



Rawhide Partners with Young Life to Launch Spiritual Program for Youth

Young Life's Program Manager Jared Stanley Hired to Lead Development of Program

NEW LONDON – Rawhide Youth Services, a faith-based organization that offers Wisconsin's at-risk youth and families residential and community-based services, has partnered with Young Life, a Christian nonprofit organization that offers spiritual programs and activities for youth, to launch a spiritual program at its New London campus starting in June.

"Young Life has a long history of meeting young people where they are and providing opportunities for fun, adventure and real conversations around life and faith," said Rebekah Bender, Young Life's Wisconsin Regional Director. "Rawhide serves young people who are at-risk and in need of professional services and support. Together, we can offer holistic care and guidance to these adolescents at a critical time in their lives."

Young Life's program will be tailored for residential youth to enhance Rawhide's Christian-based approach to behavioral and mental health treatments, complementing the work of its therapists, youth development specialists and Starr Academy instructors. Through this partnership, Rawhide has hired Young Life's Program Manager Jared Stanley to help implement the program.

"Christian values have been at the core of Rawhide's services for over 55 years guiding youth in making choices and building character," said Alan Loux, Rawhide's President and CEO. "We remain committed to addressing the spiritual needs of youth in a holistic manner with Jared spearheading the program development and partnership with Young Life."

Stanley will work directly with youth, inviting them to individual and group activities to explore their spirituality and ask questions about religion and faith. Additional opportunities will include camps, conferences, education, aftercare and referral programs.

Working 12 years in the education field and with at-risk youth makes Stanley uniquely qualified for the role. He started as a teacher in Manitowoc, before transferring to Appleton West High School where he worked for 9 years as a social studies teacher and 3 years as an at-risk coordinator.

"Jared relates, identifies and connects with the at-risk population we serve," said Tim Klunk, Rawhide's Chief Program Officer. "He will be instrumental in our efforts to help youth make better choices and build character to transform their lives."

Stanley began his spiritual journey with Young Life as a freshmen in high school where he attended the Young Life Castaway Club and summer camp and became a Christian.

“Through all my experiences, I found my heart to be for kids who are on the fringe, overlooked, abused and misunderstood,” Stanley said. “The students I have the privilege of working with have taught me more than I could ever teach them, and I am grateful for them.”

Klunk said Rawhide hopes youth will continue their involvement with Young Life beyond their stay at Rawhide and stay connected with the programs in their communities.

“I have so much respect for the staff at Rawhide and for the vital work they do with young people there,” said Bender. “My hope is that Young Life’s presence will enhance and support the work of that team as we seek to love and support the kids they serve.”

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Rawhide, Inc. is a faith-based 501(c)(3) recognized charity that offers Wisconsin’s at-risk youth and families a full array of residential and community-based services to equip them with tools to build healthy relationships and behaviors that will help them overcome life’s challenges.

Young Life is a Christian, nonprofit organization whose mission is to introduce youth to Jesus Christ and help them grow in their faith. Young Life staff and volunteers all over the world work with adolescents from every background in every kind of community to help them navigate these crucial years of growth and discovery.

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