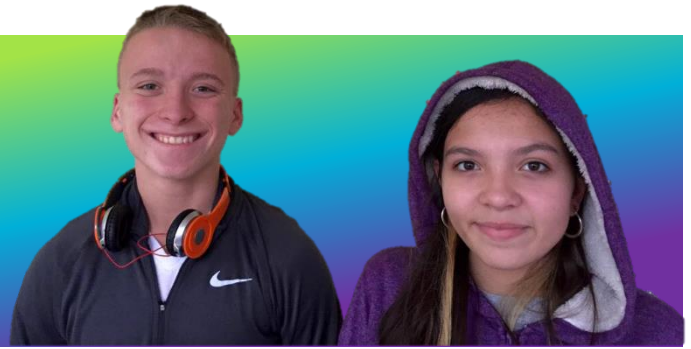


South End Teen Center Quarterly Newsletter

Issue: October – December, 2019



Holiday Cheer!

Last year we began a partnership with Janet Johnson and Pastor Gary Ouellette from Faith Evangelical Free Church, to help ensure our teens received a memorable and heartwarming Christmas surprise. With Youth Specialist Anna Holdener helping coordinate with Janet, they worked together to guide teens and created wish lists ranging from fun items, to snacks, clothing, visual arts materials, as well as educational items. Janet and Pastor Gary then collaborated with their fellow churchgoers and got to work!

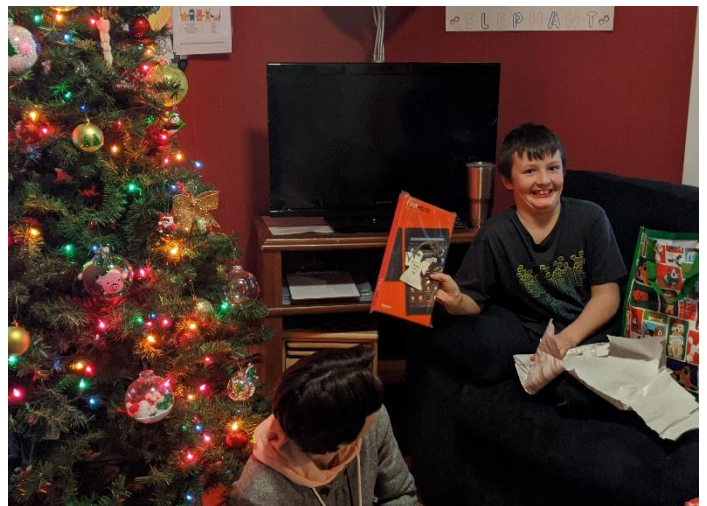
Last year we weren't prepared for what happened. For instance, one teen said he wanted a mountain bike – quite an ask, right? Well, our jaws dropped when they showed up with two vehicles stuffed with lovingly wrapped gifts, including a brand new mountain bike! Unbelievable!

This year we were more prepared and the operation went far smoother. Teens and staff were once again stunned by the incredible generosity of the church who followed through again this year. Wow! You know how hard it is to shop for a teenager, right? Well, there has been nothing but smiles and gratitude from our teens this year.

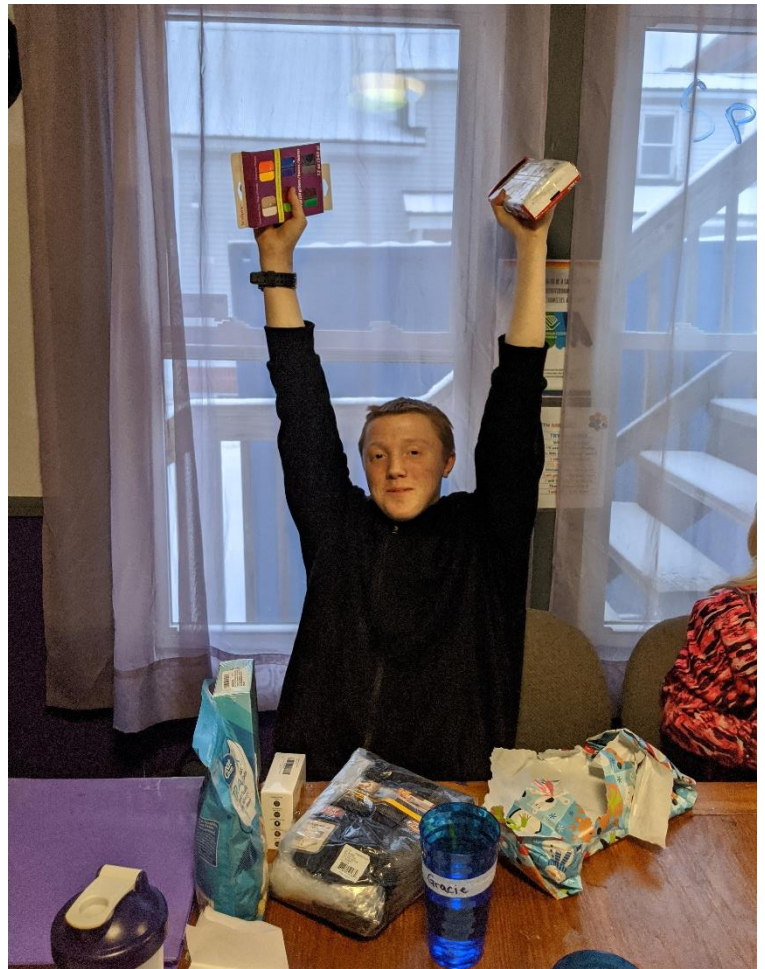
Furthermore, a couple teens weren't able to make wish lists in time, but Janet was not going to let that slide! She swiftly gathered their wish lists, went to her church, and the very next day had a bag of customized gifts for the teens. Just incredible. Merry Christmas, Janet, Gary, and church members!

