



# **Stewardship Report**

**July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009**



*“Serving children and youth in America’s  
high-risk communities”*



## **Introduction**

Built on the belief that the hope of children and youth living high-risk communities can be restored and their potential be released in Jesus' name through focused partnerships with local church and community organizations, YouthPartnersNET [YPN] launched its nationwide ministries July 1, 2003. With over 30 years of life-changing ministry as Compassion International's USA Ministry, YPN continues to partner with hundreds of local and regional organizations strategically targeting the development of three key areas: *Networking, Education and Training.*

Our biblical model stems from John 21, in that Jesus' instruction to cast their NETS on the right side of the boat, their catch was so big, it almost capsized the boat. YPN is determined to change what has been a slim "catch" from our society's neediest neighborhoods. First, we try to mend the nets to retain at-risk youth. YouthPartnersNET calls on thousands of donors and volunteers to help our 'catch and release' projects for children and youth. By partnering with existing local ministries, we empower communities to increase their catch and release children and youth from hopelessness and poverty.

It is my personal privilege to give you this sixth annual report on the exciting developments as we have sought to fulfill the mission of YouthPartnersNET.





## **Vision/Mission**

YPN continues to monitor our vision/mission and program delivery. We are still committed to the following:

Our mission statement:

In a Christian atmosphere of respect, care and relationship, we serve children and youth, restore hope and release their potential in Jesus' Name through local and community partnerships.

Our core values:

- Christ centered
- Child and youth focused
- Church based/relationships
- Community based development
- Compassionate outreach

Our core objectives:

- Create and lead true partnerships between urban/suburban/churches/business groups through relational and virtual networking.
- Provide expertise and resources to help ministries develop, maintain and grow excellent after-school and summer day camp programs.
- Support and operate professional training events for urban children and youth executives providing the tools, ideas, resources and spiritual inspiration necessary to *"build your boat and keep it afloat"*.





## **Program: Networking**

YPN facilitates local and national networks of ministry and resource partners. We seek to enhance cooperation and to build relationships for support and self-sustainability.

YPN researches and delivers best practices and program materials to our ministry partners. We help establish and fund local networks of ministry partners for fellowship, interaction and resource information exchange.

YPN leverages our national partnerships to bring funding, resources and gift-in-kind donations to our network of ministry partners.

### Ministry Partners:

Our network of ministry partners increased to **204** faith-based organizations in **120** cities across the US, dedicated to serving the children and youth in their high-risk communities. Though they may be from differing urban, rural or Native American communities, they all have one common goal -- *to provide an environment that fosters academic, emotional and spiritual development.*

These children and youth need targeted, individualized attention from caring adults, a safe environment to escape the influences of the streets and gangs, opportunities to practice marketable skills, exploration of meaningful activities that are relevant to them and encouragement to participate in serving others. Our network of ministry partners provide these children of God with just that.

YPN strives to provide the funding and resources our ministry partners need to be effective in their ministry including:

- First opportunity to apply for funding for summer and after-school programming, community outreach and training events
- Participation as a CityConnexx ministry site matching church groups to serve a week in the city providing valuable volunteer hours and resources
- Executive Director Leadership Training and personalized coaching
- NETworks and NETcall free resources providing information on non-profit management, fundraising, program development, web services
- Gift-in-kind distributions, scholarships and discounts acquired from various partnerships and product developers are donated every year to our network of ministry partners



## *Denver Network*

Each month between 20-30 front line workers gather together for networking and resources at YPN's sponsored lunch in Denver with 264 individuals from various local ministries attending to date. We bring in special speakers and funding resources to encourage our ministry partners, expand their networks as well as advertise their youth events, fundraising events, prayer requests and volunteer opportunities.




Our Denver Network has also developed the reputation of being a great resource for other organizations to promote their local events, resources and programs such as HeavenFest, RELOAD Denver by Urban Youth Workers Institute, Dare2Share events, Pure by Choice events, and programs through the Latino Coalition.

