



HIGHLIGHTS
FROM THE PAST YEAR

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INSIGHTS
INTO WHERE WE'RE GOING

THE JOURNEY CHURCH

We are heading toward the 12th year of The Journey and this past year was one of the best. What was your favorite part of the past year? Maybe it was the Love Can random acts of kindness, the Network Yard Ambush, the "IF" series, the baptisms at the beach event, volunteering in the kids room, Goo Games at Journey Teens, or maybe your own Running Partner mini-group.

This past year we have seen major impact in our community, people exploring and beginning a relationship with Jesus, and we've seen God work in and through our lives and our church. We are in our second year of being "1 church in 2 locations" as we continue to expand our reach and provide more space for people to experience relationships not religion along the lakeshore. We still believe the best is yet to come and God can do more in and through us.

In the pages ahead, you'll see some stories and highlights from the past year, get a glimpse into what The Journey is all about, and what's ahead in the next year. We're looking back to remember all that God has done, & looking forward with confidence that He will continue to do great things!



HIGHLIGHTS, STORIES AND NUMBERS

In this annual review, you will see some highlights, stories and numbers. Each highlight and number represents someone's story. Each story shows a next step as we experience relationships, not religion, along the lakeshore.

OUR MISSION IS TO CONNECT IN **RELATIONSHIPS, NOT RELIGION** SO EVERYONE CAN EXPERIENCE THEIR **BEST LIFE**. AS WE LIVE OUT THE MISSION, WE FOCUS ON **3 KEY RELATIONSHIPS**.



We don't want to just do some religious activities. We want everyone to experience their best life in a relationship with Jesus. Everything we do at The Journey is connected to these 3 key relationships: We want to make Jesus the center of our lives. We want to do life together because we all need a few people that are heading in the same direction to encourage each other along the journey. We want to live out God's mission and share His hope & love through our actions and through our words as we invest in people who aren't connected with Jesus and invite them to know Him. Below are a few areas at The Journey that are designed to help us take steps in those 3 key relationships.

JOURNEY KIDS & TEENS

BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR THEIR FUTURE

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS FOR THEIR BEST LIFE AHEAD



RUNNING PARTNERS

CONSISTENTLY MEETING TOGETHER

MINI-GROUPS TO FINE TUNE OUR LIVES

LET GOD DO MORE IN AND THROUGH US

JOURNEY NIGHT CLASSES

DO LIFE & LEARN TOGETHER

TAKING STEPS IN OUR LIVES & RELATIONSHIPS

NETWORK TEAMS BEING PART OF A TEAM

IMPACTING THE COMMUNITY

TAKING STEPS

SUNDAY MORNINGS

VOLUNTEERS WORKING TOGETHER ACROSS TWO SITES

CREATING AN ATMOSPHERE THAT HELPS PEOPLE AT ANY SPIRITUAL LEVEL

EXPLORING GOD WITH FIRST STEPS

EXPERIENCING GOD WITH NEXT STEPS

Everything we do goes back to those 3 key relationships. It's about this journey of taking steps to explore Jesus and begin a relationship with Him, taking more steps to experience Jesus in our lives, and letting Jesus work in and through us so more people can experience Him. The stories, numbers and highlights represent these same 3 key relationships & the journey to experience our best life in this relationship with Jesus.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

TWO SITES - ONE CHURCH

Three years ago we started working toward creating more space for people to experience relationships, not religion along the lakeshore. This has led us to becoming one church with two locations. We recently had the 2nd anniversary of our North on M120 site. This has allowed us to have more seats for Sundays and has expanded our presence in the North Muskegon communities. We have seen many people at our 2nd site begin a relationship with Jesus, get baptized, take steps through our Journey Night Classes & North Network and reach out to share God's love and message with people in that community.