SETC Coordinator's Corner

As we've settled into the deep freeze of winter, there are a lot of things to be grateful for here at the SETC over the past quarter. Foremost, we're grateful for our capable and deserving teens who continue to visit in droves (with over 1,000 visits for the quarter). We're grateful for our outstanding duo of Thomas College work-study students, Arielle and Oliver. Our stalwart staff of Anna and Bob are miracle workers in their own right. Our Youth Outreach Worker, Ben Howard, is deepening his impact within multiple sectors and systems, helping teens and their families tackle school and employment challenges. In this issue we will be celebrating some of our community supporters who are crucial opportunity makers and backers of the SETC and its vision to ensure our teens are welcomed, seen, and celebrated.



Isreal is so pumped about his new Kindle Fire! Thank you Janet and Pastor Gary!



More gift opening fun!
Left top - Summer and Corey; Left bottom - Jordan and Michael; Right - Madison

Fast Fact: We are a Clubhouse

A lot of community members still refer to the Alford Youth & Community Center as “The Boys & Girls Club.” Did you know that the AYCC is actually the only combined Boys & Girls Clubs and YMCA in the *entire nation*? That’s right! And the SETC is actually a satellite Boys & Girls Club unit, or “clubhouse” of the AYCC. We partner with many things, including support for our mentoring program, the American Heritage Tour, our daily meals and snacks, other programmatic support and co-enrollment. When you become a SETC member you also become a member of the AYCC!

As most of you are aware, the AYCC has undergone **BIG** changes in the past year, which includes a lot of new staff. I’d like to take a moment to recognize some of the new folks who have been incredible helpers and supports of the SETC. These new members include Child & Development Director Christine Johnson, who is always willing to collaborate and is responsive to our unit’s needs. We also have Kitchen Manager Shawn Forkey, who goes above and beyond for our teens, greatly expanding the menu and adding amazing personal touches by making sure we had two roasted turkeys for Thanksgiving with all the fixin’s, as well as several homemade pies! Also in the Development department we have Grants Manager Jared McCannell who is a big and inclusive thinker and is always on the lookout to best support the children of our community. Welcome aboard!

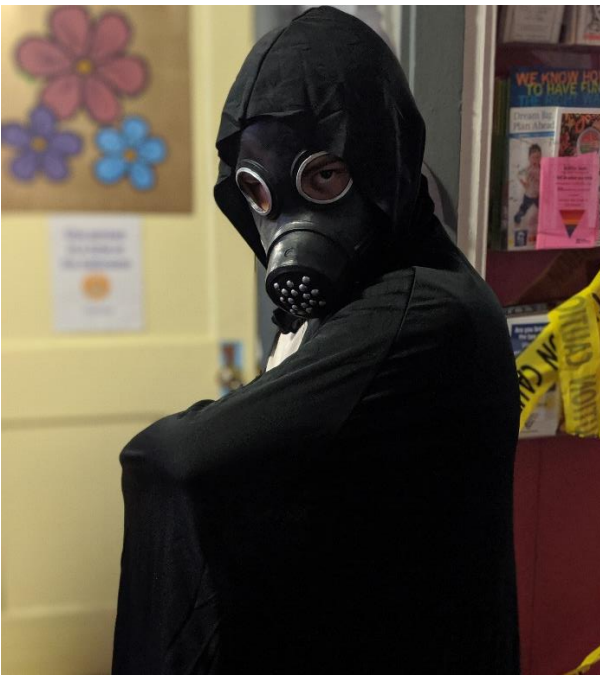


Y.O.W. Corner

Welcome to the Youth Outreach Corner! My name is Ben Howard and I am the KVCAP Youth Outreach Worker who operates out of the South End Teen Center. My main role is to support students with academics and employment. I currently work with 30 students from the Waterville and Winslow school systems, as well as the Waterville Alternative School. Currently, 8 students are employed and 3 are attending college or university. The most important part of my job is meeting the students where they are. Each student comes to me with different needs, goals and dreams and it is my job to help remove any barriers that may stand in the way of these things. As a part of the YOW program, students learn employment skills such as resume building, interviewing and workplace etiquette, cover letter writing, and how to navigate the job market. Students participate in job shadows and meet with employers from the area to help them gather information and develop confidence in their abilities. It is an honor to work with this awesome group of students. As you can imagine, no two days are ever the same!

Basketball hoop repair!

Spooky Halloween Fun!



Yum...Thanksgiving!



Partnering with Waterville Creates!



Glazing Ceramics



Programming Robots



Improv Acting



Photography



Wayne in the SETC Studio recording his own music with Ben from Snow Pond Arts Academy!



Eagle Scout in the making!

Michael Fortin Jr. reached out to Ryan to work with the SETC on a community service project for his Eagle Scout badge. Michael solicited donations from local businesses and donated one hundred backpacks filled with school supplies, snacks, and other necessities to our teens. He also brought supplies to bake and decorate cookies with the teens and other fellow scouts. Thank you Michael and family!

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