

# Use your change to 'change' a life... it makes good cents!

Donating the spare change from your credit or debit card purchases allows Lifeline to provide after school programming and love in a Godly environment. Here's how it works:

**STEP 1:** Go to [roundup.app/p/elkhartlifeline](http://roundup.app/p/elkhartlifeline)

**STEP 2:** Fill out form with name, email and password

**STEP 3:** Connect your credit/debit cards to the app and securely authorize RoundUps with your bank. The extra change from each transaction you make will be "rounded up" and donated every month to Lifeline Youth Ministries



# Lifeline

YOUTH MINISTRIES



2018 YEAR END



## 10 YEARS SERVING AT LIFELINE

In just a few months, my 10th year at Lifeline will come to a close. These 10 years have brought some incredible joys as well as some incredibly sad moments. My wife, Leslie, and I have been so blessed to be a part of Lifeline. We have young people who refer to us as mom and dad and, even though they may never hear it at home, have told us they love us. How sweet to build such deep relationships with so many of Elkhart's youth.

A number of years ago, I received a call from the juvenile courts asking if I would be a mentor to a young man in 10th grade. He had come home from school to find his mother and siblings gone, abandoned at 15 years of age. Taken in by a gang, he held up a local store at knife point and ended up in Juvenile Court. We became close and he spent a great deal of time with my family. After graduating from high school, a board member, and Leslie and I tried to get him to leave the Elkhart area and its bad influences. He was a witness in a crime, was shot twice and eventually found himself in prison.

As I write this, my heart is heavy thinking of a young man with great promise sitting in a jail cell. However, God is a God of second chances and He can still make something wonderful out of our mistakes. Below is a letter I recently received from this young man who is serving his second year in a correctional facility. He has plans to be released sometime in 2019.

*I appreciate you and everything you did for me. You didn't have to let me into your family and show me how a family and a home is supposed to be. I will never forget that and all the places that you took me that I had never been before. I love you man and tell the family I said hey, love them and have been thinking about them. We are getting tablets soon so I can write you more and we can stay in touch. See you soon and talk to you soon. Enjoy the holiday and tell everyone I said hey! Love, R.*

Although this story is sad and shows the tremendous needs that Lifeline consistently strives to meet, we also see great success through the trials our youth face on a daily basis – such as breaking out of the cycles of poverty, finishing college and becoming wonderful young men and women. God has blessed Lifeline and continues to bless us. I am often reminded of the favorite phrase from Lifeline's founder, Irv Polk, "Through these doors walk the greatest kids in Elkhart." His words remain just as true today as they did when Irv opened the doors to Lifeline in 1963. What an absolute blessing this year has been and we look forward to what 2019 will bring to our youth in this community.

Many Blessings,  
Darrell Peterson, Lifeline Executive Director

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT – CALEB STANTON, LIFELINE PROGRAM DIRECTOR



This is my eighth year on staff with Lifeline. My wife, Jenna, and I are from the Northwest and were married there in 2010. We moved to Elkhart from Spokane, Washington in 2011 to work for Lifeline. We have two amazing kids, Aubrey and Jackson, and we are thrilled to raise them among the Lifeline kids we love. Getting to know the youth at Lifeline and invest in their lives is definitely my favorite part of working at Lifeline. I get the opportunity to be a consistent stable presence for arguably the most important years in a youth's life. It is amazing to see how God works in the lives of kids who are in the midst of some terrible circumstances; most of the kids I am close to are from one parent or no parent households and yet they constantly teach me generosity and love. I choose to serve at Lifeline because the youth in Elkhart deserve to have someone who cares for them, believes in them, loves them and someone who stands in the gaps for them! If we are not advocating for them, then who will?

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## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

Our recent annual fundraising event would not have been possible without the following local sponsors. Thank you, for your generosity and on-going support.

### TITLE SPONSORS – \$2,500



### GOLD SPONSORS – \$1,500



### SILVER SPONSORS – \$1,000



## LIFELINE YOUTH MINISTRIES

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# LIFELINE GIRL'S CLUB DANCES THE NIGHT AWAY

Prom is supposed to be an event that everyone looks forward to in high school. A time to dress up, feel beautiful, hang out with friends, and have a great time. That's not always the case though. Prom becomes an expensive, stressful, and sometimes humiliating affair. The cost of the dress, hairstyle, makeup, shoes, jewelry and ticket all add up. Then there is the stress of finding a date. At Girl's Club, we want to give each of our girls the experience of prom without those added hassles. We provide the dresses, we do their hair and makeup, we take them to a beautiful venue, we provide delicious food and most importantly we provide a safe environment for girls to be themselves, feel beautiful and cherished where they don't have to worry about boys for just one night. This event would not be possible without the help of the community. Because of some generous donors and supporters in the community, we were able to rent a venue, have an incredible feast, give each girl a raffle gift and a makeup bag filled with supplies for the night. Girl's Club Prom is an event the girls look forward to all year long and it is a special occasion that continues to grow year after year.