Following is a list of some of the benefits from the meetings this past year:

- Our relationship continues with Mission Increase Foundation (MIF). They provide free monthly workshops for our ministry partners on topics such as strategic planning, capital campaigns, e-fundraising, and direct mail. Another level to their program is to provide free consultation for fundraising events followed by matching grants. Several ministry partners have received funding thru MIF over the past several years.
- YPN developed an exciting relationship last year with HeavenFest, a Christian music festival returning to Denver in August that provides a platform to share Christ, read the Bible, worship together, take communion together... regardless of our denomination, culture or background. YPN will again be hosting the youth pastor's hospitality tent in our efforts to market CityConnexx and match more church groups to serve our network of ministry partners. Additionally, HeavenFest has set a goal this year to give away 20,000 tickets (**value \$500,000**) in an effort to reach out to the urban community and our ministry partner network.



## YOUTH PARTNERS NET

- YPN invited two former TV news anchors to speak about “Good News Colorado” – their news website that is geared toward sharing positive information and faith-based stories. YPN is excited to have finally found a way to share with the public all the wonderful work God is accomplishing through our ministry partners that serve at-risk children and youth. And Good News Colorado is excited to have immediate access to many powerful stories and testimonies.
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- A representative from World Sport Stacking Association attended our meeting and introduced YPN and our network of ministry partners to the internationally recognized sport of speed stacking. In addition to this sport assisting with hand-eye coordination and development, many of their employees are Christians and they are in the process of developing a faith based speed stacking cup series. Donating speed stacker sets to our ministry partners and supporting many of them in developing this new sport with their urban youth has provided another tool for our ministry partners to reach more youth.
  - Cross Bar X Youth Ranch developed a camp program at their facilities on the western slope for urban and rural youth living on the front range. They offered this summer program at a highly discounted rate for our network of ministry partners. Additionally they offered the use of their facilities at no cost for ministry events during their off-season. They hosted their winter retreat for youth in February where President Dean Cowles was the keynote speaker.
  - Noah’s Ark continues to provide free white water rafting excursions for our ministry partner’s youth leaders. They also offered discounts on summer adventure camps for inner-city kids including rafting, rock climbing, backpacking.
  - Straight Street Design continues to offer free website consultation to our Denver ministry partner network. They also provided two HTML classes for a nominal fee.
  - Due to YPN connections free resources like printers, office supplies, children’s clothes, Bibles, books, t-shirts, travel bags, and sports tickets are distributed at every meeting.



### *Colorado Springs Network*

We are very excited to continue our partnership with the I-25 Alliance, led by several of our ministry partners in Colorado Springs and Pueblo. YPN was invited to join this pre-existing network of inner-city ministries to support the outreach and programs designed to serve children and youth living in the high-risk communities in Southern Colorado. YPN started sponsoring these monthly meetings in June 2007.

- Mission Increase Foundation expanded their program and is offering their free monthly workshops and matching grant program to our network of ministry partners in Southern Colorado.

### *Minneapolis Network*

YPN provided a grant to Youth Resources to support their urban youth workers network in Minneapolis that has met for the past two years. This group consists of full time youth worker professionals and these meetings provide teaching, fellowship, support and prayer.

### *City Networks*

Our Denver model has been very successful since the launch of this networking program in December 2004. We highly recommend and encourage our network of ministry partners to start and grow city networks which YPN is proud to sponsor and support.

### National Partnerships

YPN develops national partnerships that offer funding, training, resources, services and support to our network of ministry partners. Through our national connections, we are able to funnel these valuable resources down to a local level where they can be implemented and maximized to reach more children and youth living in high-risk communities.

Below are a few examples of how YPN's national partnerships impacted our network of ministry partners this year.

- Compassion International – CI continues to be our strongest partner since our launch in 2003. CI is particularly excited about our CityConnexx



## YOUTH PARTNERS NET

program which has greatly benefited our network of ministry partners with funding and volunteerism. In addition to directing donors and volunteers with US interest to YPN, they have added a link on their website for those interested in urban mission trips. Their continued support is greatly appreciated.

- International Bible Society – YPN continues to develop our relationship with IBS to provide the special urban edition of My City, My God Bibles and resources to our network of ministry partners. IBS also continues to provide \$300 Scripture Grants to every ministry that attends our Executive Director Leadership Training. A total of **\$18,300** in resources has been donated by IBS thru our training since the launch of this partnership.