WEEKLY AVERAGE ATTENDANCE AT NORTH ON M-120 SITE HAS GROWN TO **180**



NORTH ON M-120 STORY

"Before we started coming to The Journey, we didn't attend church at all. Our daughter, Lyrik, wanted to attend as she'd never gone before and she had a lot of questions. I told her that she and I could go. We headed to a local church I'd chosen but when we got there, we realized their sign had the wrong time for services. We came upon The Journey completely by accident and decided to see what time their services were held. We were right on time for one of them to start. We both enjoyed the service and knew we'd be back. Getting Bob to go with us though? That was out of the question & we pretty much knew it so we didn't even ask. After hearing about our experience though, he asked if we'd mind if he came with us. It's been a great experience for us as we learn to grow in our relationships with each other, our friends, our family and God." **-Maria**

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

BAPTISM

Baptism is a symbol of being in a relationship with Jesus. It's an outward expression of an inner change. To date, we've seen over 200 people baptized in our short history as a church. It's so exciting to see people come to The Journey, explore Jesus and begin a relationship with Him. It's even more exciting to see Journeymen baptize their friends that they have invested in & invited.

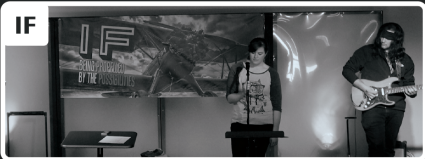
23 PEOPLE BAPTIZED THIS YEAR AT THE JOURNEY



BAPTISM STORY

"I made a lot of bad decisions in my life and I was going down a wrong road. I drove by The Journey most days on my way to work. One day I decided to stop in on a Sunday and I really enjoyed the service and I kept coming back. I wanted to explore God more so I went through the Beginnings Class. I was able to ask questions and that helped me begin a relationship with Jesus. I now have hope, guidance and comfort. I'm getting baptized because I want Jesus as the center of my life." **-Holly**

WE STARTED THE YEAR TALKING ABOUT BEING PROPELLED BY THE POSSIBILITIES AND WE SAW GOD DO BIG THINGS.



IN LATE SPRING OUR NETWORKS WORKED IN MULTIPLE COMMUNITY GARDENS, AT LOCAL KIDS BASKETS AND PROVIDED FOOD TRUCKS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE IN NEED.



NETWORK IMPACT



BAPTISMS

23

BAPTIZED THIS YEAR AT THE JOURNEY.

THE LOVE CAN CAMPAIGN MADE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR LIVES AND THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY.



LOVE CAN

IN MARCH WE CELEBRATED THE ANNIVERSARY OF BEING ONE CHURCH WITH TWO LOCATIONS.

1 CHURCH 2 LOCATIONS



200+

ATTENDANCE AT NORTH ON M-120 SITE.

JOURNEY TEENS KICKED OFF FALL WITH MIDDLE SCHOOL MONDAY NIGHTS & HIGH SCHOOL CONNECTION NIGHTS.

JOURNEY TEENS



JANUARY FEBRUARY MARCH APRIL MAY JUNE JULY AUGUST SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER DECEMBER



JOURNEY NIGHT CLASS

WE TALKED ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS, NOT RELIGION ON SUNDAYS AND IN JOURNEY NIGHT CLASSES. IN JNC CLASSES, PEOPLE LEARN AND DO LIFE TOGETHER TO TAKE STEPS IN SPECIFIC RELATIONSHIPS & LIFE.

138+

IN JOURNEY KIDS EACH WEEK.



JOURNEY KIDS

WE SAW 18 FAMILIES DEDICATE THEIR KIDS THIS PAST YEAR. FAMILY & KIDS ARE SO IMPORTANT. WE ARE BUILDING A FOUNDATION FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES.



BACKPACK DRIVE

300+

BACKPACKS TO LOCAL KIDS IN NEED.

WE KICKED OFF FALL WITH OUR ANNUAL BACKPACK DRIVE TO GET SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO LOCAL KIDS IN NEED. WE PROVIDED 8+ BARRELS OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO KIDS IN NEED AT 7 LOCAL SCHOOLS THROUGH COMMUNITY ENCOMPASS.

