

Join the Team, Create a Legacy

We're building a Legacy Team to support the creation of an independent nonprofit organization. The Legacy Team is a group of donors committed to the successful establishment of Freedom for Youth - Knoxville as an independent local 501(c)(3). Donors become a Legacy Team member by making a five-year, recurring pledge in the amount of their choosing.

Our goal is to raise a total commitment of \$30,000 per year pledged through our Legacy Team, the minimum investment to responsibly launch a permanent, living legacy in our community.

Once the Legacy Team is formed, we will begin the legal process to become an independent local 501(c)(3), form a local board of directors, and secure a more permanent location for our programs.

Time is of the essence. Right now, we have an opportunity to sign a five-year lease with the option to purchase a property that meets all the needs for a permanent location in downtown Knoxville.

This leasing opportunity for a two-lot property meets all of our needs:

- 3,000 square feet of handicap accessible space including 1,000 square feet of open program space.
- Kitchen.
- Small group space.
- Office space.
- Storage space.
- Space for a woodshop program and other future vocational programs.
- Green space for outdoor activity and projects.
- Proximity to schools or a bus stop.
- Visible location that is easily accessible to students and their families.

To take advantage of the current opportunity, we need to make significant progress by January 31st. This funding will help us move forward on this current opportunity and allow us to take a huge step toward becoming an independent nonprofit organization. Leasing now and working to purchase within the next five years will ensure that we will no longer have to turn students away due to lack of space.

Will YOU join our Legacy Team and make a five-year pledge?

LEGACY NOW

Independent Freedom for Youth - Knoxville Prospectus

With the blessing and support of our founding organization, Freedom for Youth Ministries in Des Moines, Freedom for Youth - Knoxville is launching a five-year plan to create a *local, independent, nonprofit ministry positively impacting Knoxville and Marion County for generations to come. We need your help to make this happen now.*

At Freedom for Youth - Knoxville, our supporters have great empathy for the students attending our after-school programs and their families. Our students enjoy meaningful relationships with each other, with volunteers, and with our community partners. Best of all, our student participation has grown to the point that it is time to look to our future.

The first step is to demonstrate a community-wide commitment to this path forward and the establishment of a Legacy Team of donors pledging a total of \$30,000 per year. Second, we will pursue legal nonprofit status. Third, we will secure a permanent location to serve our youth with the spiritual, educational, and impactful programming experienced at Freedom for Youth - Knoxville.



We Are Freedom

Freedom for Youth - Knoxville offers FREE after-school and summer programs for K-12 grade students. We're devoted to raising up mentally, physically, and spiritually healthy children and helping them see serving others as a regular part of life.

We teach students the following:

- Because God has given us so much, it's our privilege to share with others.
- Because we know what it means to be in need, it is our duty to help others that are in need.
- Because our community helps us, we help our community.
- Because God is always with us and always watching, we will be honest and hard working even if no other people are watching.

The four foundational pillars of our program are faith, education, employment, and leadership.

We believe **FAITH** in Jesus Christ is the foundation of true renewal and hope. We share Bible stories with students so they know Jesus and His love for them. This includes learning how to use a Bible, memorizing verses, and praying together over the things that lie heavy on their hearts. We also partner with churches to build relationships with our students and families, encouraging them to

become part of a church family.

We take **EDUCATION** seriously, focusing specifically on building reading skills with our K-5th graders. A large portion of their program is set aside for reading out loud with volunteers. We want to instill a love for reading and help students overcome literacy barriers. We offer homework help for all students and provide a Wi-Fi connection, as needed. We provide free school supplies available for any family in our county. We also direct parents to additional educational resources.

Meaningful **EMPLOYMENT** is the vision we strive to plant in each student's mind. Students attending our programs are taught to clean up after themselves, share their talents, and help with the group's tasks. Our middle and high school program teaches students both hard and soft skills, and features community members discussing careers, hobbies, and passions. We've offered classes on woodworking, cooking, auto mechanics, art, welding, customer service, photography, and



many more. We offer a summer entrepreneurship class to teach business skills, producing a product, and selling at the Knoxville Farmers' Market, giving students practical experience being on time, evaluating profit and loss, marketing, working hard, serving customers, and making change during customer transactions.

Recognizing **LEADERSHIP** qualities and having opportunities to positively use their gifts to lead and help others is central to the Freedom experience. Students are invited to share with the group, lead us in a song or game, or teach us about something they enjoy. We encourage our 6-12th graders to give back to the program by helping at our elementary programs. Every month we also invite our 6-12th graders to join us in a local service project, providing opportunities for them to give back, identify their passions, and build community connections.

We take every opportunity to remind our students that Jesus loves them, they can transform their lives with education, their God-given talents can help them achieve sustainable employment, and that each and every one of them is a leader.

Freedom Staff



Christy

Christy Meissner, Program Coordinator, was born and raised in Knoxville. She has been employed with Freedom for Youth - Knoxville since 2018 and was previously involved as a volunteer since the time the site was planted. She has been involved in children's ministry since she was young and has many years of experience volunteering and working for an inner-city ministry in Des Moines. Her heart is for each student to know that they are seen, loved, and never alone. She loves building solid relationships with students and their families, and considers them as part of her own extended family. Her joy is found in mentoring, helping students navigate life, creating programs to meet the needs around her, and serving others as the hands and feet of Jesus.



Angie

Angie Gentry, Community Development Coordinator, has lived in central Iowa her entire life and is raising her family in Marion County. She has a long history in children's ministry and joined Freedom for Youth in 2019. Serving as the voice for the Knoxville location, she engages the community with passion. She believes strongly that kids need a place to belong, to feel loved, and to be welcomed. Kids can fall through the cracks, and she doesn't want this to happen to the vulnerable children of our community. Angie was once a hurt, angry, suicidal child that looked good on the outside. She knows firsthand the transformation that God's love can have in a child's life and future, and how easily the need for this love can be hidden. She desires every child to experience the love that changed her life forever.



Anna

Anna Humeston, Event Coordinator, is raising her family in Knoxville. She joined our staff in 2023 and loves what she does. She has a reputation around town for knowing how to organize and execute a great event. Ideas for events come endlessly for her, for fundraising or community outreach. Anna feels that Freedom for Youth is a wonderful safe place for kids to belong. Two of her children participate in the programs, and she has seen them come out of their shells, be more open with people, find quality friends, and learn more about what God expects from them personally. She wants to encourage the community to get involved and support our program.

2016

One elementary program and one middle/high school program are held in the Knoxville library.

2018

More students and program days, meet in space shared with the Christian Opportunity Center.

2020

The Pandemic forces modified programming; but we continue to grow. We move into our current location at 107 S. Third St.

2023

More than 70 students participate in five regular programs. Three programs are full and students are on a waiting list.

2027

We expect to serve more than 100 students weekly.