- Mission Increase Foundation – in addition to providing free workshops and their matching grant program to our ministry partners in Colorado, Oregon, Washington and Arizona, MIF has joined YPN as a special presenter on our NETcalls. Now this valuable resource for building ministry capacity is being offered to our network of ministry partners across the country.
- JDLevy Associates – in addition to writing one of the manuals offered in our ED Training, this organization offers every YPN ED Alumni their exclusive e-resource free including valuable research, statistics, and tips on fundraising, management and leadership for the non-profit industry.
- TechMission – YPN continues to develop our partnership with TM. This Christian nonprofit was established in 2000 to support Christian organizations in using technology to transform vulnerable communities. Their programs include AC4 Computer Centers, TechMission Safe Families which protects at-risk kids from online pornography and other internet dangers, TechMission Corps internships in urban youth ministry, and Christian Volunteering which matches individuals to ministries across the country. Through this partnership, YPN was awarded two other Americorp positions with a GIK value of \$20,678. This was used for a position to support our CityConnex Director as the program builds volunteerism to support our network of ministry partners.
- eTapestry – offers cost effective web-based donor management and fundraising database services to our ministry partners and discounted services to YPN for a GIK value of \$2,133.



## **Program Delivery: Education & Recreation**

YPN provides funding and resources for weekly programs for children and youth living in high-risk communities.

A significant ministry is our after-school programs through our network of ministry partners offering tutoring, mentoring, skill-building, recreation and security.

Our ministry partner's summer programs reach into the most difficult of urban environments and Native American reservations with uniquely designed endeavors like summer day camps to keep kids off the streets, vacation bible school, and weekly sports camps.

### CityConnexx

*"Connecting America's suburban, urban and Native American communities through short term, high impact missions, with a focus on youth, training, collaboration and relationships"*



Two years ago we tested a new economic engine that led to the launching of CityConnexx locally and then national the following year. We are very excited about these results and believe this program will continue to grow in capacity as we nurture, manage and invest in its growth.

This program is uniquely designed to cover our program expenses and provide revenue to our ministry partners. It also provides our network with resources through volunteerism and GIK donations as well as educates church and college groups of the importance of serving in our own backyard.

In September 2008 we were able to transition our National Director Jim Galanaugh from the original Americorp grant to a CityConnexx staff position. With decades of inner city ministry and mission experience, he was able to further build and strengthen our network of ministry partner sites and suburban church groups committing to the CityConnexx experience.



In April 2009, we invested in the long term growth and stability of the CityConnexx model by hiring Kevin Shipley, a seasoned marketing and development professional. With his experience, his focus has been on donor development and expansion of program marketing through his relationships with denominational leaders.

Look at what God is doing!!

*CityConnexx 2009*

☛ **484** people served inner city and Native American ministries in 2009

Grants to ministry partners	\$49,140
Volunteer hours to ministry partners (37,308 hours)	\$827,658
<u>Miscellaneous benefits to ministry partners</u>	<u>\$5,589</u>
<b>Total value to ministry partners</b>	<b>\$882,387</b>

*CityConnexx 2008*

☛ **222** people served inner city and Native American ministries in 2008

Allocations to ministry partners	\$30,624
<u>Volunteer hours to ministry partners (18,648 hours)</u>	<u>\$363,823</u>
<b>Total value to ministry partners</b>	<b>\$394,447</b>

*CityConnexx 2007*

☛ **44** people served inner city and Native American ministries in 2007

Allocations to ministry partners	\$5,452
<u>Volunteer hours to ministry partners (3,696 hours)</u>	<u>\$69,374</u>
<b>Total value to ministry partners</b>	<b>\$74,826</b>

For testimonials, photographs and a custom mission opportunity for your church, visit our new website: [www.CityConnexx.org](http://www.CityConnexx.org)!

YPN has several ministry partners across the nation needing this valuable resource of time and service. We will be expanding this program again next year with a goal of 1000 and pray we will be able to connect more suburban church and college groups for a week of sharing, caring and service unlike any other.



## *Urban Scholarship Fund*

We are currently developing an Urban Scholarship Fund that will sponsor our ministry partner's urban youth to attend CityConnex and experience this life changing opportunity to serve other at-risk children and youth. This concept was tested last year when His Love Fellowship, one of our Denver ministry partners, attended CityConnex and served Rock the Block at Long Island Teen Challenge in New York. With a successful outcome, they served in Washington DC this year.

