

**Achievements and Accomplishments from Aug 2017-Aug 2018**  
**Youth Events Coordinator: Tyler Pritchard**

**Events Put On By The Youth Events Coordinator**

**Fall Unitreat** – “It’s All Perspective,” October 6-8, 2017

**Benefits:** This is an important event for our Uniteens that provides an opportunity for spiritual exploration, new connections with a like-minded community, and a place to feel motivated and safe. Kids were encouraged to practice compassion for self and others, which allowed them to shift their perspective and embrace their own truest selves. The Fall Unitreat is also the perfect stage for our two newly elected Y.O.U. Regional Officers to work together before their first event a few weeks later.

**Highlights:**

- One of the Uniteens favorite “funshops,” was called “I draw, you draw.” The beginning of the activity the kids were asked to color and draw jack-o-lanterns to get into the Fall spirit. Once everyone was finished, they partnered up and had to explain what their drawing looked like, without showing it, while their partner attempted to draw the exact same picture. Once they switch, they then showed their pictures and compared the differences and similarities. The group was then lead into a discussion about perspective and everyone interprets things differently

**Actions by Events Coordinator:**

- Selected YOU staff and worked with them on their various leadership roles for the event.
- Wrote all of the Spirit Group Material.
- Wrote 3 funshops and helped to edit 1others written by our Y.O.U.ers (45 minute break-out activities that go to the overall theme).
- Created and printed nametags, programs, schedules (script) and t-shirt designs.
- Created all of the registration packets and confirmation packets.
- Printed and mailed all spirit group material to leaders.
- Entered all registration from the various ministries while maintaining the budget.
- Purchased all materials needed for the event.

- Assigned housing, spirit groups, funshops, secret prayer pals, cabin sponsors, adult chaperone schedule, etc.
- Coordinated the opening and closing along with teamwork activities.
- Coordinated meetings for the YOUers, adults and head sponsors.
- Created the Head Sponsor and Wellness binders.
- Helped to set up the event and clean up after the event.

### **Y.O.U. Fall Retreat – “Uncover Your Voice” October 20-22, 2017**

**Benefits:** This is a wonderful opportunity for the new graduates of Uniteens to come to a smaller venue and feel comfortable, safe, and welcomed into their new Y.O.U. group. This event also allows the newly elected Y.O.U. regional officers an opportunity to plan and host a smaller event prior to June Rally.

### **Highlights:**

- Our two newly elected Regional Officers created an overall mission for their year and their event was: *“As we learn to fully embrace new experiences, we empower each other to let go of any fear or judgments that may linger in ourselves or those around us. We overcome these inhibitions to truly enjoy each moment as it arrives.”* They also set daily themes and affirmations in order to support their overall theme.
  - *Inhibitions:* “I understand that the insecurities I have subconsciously created are simple thoughts that hold limited power over me.
  - *Appreciation:* “I take time to reflect on how barriers I have encountered have molded me into my own vision of perfection.”
  - *Confidence:* “I know that I am the strength I need to release the hold my fears have on me, and to live as my truest self.”
- One of the more powerful moments at the event was when the regionals lead everyone in a vulnerable activity where together we stood in a circle, and the regionals read statements out loud, and if you felt comfortable and you felt the statement applied to you, you were asked to step forward. The activity was powerful, eye opening, and created a space for people to feel confident to find their voice. It also showed everyone that you are never alone in your feelings.

### ***Actions by Events Coordinator:***

- Held weekly phone calls with the YOU regional team prior to the event.
- Mentored the YOU regional team in creating their vision for the event while overseeing their family material, group activities, schedule, talks, ect.
- Entered all registration from the various ministries while maintaining the budget.
- Printed and mailed all Family material.
- Created all of the registration packets and confirmation packets.
- Created and printed all necessary documents including schedules, nametags, room assignments, family assignments, tranquility slips, confirmation packets to the various chapters, sign in sheets, etc.
- Created and printed the Head Sponsor and Wellness binders.
- Assigned chapter opportunities.
- Assigned housing.
- Purchased all necessary equipment for the event.
- Oversaw and updated all documents prepared by the Regional Team.
- Arrived 2 days early with the YOU regional's to help set up for event and work on their scripts and truth talks.
- Held daily meeting with the Head Sponsor and YOU regional team.
- Closed up and cleaned up after the event.

### **Spring Unitreat – “Uncover Your Voice,” May 4-6, 2018**

***Benefits:*** This is a wonderful continuation from the Fall Unitreat for the Uniteens to continue new developing relationships and exploration of self. There is also a graduation ceremony for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders creating a sacred space and sense of completion. During the ceremony the Y.O.U. on staff welcomes the new graduates to Y.O.U helping to create excitement for their next journey into Y.O.U. This is also a unique event for Y.O.U.ers to volunteer to be on staff and be of service to the Uniteens and try out their leadership skills. We used the same theme as the Y.O.U. Fall event, in order to help the Y.O.U. staff feel comfortable with the material they would help to lead.