96

DIFFERENT PEOPLE IN NIGHT CLASSES.

EASTER



WE HAD OUR HIGHEST ATTENDANCE EVER ON THESE HOLIDAYS IN 2014. WE HAD OVER 1,000 AT ONE SERVICE FOR THE FIRST TIME LAST EASTER.

CHRISTMAS EVE



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

ANNUAL YARD AMBUSH

This past November our Network Teams' Annual Yard Ambush was the largest Network Team project of the year. All of our regional Network Teams were able to help lots of people in need by raking and cleaning up about 20 yards!

We were able to help an elderly woman whose husband recently had a heart attack, a World War 2 Vet, an injured man who recently fell off a ladder, and many more. We cleaned up 17 zadzillion leaves! Way to go Network Teams!

17 ZADZILLION LEAVES RAKED!



NETWORK STORY

"We loved being part of our Network Team's Yard Ambush Day. It's great to get out in the community and make a difference. We were able to help a woman whose husband passed away this year and she is really struggling as this would have been their 50th wedding anniversary. The amazing thing is that when we get out to help other people, we're actually the ones who feel blessed and encouraged. I guess that is the beauty of Networks!" **-Ray & Tammy**

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

LOVE CAN

We concluded this past year with a series that turned into a movement called Love Can. We talked about moving God's love from thought to action. This series motivated people to action through random acts of kindness to invest in our communities, Network events that helped people in need and a Christmas project that shared love in action around the world through our partnerships with the House of Hope orphanage in Kenya and Verve Church in Las Vegas. What we found is that LOVE CAN change everything - one act, one decision, one person at a time.

\$25,000

 INVESTED LOCALLY, REGIONALLY, AND GLOBALLY TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION.

LOVE CAN STORY

"Last night I stopped at Wesco on Sherman and Glenside Blvd to pump gas. I only pumped \$6 because I was in a huge rush and had literally 5 minutes before hand received some news that got me a little worked up and that's all I could focus on! The cashier at Wesco gave me a Love Can change everything card and said a man had been in there earlier and left \$5 towards someone's purchase. I would like to thank whomever that man was! The act itself made my day and changed my whole mood.- It made me refocus on the good things and eased my mind a little! I think this is great what you are all doing and these random acts no matter how big or small they really can make a difference." **-Paige**

JOURNEY STORIES

NETWORK STORY

"Like most people, my plate is full. Most days I wish there were more hours in the day to complete all the tasks I have to do. So when I learned of The Journey Network Teams, I was hesitant to participate. I felt like I didn't have time to commit to one more thing. I'm glad I made the time because after attending a service project and a monthly Connection Night, I became excited about the opportunity. It didn't feel like a chore, or just another thing on my "to do" list, it felt like an opportunity. It is an opportunity to give back to the community, to share life experience with others, and most importantly, to take steps with God. Most recently I had a huge "ah-ha" moment. Being a part of The Journey Church, & even more specifically The Journey Network, creates a true sense of comfort. I know that my family and I are a part of a very special group. A group that will be there for us to offer love and support, pray with and for us, and just generally be a positive presence wherever and whenever the need arises. The peace that that knowledge creates is priceless." **-Jeanne**



STORY FROM A JOURNEY KIDS PARENT

"I can't speak highly enough about Journey Kids and the experience it gives our children. Both our boys talk about how God is great and he does wonderful things. We were in the car one day and I was bringing our youngest to daycare and he said "God created the trees". He recognizes that God is our creator from the lessons in his class at church. Our children attending Journey Kids helps generate conversation between the kids and my husband and I regarding our faith. They also love & are proud of the different art pieces they create in their classes."