"Thanks so much for helping our team get to New York. You blessed us financially and supported us every step of the way. I appreciate the professional way everything was done - also the attentiveness to our needs was very helpful.



Without a doubt this was one of the most impactful mission trips I've done - both for the leaders and students who went. From fundraising, the ministry while there, and even now I see and the students see the amazing love and power of God at work! We started a puppet ministry as a result of the trip. I could probably write a book - so much happened!! Praise God, Michelle"



## YPN Sponsored Education & Recreation Programs:

- **Cottage Grove Compassionate Ministries** is located in a small, rural community in Oregon. Their mission is to provide positive experiences for youth and children that are high-risk for chronic homelessness. Their year-round programs are committed to providing meals, activities, clothing, personal supplies and a place for their families to do laundry. One of the highlights for these kids is Summer Camp. The ability to go away to a camp that is filled with positive God-centered activity and people provides these children with a loving environment to hear about Jesus in a whole new context. Our grant will provide Camp Scholarships to those who would never be able to experience Christian camp otherwise. Each camper will receive spiritual direction that will strengthen him or her for the difficulties they face and the memories become a cherished gift.



- YPN was excited to issue a grant to **Urban Youth Collaborative**, a new ministry partner in San Diego, CA. This grant was for their ongoing work with Outreach Lunch Clubs on inner-city public school campuses. All together, they reach 700 students per week at 18 schools in San Diego with spiritual and physical food. They provide lunch, Bible study, and a local church youth pastor relationship. This serves as the first step to other available resources such as camp, church connections, leadership development, and tutoring. This program serves high school and middle school students who often face economic disadvantages, broken family relationships, a lack of self-esteem, and fewer positive opportunities. Their students value the spiritual direction and personal healing that comes from encountering the power of Jesus Christ.



- **Boys to Men** is a youth development and mentoring program that serves students from the low income rural communities near Johnson City, TN. They provide a variety of services from one-on-one mentoring, after school mentoring groups, sports teams, passion opportunities, enrichment trips and summer camp experiences as well as part-time employment at their facility. Their Mentoring Program reaches many students including boys and girls enrolled in their Youth Development program and kids in their Children of Promise program who have incarcerated parents. These students are at high-risk for early pregnancy, dropping out of school, and drug and alcohol abuse.



Boys to Men's executive director Mike Marion walked 1000 miles in 100 days for the new "Impacting Kids for Life" campaign to raise funds for this mentoring program, inspire people to become mentors and bring attention to the core issues facing today's youth. YPN is excited to provide a grant for their Mentoring Program during this campaign.



- **Tha MYX International** is a new urban ministry in Denver, CO with the focus of gang intervention and prevention through Hoops N Raps, Music Production, and Tha MYX Hip Hop Church.



They recruit youth and young adults involved with gangs, drugs and other at risk issues to participate. They currently have 40 youth enrolled in this weekly program learning social skills, work skills through service projects, and are taught about Christ's love and the message of salvation. Many of them come from broken families, drug and alcohol addicted parents and often abusive situations. As one of our ministry sites for CityConnexx, we are very excited to provide this matching grant for their Gang Intervention/Prevention Program.

- **Long Island Teen Challenge** joined our network this past summer as a CityConnexx ministry site. Teen Challenge started in Brooklyn NY in 1958 to work with gang members and eventually started programs to help those addicted to drugs and alcohol. After obtaining a large home, they started a year-long residential discipleship program for youth and young adults to learn how to live drug-free lives offering a balance of Bible classes, work assignment and recreation. By 2002 there were 178 Teen Challenge programs in the US and another 150 in other countries.



In addition to their Rock the Block, Hoop Challenge and Vocal outreach programs, they have Super Saturday Kids Crusade (SSKK) which buses in children from the most underprivileged areas of the island. In drug-infested neighborhoods where crime runs rampant, SSKK provides a Christian alternative to Saturday morning trouble by teaching them life skills through games, lessons, music, dance, food, homework assignments, and the love of Jesus. YPN is proud to be a sponsor of this amazing Super Saturday Kids Crusade youth program.