## GIRLS CLUB NEEDS:

- ☛ Gift cards for small group events (AMC Movie Theater, McDonalds, Walmart, Starbucks, etc.)
- ☛ Meals for second semester (takethemameal.com) Last name: Peterson Password: lifeline
- ☛ Gifts for Prom (mascara, lipgloss, little makeup bags, fake nails, giftcards, etc.)
- ☛ Gently used Prom dresses
- ☛ Monetary donations
- ☛ Volunteers to do hair, makeup, food, decorations, or help girls pick out dresses on Prom Night (tentative date is March 18th)



## FREE HOUSING. FREE MEALS. \$2,000 EARNED. NEED WE SAY MORE?

"What Would Willie Want" are the four W's of the Quad W foundation. Willie Tichenor was an amazing young man who died at 19 years old after a three year battle with Osteosarcoma, a rare form of cancer. In Willie's short life, mission trips had a profound impact on him; so much so that with part of his inheritance he chose to fund a "Missional Internship" for college students. Lifeline is one of twelve sites that does this around the United States. Students get the opportunity to come love on our kids and build relationships at Lifeline for nine weeks over the summer. They study and learn with hands-on experience what it means to be on mission and serve the less fortunate and marginalized in our community. This is an amazing and transformative experience for 12 young adults. One of the most amazing parts of the internship is that the students have FREE housing, meals, and they earn \$2,000 for this experience. This is extremely rare for a "Mission Trip" so please send us some college students for a summer they will never forget!

## LIFELINE PARTNERS WITH MCCOY MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Several years ago, McCoy Memorial Baptist Church began asking how we could better partner with missionaries and supported ministries. After meeting with Caleb Stanton, we became excited about supporting Lifeline in a hands-on way; we could bless this important ministry, while also being blessed by serving in our own community. We started about five years ago by providing volunteers and meals for the Mary Beck after school program. This partnership quickly grew as several people in our church found that they could easily and practically help bring the gospel to these kids by doing things they enjoyed. For some, that meant spending a few hours a week doing homework, playing games, eating dinner, and encouraging kids as they heard the gospel during the Mary Beck after school program. For others, it meant they could help bring the gospel by cooking and bringing food for these students. And everyone involved found that as they served and blessed others, they too were blessed. With a combination of McCoy Memorial Baptist Church volunteers and Lifeline staff, we have been able to provide this program.

After working at Mary Beck for a year and a half, we felt we had enough volunteers and experience to begin a club at Riverview Elementary, a school just blocks from our church. Working at Riverview has allowed our church to build connections and relationships with those who literally live right next door to our church. Helping to run an entire elementary club has also provided great opportunities for those in our church. Many people have grown in their abilities to teach the Bible, share the gospel, lead small groups in discussions and Bible memorization, and also care for those who are so precious to our Savior; children! As with any ministry, there have been challenges and hard days. But at the end of every club, we find a joy that can only be found in sharing the gospel, making disciples, serving others, and serving HIM!

I would invite you to consider giving a few hours a week and enjoy the blessing of being a part of bringing the gospel to those right here in Elkhart, IN.

— Chris Koeher, Pastor of Family Ministries

## WHY VOLUNTEER AT LIFELINE?

"Volunteering with Lifeline's middle school and high school girls has heightened my understanding of the needs of disadvantaged young women in Elkhart. I find that like all of us, they just want to be loved, valued and encouraged. I see firsthand that Lifeline does this and points these girls to the true source of what we need... Jesus! What an honor to be included in this ministry!"

While volunteering at Lifeline, I have been humbled. As I try to share God's love, I have received it tenfold and in countless ways from the young ladies at Girls Club. I have been stretched as I try to understand and work with some challenging, yet terrific, teenagers. I have learned to trust God in a different way as I look to Him to equip me for this task. In response, God has been sharpening my character in the areas of compassion, thankfulness, and embracing differences in others. He has blessed me with valuable relationships with these young ladies, other volunteers, and Lifeline staff. I am so grateful for the privilege of being a small part of Lifeline."