-Toni



STORY FROM A JOURNEY KIDS VOLUNTEER

"This has been an amazing journey for myself and my kids. Up until 2 years ago I never attended church. 34 years without knowing our Heavenly Father. It was when my five year old asked me, "Mom you know what Jesus gave me?". I said, "what did Jesus give you?". He replied, "His life". Wow, pretty powerful words coming from a five year old. This is when we decided it was time to introduce our children to church. Never had I had such a blessing enter my life. Choosing to become a volunteer in Journey Kids was life-changing for me and my kids. I am learning right along with them. The message they learn every week carries with them for a lifetime. My time with kids at The Journey & my own kids is intentional and powerful. I'm trying to teach all of them that God is our very best friend and always has our back no matter the circumstance." **-Sarah**



JOURNEY STORIES

BAPTISM STORY

"Before I had Jesus in my life, I had this emptiness that I wasn't sure what it was. We started coming to The Journey, to the Beginnings Class and reading the Bible. When I read the Bible, it really clicked to what was missing in my life. The Bible really described the kind of person I wanted to be and it was amazing to me how much sense it made of life. One obstacle was I felt like I wasn't good enough but reading the Bible & coming to The Journey helped me realize that even if I'm not perfect, God still loves me. I'm looking forward to taking my next step with Jesus Christ." **-Larry**



BAPTISM IS AN OUTWARD EXPRESSION OF AN INNER CHANGE



STORY FROM A JOURNEY NIGHT CLASS

"I appreciated hearing different ideas and perspectives from different parents. I enjoyed the love languages class. I will be more purposeful in talking to my girls about Jesus and making Him more of a priority in our daily activities. Thank you!"

-Tammy

STORY FROM A JOURNEY BAND MEMBER

"When I started performing at the Journey on Sundays, I had considered myself an atheist. I would just play the songs for fun, not thinking about the content. But then after services people would tell me how they have loved seeing me play, or how well they connected during the music, or how they have gotten new people to come because of the music at The Journey and it made me realize there was more to it than just playing for myself. We would go and do the "Give me more" between services and it seemed like everything was relating to what was going on in my life, and the people in the band cared and helped me. I remember once we played Christmas Lights by Coldplay and I saw a lady singing her heart out during the service and I looked down and couldn't help but cry. I went from playing at The Journey for myself and for fun, to playing for the Journeyers and God. I have learned to pray, speak with God, and trust God through playing music on those Sunday mornings with all of you. Rock on!" **-Alex**



WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT RUNNING PARTNER MINI-GROUPS:

"Our Running Partner group has helped us in our marriage to keep working through challenges and to learn more about trusting and following Jesus."

"The best part of my year was my Running Partner friends. It's given me a place to develop my faith, keep taking steps with Jesus, and to look beyond myself."

"We all need a few other people in life to be on the same trajectory as us, where we can help others and they can help us. Running Partners helps us move forward together in life and with God."



1 CHURCH 2 LOCATIONS



AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

We've seen an increase in attendance this year as we live out our mission of relationships, not religion so everyone experiences their best life.

140

KIDS WEEKLY

JOURNEY KIDS

Every Sunday we have over **40** volunteers that help build a foundation for our kids future. We saw over **265** different kids learn about faith, wisdom & friendship this past year.

300+

VOLUNTEERS

We have so many great volunteers that own & live out the mission to help others experience relationships not religion along the lakeshore.

64%

REACHING OUR COMMUNITY

64 percent of people at The Journey were not going to church before coming. It's our mission to invest in people disconnected from Jesus and invite them to explore and experience their best life in relationship



4 NETWORK TEAMS WITH ALMOST 400

PEOPLE INVOLVED IN NETWORK EVENTS

Our Network Teams come together for a bigger impact in our community and to team up to encourage each other to take steps.

1,715 HOURS SERVED IN NETWORK TEAMS IMPACTING OUR COMMUNITY



ALMOST 100 IN JOURNEY NIGHT CLASSES

We offered **10** different classes this past year to help people take steps in their relationship with Jesus, with money and in their marriages and families.

65 RUNNING PARTNERS IN OUR NEW MINI-GROUPS

We initiated a new focus this fall. In 3 months, we already have a great number of people meeting consistently together to fine tune their lives so God can do more in & through them.