- **La Villita Community Church** is located on the west side of Chicago and is the largest Mexican neighborhood in the city of Chicago. La Villita was a small church planted in 1994 to holistically serve and empower the neighborhood through Christian community development. In addition to providing English classes, they have a Gang Intervention Basketball program, youth programs, small groups for their church members and in 2007 they started Si Se Puede After School Program which this grant will go toward.

Currently they are able to serve 15 students from the surrounding neighborhood and have a long waiting list. Through a group of volunteers, they provide a safe, positive and fun environment in which to enable these students for success in their schools. Academically their goal is to come alongside the local schools and aid in their pursuits to teach fundamental reading, writing and math. As a church based program they are motivated by this opportunity to serve Christ by serving their neighborhood. Therefore, their response to God's amazing grace is clearly integrated into their educational program through prayer time and Bible study.



- The primary mission of **Little Lights Urban Ministries** is to strengthen and enlighten the hearts and minds of some of Washington DC's most underserved children and youth by providing a caring place of emotional, academic, social and spiritual growth. Camp Heaven is a seven week academic and recreational summer camp for children ages 5-13 from the Potomac Gardens Public Housing Complex and surrounding neighborhood. Expecting 100 children this year, Little Lights will provide these children with a safe and enriching environment that will deter them from engaging in at-risk behavior while encouraging them to pursue their dreams and develop their natural talents.



More than 90% of the Potomac Garden children live in one-parent, female-headed households and a number of the children's parents are incarcerated. Most of the children are two grade levels behind in their academics. Without intervention less than 2% of the youth growing up in Potomac Gardens will attend college. Camp Heaven incorporates an academic curriculum plan to improve their reading, writing and math skills in addition to games, meals, creative development activities, enrichment field trips and ends the summer with a talent show and community barbeque.



- **Rehoboth Christian School** was founded in 1903 as a ministry to the Native American peoples of the Four Corners region. When it opened, six Navajo children were its first students, and now Rehoboth continues its ministry by educating 443 students in grades K-12. Rehoboth's student body is both ethnically and economically diverse - 69% are Native American students, 10% Hispanic, Asian or African American and 21% Anglo make it one of the most diverse, private Christian Schools in the US. They serve children living in America's 3rd poorest county, nearly 50% of the students come from low-income and poverty-level income families.



A Rehoboth education helps students develop confidence, competence, and compassion. Rehoboth is committed to building students up not only intellectually, but also spiritually and emotionally, helping them grow into mature Christians who approach the world with a healthy perspective and the skills necessary for living in it. YPN is honored to provide another grant from our Native American/Rich Mullins Fund to Rehoboth Christian School for their Tuition Assistance Program which serves the students with the greatest financial needs. This year, 67% of the students need financial assistance due to the economy and their family members contribute the remainder of tuition costs, often at great sacrifice.



- **SAFEPLACE** is a ministry of **Edgewater Baptist Church** that reaches youth and their families on Chicago's North Side. SAFEPLACE has two main components, their afterschool program which runs September through May and their Summer Day Camp program that is six weeks in June and July. This grant will go toward their Afterschool Program which provides holistic mentorship and homework assistance for about 80 kids per week. The majority of the youth they serve are from low income, Hispanic immigrant families. This program trains local youth with the gospel of Christ and equips them to grow as believers. Over the years, they have seen hundreds of children saved and grow in their ability to truly follow Jesus.



- **His Love Fellowship** is one of our Latino urban ministries whose mission is to love, help and train the family of God in west Denver. This community has extremely low income and education levels which lead to alcohol and drug addictions. This grant will go toward their Summer Program for children K-12. This program includes several weeks of outdoor camps, sports camp, VBS and a mentoring program to help the children in math and language arts. And for the second year, they attended CityConnex and served a YPN ministry partner in Washington DC in June. Missions and community service is an extremely important aspect of their youth ministry as their kids learn by serving that they don't always have to be on the receiving end – they always have something to give of themselves to others.

- **Confluence Ministries** serves the West Colfax Neighborhood in Denver, CO and is the host of our YPN Denver Ministry Partner meetings. In appreciation from our Denver Network, YPN is pleased to provide a grant for their Baseball In the City program. This summer program serves children ages 8-12 and teaches kids how to play baseball. The purpose behind the program is to give neighborhood children a constructive, safe activity during the summer. It calls forth a passion for sports while educating kids on how to be a part of a team and shares the Good News to those who might not otherwise have an opportunity to hear it.





