

# *True North Ministry Newsletter*

## *September to November 2019*

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**TRUE NORTH MINISTRY**

### NEEDS:

1. Prayers: Pray that youth we minister to will continue to embrace and grow in their knowledge and love of Jesus
2. Pray for wisdom for our staff to make Godly decisions allowing for maximum program growth and youth coming to Christ.
3. Pray that our grant requests are fruitful for the ministry.
4. Pray for our donor base to grow as God leads
5. Pray for the staff of Dan Street, Indian River and Cuyahoga Hills

Giving and Serving (pray for guidance from God in where He leads you to serve)

1. Making lunch for the youth who work on the farm.
2. Teaching Bible studies
3. Helping with our various outreaches
4. Mentoring the youth

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**YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AND WILL ALWAYS GO TOWARD THE SPIRITUAL LIBERATION OF IMPRISONED YOUTH.**

## **TNM Program Highlight**

**Ministry Manager, Jennifer DeWeese**  
Joined ministry 7/1/19

About Jennifer: Hi all! I am SO happy to be a part of God's plan through True North Ministry. I wanted to share a little bit about myself as a means for you to get to know me.

I currently live in Tallmadge, Ohio with my husband, Tim. We share our home with three dogs (Sadie, 15 year old Pomeranian, Sampson, 5 year old Boxer and Rhea, 1 year old Pit Bull) and one cat, Sheena, an 11 year old Bengal. We have lived in Tallmadge for six years after moving here from Waxahachie, Texas. God is so great, He knew exactly where my life was leading! I NEVER guessed we would end up in Ohio but God new better!

My son, daughter-in-law and 5 year old granddaughter live just around the corner from us so most of my spare time is with family. Tim and I love to camp, enjoy our back yard, and kayak. We have been married for 16 years this year.

I graduated in 1999 with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Forensic Psychology. I always knew I wanted to work with kids and God lead me to work with troubled youth. My career has been split between Job and Family Services where I served disrupted families by encouraging them to make changes for a safe home life. I also served youth while working with Big Brothers Big Sisters as a Match Support Specialist. In June of this year, God really made it clear that I needed to leave the secular work world and give my life 100% to Him. Here I am at True North Ministry.

I volunteer for Paws and Prayers as a foster parent to abused and neglected dogs (that's how we ended up with Rhea!) as well as for my church as a Bible Study teacher.



*"The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by his love; He will exult over you with loud singing."*

**Zephaniah 3:17**

## **Volunteer update - Jim Hojnacki:**

Jim has been with True North Ministry (TNM) for seven years. He first heard of TNM through his church. He attended a TNM training where he was provided enough information to know he wanted to volunteer. Jim stated he has always felt it was important to reach out to youth.

Jim's testimony is this: He grew up in a Catholic home and learned the rituals of that religion. Jim reported the Jesus he knew growing up was the Jesus he saw when entering the church's chapel . . . the Jesus hanging from the cross (one with no relationship). In High School, Jim started making personal decisions that were not healthy, so his parents sent him to stay with his uncle in Florida for the summer. Thinking his summer was going to be full of mischief, Jim was quite surprised when he witnessed his uncle following this man called Jesus. Jim, for the first time, saw the relationship between God and his child. In July of 1976, Jim prayed to receive the Lord and immediately saw the love and grace of our Lord and Savior. Also at this time, God put on Jim's heart to witness to others.

Fast forward to seven years ago when Jim joined True North Ministry. Jim shared one of the joys of volunteering with TNM is seeing youth accept Christ. Jim shared he got to witness this just last week when five of the six kids he was ministering to prayed the sinners prayer and asked Christ into their hearts!

Jim has a message for True North Ministry's family, after reciting Ephesians 2:8-9, he says this: In order for others to come to Christ, they must first hear of Christ. We all have a responsibility to disciple . . . our time here on earth is short. With that responsibility, Jim encourages all who read this newsletter to pray about where God is leading them and to get involved. True North Ministry is always in need of volunteers. . . maybe this is where God wants you to get involved.

## **Who's who at True North Ministries**

**SAD NEWS:** It is with a very heavy heart that True North Ministry's Board must report that Dave Duffey, Director of Operations, passed away late June 2019. He was SUCH a huge part of this ministry and he will be greatly missed. However!!!! Dave is with the Lord, sitting at His right hand and for THAT we are joyful!!!

**CHANGES** since last Newsletter: Richard White resigned from the Board.

With Dave's passing True North Ministry's Board and staff are praying about what God has intended for the on-campus ministry (at the farm). Dan Street continues to do VERY well, and youth are being saved! Dan Street currently has over 40 volunteers and True North conducts Bible Study three days a week and movie night (Friday's) continue as usual.

We hope to begin visits to the farm again soon. PLEASE pray about this ministry as we hope to have a 100% volunteer run program. If you feel you have been called to work one-on-one with the youth please let Jennifer know. We hope to offer the youth Bible Study while here, in addition to life skills training (resume writing, soft skills, interview practice, helping youth determine their God given gifts and what career that may lead to) in addition to hands on activities (small motor repair, yard work, work in the shop, etc.)

**True North Campus Operations:**  
Jennifer DeWeese, Ministry Manager

Jim Rios, administrative responsibilities for the ministry, and can serve as a point person for questions.

**Mentoring:**  
Jim Rios

**Dan Street Ministries:**  
Duncan Othen, Activities Supervisor  
Michael Ray, Activities Supervisor

**Development, communications and executive leadership:**  
Jim Love, Chairman  
Jennifer Deweese, Communications

**Financial oversight:**  
Bill Heitman

TNM BOARD MEMBERS

Jennifer DeWeese, Ministry Manager

Jim Love - Chairman

J. Michael Ray

Bill Heitman

Rick Crouse

Jim Rios

Duncan Othen

**Ministry Update:** Good news from Dan Street/July 28, 2019

From Duncan Othen – volunteer

“Thank you for your prayers. I thought you’d want to know things went well at Dan Street this morning. Michael Ray went into Thomas and had a great mentoring session in the side room with two enthusiastic young men. Julie had three girls to minister to and said it went really well. I went into Retzel and ten young men were there. As soon as I walked in the door they said they didn’t want any ministry. But then one of them recognized me and said I had a really cool bear story and they should listen to it. So I told my bear story. Then talked about David and Goliath. And then about salvation through Jesus. Near the end of the hour, one of the boys. . . interrupted me and asked how he could receive Jesus as savior. So I told him and we all prayed. Then I got to talk to [the young man] for a couple of minutes afterwards. He had never prayed to receive Jesus before. He was very sincere and asked me good questions. I think the Lord will do something special with him. Please pray for the Lord to guide [this young man].. . . “

## **Our Beliefs**

True North Ministry exists to liberate imprisoned youth. Our service to our youth, our volunteers, and our community is the outward expression of who we are in Jesus Christ. Our religious beliefs are never a prerequisite for services. We reach youth of any faith and religious background because every imprisoned youth deserves a second chance; to know they are forgiven and accepted, to feel safe and secure, and to have the hope of a bright future.

- Total liberation for our youth is achieved through a mind, body, soul, and spirit transformation.
- Loving, caring, and humble volunteers make a permanent impact in the lives of our youth.
- Longevity and vitality make our organization a pillar of the community.

## **OUR MISSION**

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Since 2002, True North Ministry has liberated imprisoned youth who not only are confined behind bars but who have also been confined by their life's circumstances. We focus on the young men and women incarcerated in or paroled through the State and County correctional facilities. Currently, over 150 volunteers disciple and equip imprisoned youth with Christian-based programming. We believe the Bible to be the only inspired, infallible, authoritative Word of God. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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