— Jane Metz, Lifeline Volunteer



## GENERAL ITEMS NEEDED:

- ☛ Small bags of Takis
- ☛ Bags of candy
- ☛ Board games
- ☛ Straws
- ☛ Balloons
- ☛ Red/Blue solo cups
- ☛ Small marshmallows

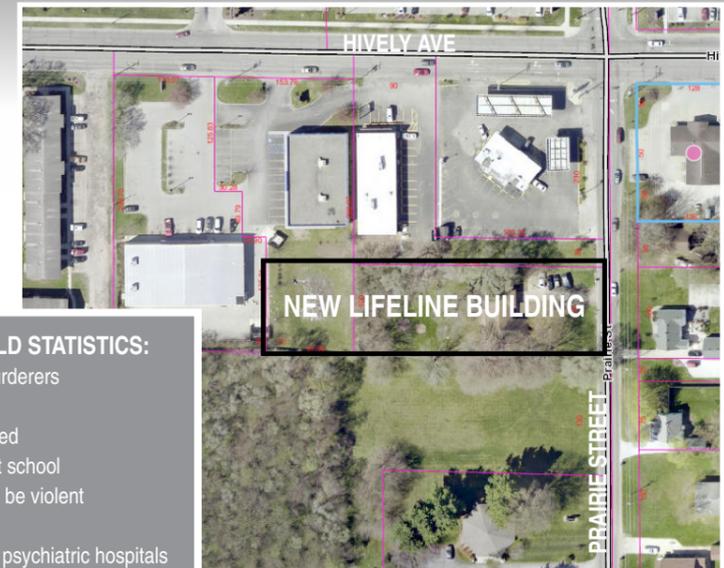
## MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL BOY NEEDS:

- ☛ Meals for second semester (takethemameal.com) Last Name: Boys' Club Password: Lifeline
- ☛ Monetary donations to cover costs for:
  - trips & activities
  - basketball team traveling
  - soccer team traveling
- ☛ Basketballs

WANT TO GET PLUGGED IN? Contact Ann Lehman at [ann@elkhartlifeline.com](mailto:ann@elkhartlifeline.com). Don't have time to get plugged in? Check out our list of items needed instead!

## NEW LIFELINE LOCATION IN THE WORKS

Lifeline has a huge burden for the South Side of Elkhart. This area is where the vast majority of our over 500 Lifeline students live. 80% of Elkhart's juvenile court cases originate from this region. Father deprivation is rampant and the four elementary schools we have Lifeline programs in have almost 100% free and reduced lunch. Our elementary programs are a key focus to change the life trajectory of these students. We are currently working with our board and the Elkhart Foundation to develop a comprehensive South Side plan. We already have land and are currently working with DJ Construction and Cripe Design on new building designs. The location is just south of the Prairie / Hively intersection. This location is adjacent to Elkhart Greens (164 apartments) and is within a mile of Autumn Court and Old Farms Apartments and within 1.4 miles of Carriage House Apartments. These, and other apartments, put Lifeline in the middle of nearly 1,500 apartments. We will also be within 1.2 miles to Mongor, Concord Westside, Hawthorne and Roosevelt Elementary Schools and Pierre Moran Middle School; making this location the hub of the South Side.



## FATHER-DEPRIVED CHILD STATISTICS:

- ☛ 72% of all teenage murderers
- ☛ 60% of rapists
- ☛ 70% of kids incarcerated
- ☛ 2 times as likely to quit school
- ☛ 11 times more likely to be violent
- ☛ 3 of 4 teen suicides
- ☛ 80% of adolescents in psychiatric hospitals

## RODNEY DALE, ELKHART FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF INSPECTOR & LIFELINE BOARD MEMBER, WEIGHS IN ON ELKHART'S FATHERLESS SOUTH SIDE



The south side of Elkhart has a problem and that problem is fatherlessness. When we hear of a negative issue sometimes there is a tendency to shy away because of not wanting to get involved or minimize the issue so guilt won't set in for not helping. In this situation, we can't do either because helping fatherless children is critical to this country's future. A fatherless child needs someone to look up to – a safe place to go for not only recreation, but more importantly guidance. A fatherless family more often than not needs an education in responsible behavior from the mother to the youngest child.

Wondering what kinds of stresses they will face at home after school can really wear on a child. These strains include things like drug use by the parent, hunger, and possibly abuse from mom's boyfriend. Instead of going into that environment, the child can look forward to being at Lifeline comfortably doing homework, enjoying recreation, and receiving encouragement and prayer. This won't eliminate the problems at home, but Lifeline boosts the child's spirits giving him/her the motivation to keep plowing forward towards success.

Education on responsible behavior is the toughest part, but it's critical. It sounds harsh, but most poverty can be attributed to irresponsible behavior. It's critical for those of us who have made mistakes and have been forgiven to pass our knowledge on to others in order to completely eliminate generational poverty. Irresponsible behavior becomes a cycle in which those behaving so don't even realize the behavior is wrong anymore. We must encourage mothers and fathers to teach their children, guide them to pay bills on time, instruct them in ways to not repeat the cycle, and urge all involved to attend church. These are the things Lifeline does, and with fatherlessness increasing, it's more important than ever to make sure Lifeline can continue the wonderful work being done. Let's not make this "other people's problem." Instead, let's give our time, money and prayers to getting the south side community turned around.