- YPN is excited to provide another grant for **Restoration Christian Fellowship's** summer Hoop Scoop Basketball Camp. For the past seven years RCF has provided an opportunity for the inner-city children (K-8th) of their neighborhood to participate in this one week program. It provides an outlet through sports for their children to experience positive role models and learn life skills to help them become a positive asset to society. Every child receives a trophy, t-shirt and breakfast and lunch every day along with daily motivational speeches to teach them how to make better choices in life. Due to funding, this camp is offered totally free enabling all who wish to attend an opportunity to do so. Last year they served 200 children with more than 25 accepting Christ. They are expecting 250 this summer.
- YPN provided a grant to **East Central Ministries** in Albuquerque, NM for their Kids Club Summer Camp. This unique program trains 40 neighborhood teen interns to lead this nine-day summer camp that serves 110 younger campers. All of the teen interns and campers live in their low-income community, many of which come from families who are out of work and homeless. Kids Club is an example of ECM's strategy to minister in culturally sensitive ways as well as to raise up indigenous leaders.





## **Program Delivery: Training**

YPN provides local training for executive directors and key leaders by bringing the highest quality of training, inspiration and moments of retreat to those on the front-lines of ministry.

### Executive Director Leadership Training:

Per our Board of Directors, we placed this program on hold during the fall of 2008 to focus on CityConnex this last fiscal year.

With that program up and running and staff in place to oversee its growth, it is Dean Cowles' vision and passion to take this next year to re-write and update this unique and first of its kind training for small evangelical urban ministry executives designed for those called of God with a heart and passion for reaching the "least of these" in our nations "high-risk communities".

The results from past EDLT trainings have been very encouraging and we've received requests to do more around the country. We now have **221** EDLT Alumni and have been given a **92%** satisfaction rating!

The following resources worth over \$160 are provided with the two days workshop:

- Fasten's 180 page fundraising and management manual
- YPN's EDLT Manual and resource disk
- "A Practical Guide to Ministry Fundraising" by NASS
- JDLevy @ Associates FREE e-resource
- White House Faith-Based and Community Initiatives resource disk
- \$300 scripture grant from IBS for each ministry that attends EDLT

### *EDLT Schedule:*

- EDLT San Diego, CA (9/08)



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## Ministry Partner Development Program

### *Executive Coaching:*

YPN continues to provide Executive Coaching for those who have completed our Executive Director Leadership Training and want assistance to build upon the principles and practices learned along with follow-up to help them succeed in their administrative and fundraising tasks.

YPN's coaching model is a 12-month progressive process that walks leaders through our Ministry Development Strategic Plan. There are four distinct levels to assist ministries in building their capacity and self-sustainability.

- Boys to Men | Johnson City, TN (renewed 1/09-12/09)

We continue to seek like minded foundations, businesses, donors, churches and corporations that are willing to provide matching grants for one local ministry director to be trained and coached. The long-term benefits to this new endeavor are already producing encouraging results.

### *Spiritual Coaching:*

Another new model in development is our Spiritual Coaching for the executive directors seeking guidance and encouragement in their biblical theology and faith. This program will be facilitated by Rev. Jim Galanaugh.

### YPN Miscellaneous Training Services:

For those ministries who are not able to commit to the 12-month coaching program, President Dean Cowles is available to facilitate board and staff retreats along with specialized training for specific events. President Dean Cowles spoke at the annual mentoring banquet for Boys to Men in Johnson City, TN and helped facilitate a major large church in town to begin a significant financial and volunteer partnership with our ministry partner.

This past year several large churches and denominations have asked Dean to help them with urban ministry strategy and church planting paying for travel and expenses which has allowed him to also spend time with our local ministry partners while in that city or region.



President Dean Cowles also serves as an urban church plant consultant with New Church Specialties and has been asked to recruit, train and coach urban church planters for the new Salvation Army Kroc Center in Grand Rapids, MI and Chicago, IL. They anticipate building many of these urban community centers/churches throughout the country.

