

Youth Lounge – December Update!

The Youth Lounge has continued its twice a month schedule, opening up a space and gathering community with the young people on October 22, November 12, and November 26. On October 22, we served a great meal of chili mac and cheese, corn bread, and jello – all of which the young people loved! We had about 40-50 youth attend that evening. On November 12, we had a delicious “breakfast for dinner” meal complete with ice cream sundaes – another hit! – and 50-60 youth were in attendance.

We have also continued to grow our volunteer group, with our recent November information session bringing in a number of new volunteers who look to be a great fit for the Youth Lounge. We also had a volunteer first aid training, where many of our volunteers learned basics about how to better care for “our” youth in medical crisis and minor medical needs.

As the winter cold begins to settle into the city, we are particularly going to need more help with warm clothing items: coats, hats, gloves, socks, boots, and even good layering items. If you are able to donate any of these items, please consider doing so! The youth face some heavy challenges as the cold sets in and it becomes more dangerous to be on the streets because of the weather.

We continue to hear the joy and thanksgiving from the young people for this space that is truly their own. We’ve also heard from other youth service providers in Lakeview that the youth are talking about the Youth Lounge with them – and saying incredibly good things! At a recent meeting, I particularly heard one youth worker say: “The youth see the space as a youth-led space, and only have good things to say about it. We love what you all are doing there.” This is our goal – to be about the youth, to open up a space that is their own and to be in community *with* them. Thanks for your continued support in this love work!

Donation Needs for the Youth Lounge

We are always looking for help with food donations for the meals we serve and share with the youth. Announcements are made on Sundays prior to meals with the specifics – so please keep an eye and ear out and heart open for these requests!

Additionally, we are currently in need of: winter clothing in good condition, plus size clothing, DVD movies, and games

Please bring any donations to the church office during office hours or to church on Sunday and make sure to let one of the pastors, Z, or Tracy know!