### ***Highlights:***

- One of our most popular funshops this event was called “Hold on/Let Go.” In this activity the kids were lead into a meditation about their feelings in their everyday lives. They explored what

didn't feel beneficial to them, what didn't make them feel good, what they needed to let go of. They also explored what it was that made them feel positive, happy, the things they needed to hold on to. After the meditation they traced their right hand and left hand. In the left hand they wrote or drew things they needed to let go of in their lives, and in the right hand they wrote or drew the things they needed to hold onto in their lives. At the end people were encouraged to share their drawings and were led into a group discussion.

- 7 out of our 8 Y.O.U. staff had Uniteen siblings at this event. Though we have had siblings before, we have not had this many at one event. There was something truly special and almost magical to watch the siblings have their own unique experience and bond at this event.

***Actions by Events Coordinator:***

- Selected YOU staff and worked with them on their various leadership roles for the event.
- Wrote all of the Spirit Group Material.
- Wrote 4 funshops
- Created and printed nametags, programs, schedules (script) and t-shirt designs.
- Created all of the registration packets and confirmation packets.
- Printed and mailed all spirit group material to leaders.
- Entered all registration from the various ministries while maintaining the budget.
- Purchased all materials needed for the event.
- Organized the graduation ceremony.
- Assigned housing, spirit groups, funshops, secret prayer pals, cabin sponsors, adult chaperone schedule, etc.
- Coordinated the opening and closing along with teamwork activities.
- Coordinated meetings for the YOUers, adults and head sponsors.
- Created the Head Sponsor and Wellness binders.
- Helped to set up the event and clean after the event.

**Y.O.U. June Rally – “Be The Change,” June 20-24, 2018**

***Benefits:*** This is a 5-day event that provides opportunities for teens to connect in a safe environment to explore spirituality, establish healthy long-term relationships, and build leadership and social skills.

Graduation is also held at this event, which is a highly valued Rite of Passage.

***Highlights:***

- This year's theme, "Be The Change," was created by our regionals in hopes to encourage everyone to take action in what they felt passionate about in their lives. They also had five daily themes and intentions that helped to support their main theme and gave context to their family material:
  1. *Imagine*: "I know that through love and inner strength, I can create the life I wish for myself."
  2. *Awareness*: "I know awareness is the first step I can take to be the change."
  3. *Namaste*: "I take time to realize that my own divinity must meet and acknowledge itself before others."
  4. *Break Free*: "I have the confidence in myself to stand a part from society and be unique as I want."
  5. *Yin Yang*: "I understand that both sides of a situation are dependent on each other in order to exist."
- This year on the daily theme "Awareness," the kids were invited to participate in random acts of kindness throughout the day. They even created an entire wall filled with positive affirmations for each other. You could pass them out, leave one for someone on their dorm door, or create a new positive affirmation to leave for someone to choose from the wall. The following day for the daily theme "Namaste," everyone was encouraged to be extra kind to themselves the way they were for others the prior day. The kids all took the affirmation from their wall that they felt they needed most. It was truly empowering to have the "Yin and Yang" experience of treating others kindly, and then remembering to do it for ourselves (as we often forget to do) also.

***Actions by Events Coordinator:***

- Held weekly phone calls with the YOU regional team prior to the event.
- Mentored the YOU regional team in creating their vision for the event while overseeing their family material, group activities, schedule, and talks, ect.
- Created all of the registration packets and confirmation packets.

- Entered all registration from the various ministries while maintaining the budget.
- Coordinated our musician, guest speaker and photographer.
- Printed and mailed all Family material.
- Created and printed all necessary documents including schedules, nametags, room assignments, family assignments, tranquility slips, confirmation packets to the various chapters, sign in sheets, etc.
- Created and printed the Head Sponsor and Wellness binders.
- Assigned chapter opportunities.
- Created senior envelopes, graduation certificates, service award certificates and chapter certificates.
- Updated and performed a new Rites of Passage Ceremony for the graduates.
- Assigned housing.
- Purchased all necessary equipment for the event.
- Oversaw and updated all documents prepared by the Regional Team.
- Arrived 2 days early with the YOU regional's to help set up for event and work on their scripts and truth talks.
- Held daily meeting with the Head Sponsor and YOU regional team.
- Closed up and cleaned up after the event.

### **Additional Items the Youth Events Coordinator Works on:**

- Supported the two Churches that host the Y.O.U. Area-Wide Events. This includes providing paperwork, providing outlines of how to create and plan an event, any material they need, providing my guidance and emotional support, and attending the events.
  - This years events where hosted by the Des Plaines Chapter on April 7-8 2018, and the Westlake Chapter on April 20-22, 2018
- Mentors, coaches and works closely with the Y.O.U. Regional Officers throughout the year.
  - Hosts an in-person planning meeting at my home in Chicago. There I host the newly elected Y.O.U. Regional Officers for 4 days while we have a chance to get to know

each other, create a bond and a foundation for our next year together, and begin work on their events.

- Has weekly check-in calls leading up to each event to work on material and create their events.
  - Organizes all transportation for the regional officers to each event. Including attending the Area Wide events with the regional officers.
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- I lovingly answers daily emails and phone calls from various Y.O.U.ers, sponsors, youth directors and parents with questions, concerns, issues, or ideas within the region on a weekly basis.