



Youth Center for North America

Positive Youth Development

The Search Institute has conducted a study on Positive Youth Development and shares their findings in “**Developmental Relationships: The Roots of Positive Youth Development.** 10 Years of Youth Voice, Practitioner Wisdom, and Research Insights.” Here below are some of their findings we can reflect on.

Young people are more likely to grow up successfully when they experience developmental relationships with important people in their lives. Search Institute has identified five elements—expressed in 20 specific actions—that make relationships powerful in young people’s lives.

1) Show me that I matter to you.

Be dependable — *Be someone I can trust*

Listen — *Really pay attention when we are together*

Believe in me — *Make me feel known and valued*

Be warm — *Show me you enjoy being with me*

Encourage — *Praise me for my efforts and achievements*

Leadership in action

Choosing to Grow: Leadership that brings unity.

A journey, not an event

Sami participated in the **YCNA Leadership Program** (series of engaging sessions on aspects of leadership) for 6 months. The program helped him understand himself in a deeper way.

At a certain point, he expressed the desire to organize a retreat for young adults in his city based on the aspects of the Focolare’s spirituality of unity.

Developing Relationships

In the spirituality of unity Chiara Lubich helps us identify who our neighbor is and then gives practical steps in line with developing relationships.

“We must love everyone. We begin by loving our neighbor. But who is our neighbor? We know who it is; we need not look far. It is the brother or sister who is near us at this present moment in life. If we are to be Christians, we must love this neighbor right now, and not with some platonic or idealized love...”

Genfest 2024

Genfest is a powerful, unique experience of community, social action, celebration, stories, and service. It gathers young adults from all around the world, of different ethnic groups, cultures, and religions to experience servant leadership and care for the planet, the people around us and those that suffer.

Brazil - July 2024 – ages 18 to 35. [More info](#)

Help us fundraise so we can provide a meaningful experience!

Order *“In Time for Peace”* [gear](#).

Catholic youth in action!

Earlier this year, over 20 young adults came together to be protagonists of ecological change in their communities. They hailed from across the country - NYC to Cincinnati, Honolulu to Scranton, Kansas City to Boston and more - and came to the campus of Loyola University Chicago for 5 days of leadership development and spiritual community.

Watch the first video in the [“God’s Creation Needs You”](#) video series.

Men’s Retreat

YCNA is hosting a men’s retreat March 15 to 17, 2024 in Mariapolis Luminosa, Hyde Park, NY. It’ll be a weekend of reflection on key aspects of the Focolare’s spirituality of unity along with small group discussions and an encounter with God through prayer and the Eucharist.

[Information & registration!](#)

We don’t want finances to get in the way of a meaningful experience!

We are committed to do what we can so that financial constraints do not hinder young people from engaging in our enriching programs centered around spiritual and human development.

[Donate today!](#)

From all of us here at YCNA,

Merry Christmas and a happy new year to everyone!!