BUDGET

Our budget is set up for maximum impact. We value transparency, fiscal responsibility & generosity because we want to see every dollar count in a way that impacts our community and world.

OUR BUDGET IS

35% LESS THAN MOST CHURCHES OUR SIZE

100% FUNDED BY OUR GIVING AND OFFERINGS

BUDGET LINE	LAST YEAR	THIS YEAR	CHANGE
PERSONNEL	\$313,042	\$310,464	-\$2,578
GENERAL EXPENSES	\$74,725	\$78,865	\$4,140
FACILITIES	\$125,060	\$122,310	-\$2,750
OUTREACH	\$59,400	\$60,300	\$900
TOTAL	\$572,227	\$571,939	-\$288

ONE CHURCH. TWO SITES. ONE BUDGET.

We are working towards becoming self-sufficient at both sites while functioning in a 70-20-10 model under one budget.

70% TOTAL EXPENSES

20% CENTRAL SUPPORT

10% GIVE AWAY

GIVING

One of our Core Essentials is to live generously. We believe God is the blessing who blesses us to be a blessing to others. We want to live with open hands as individuals and as a church. Below are some numbers that represent our desire to live generously:

TOTAL GIVING \$455,000

PONTALUNA EXIT  \$350,000

NORTH ON M-120  \$105,000

AVERAGE GIVING PER/PERSON - PER/WEEK

\$21.60

\$15.41

\$16.69

NATIONAL AVERAGE '13 AT THE JOURNEY '14 AT THE JOURNEY

GIVING TO STRATEGIC PARTNERS

This year, our ongoing partnership with Verve Church in Las Vegas included the forming of a new organization called SPLAGNA - which is starting churches in the hardest, most difficult places. We also are continuing our partnership with the House of Hope Home in Kenya as they serve, love & educate orphans as well as impact the surrounding community. With the House of Hope Home we helped them purchase a "pickup for produce".

AS PART OF OUR LOVE CAN CHRISTMAS PROJECT, WE GAVE AWAY:
\$5,000 HOH + \$5,000 SPLAGNA + RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS + NETWORKS SERVING + ONGOING OUTREACH = BIG IMPACT

WHAT'S AHEAD

As we dream about what's down the next road for The Journey, we are praying about things like a new building for the North on M120 site, for more people to begin a relationship with Jesus and get baptized, for more impact, more networks, and seeing growth and expansion in many ways.

But as we think about what's ahead, it's always about who we are becoming individually and as a church. We want to be a collection of people who look beyond ourselves, do life together, live generously, invest & invite, own & live out God's mission and above all, people who have Jesus at the center of our lives.

We have set some specific goals for taking steps in our core essentials this next year.

MAKE
JESUS
THE
CENTER

Each one of us to grow more consistent with Jesus in all areas of our life.

INVEST
AND
INVITE

Each one of us to invest in one and bring one.

DO
LIFE
TOGETHER

Each one of us to take a next step in the process...

SUNDAYS ► NETWORKS ► RUNNING PARTNERS

NEXT STEPS

WHERE DOES IT START FOR YOU?

MAKE JESUS THE CENTER GOAL:

It is not just about knowing Jesus, it is about having a relationship with Him where we listen to Him and follow His ways in all areas of our lives. Check out the resources at the Next Steps Center or online for some help.

INVEST & INVITE GOAL:

We all have that one friend... someone we hope finds a relationship with Jesus and experiences their best life. Our goal is for each of us to continue investing in our one friend this year and invite them to The Journey.

DO LIFE TOGETHER GOAL:

Sundays at church are kind of like a stadium experience where we gain some insights about the game of life. But, we can be more than just a fan. We can get on a team & put our relationship with Jesus into practice. A Network Team is designed to get us in the game. There are also Running Partner mini-groups that are designed to fine tune our lives and relationships so God can do even more in and through us. So what's your next step in the process?

THE JOURNEY
CORE ESSENTIALS



RELATIONSHIPS, NOT RELIGION



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2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT