

### Suzi

Have you ever been a fly on the wall? Many times I have overheard people say, "I wish I could have been a fly on the wall for that conversation." Most people know that it's a privilege to be present during a conversation that they would have loved to listen in on.

Well, recently, I had the opportunity to be the fly (by accident, not on purpose!). We were at camp with 20 amazing young people. Some of the group, mostly boys, had gone off to the driving range to hit a few golf balls. The girls opted to stay back at the cabin, so I stayed with them. We were all gathered in the common area and were talking with each other and sharing stories.

Then, the focus shifted, and the girls began sharing with each other while I sat with them. They moved from the couches to the dining table and continued their banter. I was left on the couch just listening. It was amazing! I learned many things about the girls, their lives, their perspectives and their thoughts on various people, places, and things.

I sat and listened, and realized very quickly what a gift this was. I was thankful to just be present and learn from the kids who were teaching me and giving insight into their world. What I most enjoyed about this experience was hearing them laugh with such joy.

Joy is a gift from God. These girls embodied such joy. Being present that evening made me smile because I know where that joy truly comes from. Galatians 5:22 talks about the fruit of the Spirit - joy being on that list. Thank you, Lord, for being present and gifting all of us with such JOY!

### We're looking for volunteers!

We need more volunteers to make our programs even better! Are you:

- a former teacher, who could provide homework help?
- interested in sharing activities with others, and building relationships?
- someone who enjoys crafts, and creating with people?
- already sharing Jesus with others through words and actions?

We would love to have you join our volunteer team! Our volunteers help us keep programming consistent, mentor and lead teens, provide support, and have fun!

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer (or just finding out more!), please contact Kate at [kate.h@yfcstratford.com](mailto:kate.h@yfcstratford.com).

**Flip for Grant & Kate's updates!**



# Kate

Lately, one particular drop-in student keeps saying, "You know most of us will be gone at this time next year, right?"

I think they're reminding us because they're sad about this prospect, too. It's encouraging to know that we have made such an impact in their lives, and I remind them that our relationship doesn't end when high school does!

It's also strange, though - this will be the first group of kids I've journeyed with from Jr. High, right through the end of high school! Don't get me wrong, I'm excited to see them becoming wonderful young adults, but I'm still going to miss them.

Meanwhile, I've been praying that God will provide our team with more connections to younger students, and he delivered! We took 20 teens (aged 13 to 16) to Muskoka Woods camp for a week in August, and MW facilitated a great week filled with fun activities: wake sports, high ropes, paintball, and more. As I get older, it's an excellent reminder that "the spirit is willing, but the body is weak!"

We were gifted the opportunity to simply be with our kids, and each leader shared the gospel and their testimony through the week. We were able to establish relationships with an awesome group of new students who are just starting high school, and now want to be involved in our programs. God is so good!

These days, I find myself constantly drawn back to Revelation 21 (especially verse 5). God is making all things new, and his word is trustworthy and true. I'm so delighted that I have the privilege of sharing this message with the teens he has created, and I could not do it without each of you supporting this ministry in so many ways. Thank you!

Love in Christ,  
Kate Heyen



These moments can't happen without your support. THANK YOU!!



# Grant

Dear Friends & Family,

I trust you had a wonderful summer, with lots of time for relaxing, time with family and friends, and time spent outside enjoying the beautiful weather!

My summer was fantastic. As always, it went by waaaaay too quickly, but I'm thankful for getting to do some things that I love, with people that I love! Certainly one huge highlight for me this summer was getting to return back to Muskoka Woods with 20 amazing youth from Stratford and area, for a week of summer camp, for the first time since 2019. We had an incredible week away, doing all sorts of different activities, ranging from paintball, to ropes courses, axe throwing, wake sports, and everything in between!

However, far better than the top notch activities that Muskoka Woods offered us, we had some amazing times of connection with the students. We had multiple times where we were able to share our story with the students, and answered the question of why each of us chose, and continue to choose, to follow Jesus. There was some amazing conversations, with lots of great questions asked!

As Suzi, Kate, Shane, and I shared our faith journey with Jesus and the impact he's had on each of our lives respectively, I am reminded of the passage found in John 10:10, where Jesus reminds us of who he is, and that he has come so we could not only have life, but have it to the full! Please join me in praying for our youth, that God would give them what they need as they return to school again this fall, and ultimately, that they would know, love and put their trust in Jesus!

Thank you so much for all your support and partnership in ministry!

Peace.  
Grant