

WV Youth Encouragers Network

A Ministry Project of Believe in West Virginia

What is the WV Youth Encouragers Network?

The WV Youth Encouragers Network (WV YEN) is a program to educate, and encourage, the youth of West Virginia to make wise moral choices, and to develop and encourage cooperation between church youth programs.

What are the goals of WV YEN?

- To promote the hosting of regional events that will educate and entertain young people.
- To organize youth leaders into a group offering support, education, and support.
- To encourage youth to be involved with community outreach programs and to gain a greater appreciation for those in need.

How will WV YEN accomplish their goals?

WV Youth Encouragers Network (WV YEN) has begun to carry out these goals by a partnership with the Silver Ring Thing.

What is the Silver Ring Thing?

Silver Ring Thing (SRT) sexual abstinence program that was designed to attract the attention of the typical 21st century teenager and offer them protection from the destructive effects of America's sex obsessed culture. The Silver Ring is worn as a symbol and reminder of the abstinence pledge. The "Thing" in Silver Ring is the high-tech presentation that makes this program uniquely attractive. By featuring awesome lighting and video systems, hilarious skits, concert sound systems, high-energy music, TV's, computers, and a faith-based abstinence message, students become interested in the message being offered to them about their sex lives.

What events has WV YEN hosted in West Virginia?

Believe in West Virginia, the parent organization of WV YEN, has been involved with hosting three SRT events in the Charleston Area. The events were held at the following locations: Maranatha Fellowship, Kings River Worship Center, and Capital High School. During these events over 1,100 youth attended, over 650 purchased rings, and 116 made a commitment to Christ.

What special things happened at the Capital High School event?

SRT visited 2 middle schools on Friday - John Adams M.S. and Stonewall Jackson M.S. and had a blast with the students there. Also along for the fun were 5 news crews...MTV, CNN, a Swedish news crew, and 2 local to Charleston WV! There were over 300 people in attendance with 123 who put on a silver ring (others who already had the ring came back and brought friends). And by the end of the night, 29 students decided that they really wanted God to be #1 in their lives.

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What are the plans for 2006?

WV YEN would like to see 5 or 6 SRT events hosted around the state. We are working with groups in both Huntington and Charleston to host events in those locations. The Huntington event is scheduled for April 1, at the Veteran's Memorial Field House. The plan for Charleston is to host an event on Friday, March 31. We are also hopeful that events might also be held in Parkersburg, Oak Hill/Beckley, Ripley, and Southern WV. In addition to the SRT events, WV YEN will begin compiling a list of Youth Pastors, so that we might be able to find ways to connect and support them. Compiling a comprehensive calendar showing youth events, scheduled by geographic area, is also in the works.

How can people become involved with WV YEN?

In each location that hosts an event there is a need for many volunteers and supporters. When the SRT Team comes to an area there is a lot of work to be done. Prior to the event – there is work to be done with logistics, publicity, and fund raising. On the weekend of the event – host homes are needed, meals need to be served, equipment needs to be set up, and students must be registered. After the event – follow up work needs to be done with attendees.

Another area of assistance will be in database and website development. If you have expertise in these areas, please contact the Executive Director, John deBlecourt.

How will WV YEN increase student's awareness of the needs within WV?

Students will be encouraged to work with existing outreach programs that are designed to provide for those in need. One of these programs is the Believe in West Virginia Storehouse, where students are encouraged to help preparing products for distribution.