

This is one of the hardest letters I have ever had to write over the many years of ministry with Youth For Christ. It is my prayer that you hear my heart as you read this letter.

Throughout this entire COVID mess, the center has been closed. That alone has broken my heart, for as I have said in previous letters, for some of our students any extra time at home is not always a good thing. **Months of relationship building, contacting, tutoring, encouragement and sharing the Good News of Jesus all came to a crashing halt.** Attempts at zoom calls and other media connections mostly fell flat. For many, they just disappeared into their homes. A chance meeting at the kwik shop or dollar store was like a reunion and the occasional answered text was a celebration. But for the most part, they have kept quiet.

Many parents have been laid off or let go due to this pandemic. A dear partner donated monies to help our students and their families. Those funds were dispersed throughout the community to help those who were in need - although they would never let you know that outright. Most gifts were done anonymously, although some knew and were appreciative.

Churches closed. Government buildings closed. The parks were closed. Until March 15th, you could always find someone at the park shooting hoops or hanging out on the picnic tables. **But everything stopped.**

What didn't stop during this time have been the utility bills, insurance payments, taxes and general expenses for the center. **Unfortunately, in May it was decided that we could not financially sustain our current agreement with Youth For Christ and therefore the lease - the monthly agreement that provides a monthly payment- would be suspended.** For the last 2 years, I have received a small salary from that account. As of August 1, **that will be cut to the minimum allowed to maintain our affiliate ministry status.** Some difficult discussions and some tough decisions have been ongoing for the last few months and will continue.

We are praying that the Center will be able to open again after Labor Day. The board and I are looking at more creative ways to connect with students as well as observing all the "correct protocol" for safely opening our doors. But the financial situation before us is, in all honesty, jeopardizing that from happening.

We need your financial partnership now more than ever. Won't you **PLEASE** prayerfully consider becoming a **monthly partner** with us? It is imperative that we have a firm financial status with Youth For Christ in order for us to continue!

For those few who are faithfully supporting us on a monthly or quarterly basis....**THANK YOU!** For our partnering churches, **THANK YOU!** God has been incredibly faithful over the past 5 years, and for that I am incredibly grateful! This has been an amazing journey for the Cambridge Community & Youth Center! From its inception until now, the stories of God's amazing love, provision and strength are innumerable. **We have seen lives changed by the life changing message of Jesus!** Won't you please help us continue our work here in the Cambridge community and surrounding area?

Your servant,

Doreen Vincent

I would love an opportunity to talk with you if there are questions or comments. Please call 309-945-6936 or email dvincent@yfc.net