YPN Sponsored Training Events/Programs:

- YouthPartnersNET is excited to co-sponsor Droppin' the "L" Conference in Denver which is hosted by our ministry partner **Old Landmark Ministries** in Aurora, CO. This high energy truth conference will present sound biblical teaching that challenges youth and young adults to reject the lure of the world, and live out their purpose according to the living Word of God. Shifting from "living by the world" to "living by the Word".

The conference will feature praise and worship, main stage speakers, general group sessions, workshops, small group debriefing, community service projects, local talent presentations, open mic coffee shop, graffiti art and community concert. The target group is church and unchurched youth. Urban, suburban and rural and culturally diverse youth ages 14-20. It is scheduled for July 9-11 in Denver, CO.

- Urban Youth Workers Institute (UYWI) developed RELOAD, one day training events that focused on 23 cities throughout the country. **Life Development Institute**, one of YPN's ministry partners, coordinated the event in Denver. We are excited to sponsor this year's RELOAD as it will be the first RELOAD to take on a regional focus as they market the event on a national level. They are using this event as a catalyst to launch out a regional RELOAD tour to smaller cities in the region as well as to launch several Learning Communities. This regional event will expand to two days in May where they expect over 400 leaders to attend.
- YPN provided a grant to **Youth Resources** in Minneapolis to support a new Training Cooperative venture which will provide much needed training for urban youth workers to support their efforts in serving at-risk youth. Partnering with four educational and mission organizations, they will develop and teach a training syllabus each quarter specifically for the Youth Resources Training Cooperative. With 20 youth workers already signed up, training will start in May.

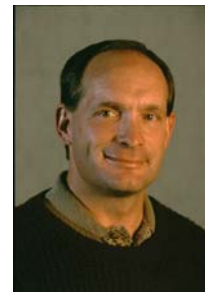


## YPN Leadership/Staff

- YPN operates under the direction of a National Board of Directors that meets/conferences 4-6 times annually.

Chairperson | Lee Bomgardner | Phoenix, AZ  
Vice Chairperson | Rev. Larry Brown | Denver, CO  
Secretary | Nina Rattle | Greeley, CO  
Treasurer | Bill Bass | Kansas City, MO

- Rev. Dean Cowles, President/CEO – has 24 years experience as Urban Ministry Pastor/Director/Founder in Indianapolis (Shepherd Community) & Denver (Crossroads of the Rockies), three years as Compassion’s USA Ministry Director, two years on African mission field as church planter, founded L. Nelson Bell International Chaplaincy Training School, and speaker, author, urban ministry consultant.
- Rev. Jim Galanaugh, CityConnexx Director – has 26 years experience as an urban pastor, leader and innovator. Jim is connected all over the country, has a heart for missions and brings a wealth of personal passion, spiritual depth and networking to his position as CityConnexx National Director and Director of Spiritual Development.
- Kevin Shipley, Director of Marketing and Development – joining our team in April is a seasoned ministry and marketing professional with 30 years of experience in donor development and program marketing. Kevin will bring numerous relationships with denominational leaders to help grow CityConnexx and our NET programs.
- Shelley Wallen, Operations Manager – has 25 years of experience in the public and private sector and achieved exceptional results in system management in varied industries representing non-profits, hospice & caregiving, and construction & design.





Our Board and staff want to thank God for giving us this opportunity to serve and share. We also want to thank all our partners and supporters for being so faithful during these difficult economic days.

It's been difficult to watch so many of our ministry partners cut staff and programs due to a drop in donations which is all the more reason we are committed to see our CityConnexx program and funding to our ministry partners grow to help make up some of these shortfalls.

Therefore, our hope and prayer is that together we will continue to bless so many through your past and future gifts to YouthPartnersNET and CityConnexx. Over these years YPN has worked hard to see your gifts and grants multiplied by God in many wonderful ways to help urban and Native American ministries and the children and youth they serve in their high risk communities. YPN is able to faithfully leverage and multiply your support to do more for the Kingdom than ever before. That's a testimony to your vision, your love for kids, and God's faithfulness across the years.

May the Lord continue to bless and keep you until He comes again as together we offer hope, love and compassion to so many across this nation and around the world.

For Him and Them,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dean Cowles'.

Dean Cowles  
YouthPartnersNET  
President

