



Greetings from The Vault!

This newsletter comes on the heels of a huge milestone for us! In October, we celebrated our FIVE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY! Woo-hoo! What a journey it has been. Our hearts are full of gratitude for those who were there at the beginning to get us up and running, those who have continued to support us, those who have joined us somewhere along the way, and those who are yet to join this immensely vital mission to help support our teens and invest in their futures!

It has been a privilege to serve the teens of this community. Each new year presents an opportunity to grow, change, and brainstorm new ways to support our teens in this ever-changing and challenging culture. We pray for many more years to come!

We hope you have a blessed holiday season and humbly ask for your continued support throughout the new year. THANK YOU!!!

Tammy Wilson, Executive Director

Thanks to the support from our community, we have served 1,000+ teens over the past 5 years!

Keys to The Vault's Success

Before the Vault came into being, Founder Michelle Witzke, spent many hours researching what makes for a successful teen center. Much of her research found its way into the Vault's vision, mission, and core values. The excerpt below by the Heart Wood Center for Community Youth Development describes some of the same key elements that have carried us successfully through these first five years.

What Makes for a Successful Teen Center?

Excerpt from "What Makes for a Successful Youth Center" by Sandra Luken and Alan Warner, Heart Wood Institute, www.heartwood.ns.ca

Youth Ownership

Youth ownership involves young people having a sense of responsibility...and having input into what happens there. ...Adults play important roles in establishing rules and regulations for a center, but when youth ownership is present, young people have input and have agreed to and adopted them as part of their cultural norms. Honest, open communication and respect between adults and youth is crucial... Creating a sense of ownership among young people is an ongoing process that strengthens the center.

Mentorship

Mentors are individuals who provide inspiration and support to others. Mentorship can offer young people support, role models to emulate, inspiration for their passions, or encouragement to define and seek their life goals. Everyone has mentors in their lives and in turn, can be inspirational role models for others. Mentorship allows each person the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others. It builds relationships between youth and adults which is essential to creating a strong youth center.

Community Connectedness

Successful youth centers depend on support from community members to operate both in terms of resources and volunteers. In turn the young people frequently give back to these communities to create a two-way connectedness. ...At the root of community connectedness is the idea that individuals, businesses, and organizations must care and take ownership for their youth and their concerns.

Effective Coordination

Effective coordination and the ability to mobilize resources is the key to success... Effective coordinator(s) recognize and utilize the strengths and talents of those around them. In turn, they recognize their own limitations. The coordinator(s) identify a pool of skills in those connected to the center, ensuring that the appropriate people are involved... The opportunity for involvement is just as important as the involvement itself, as it creates a sense of connectedness and ownership.

For Stat Lovers!

Who doesn't love a good statistic?

Can you guess what this one is?

31,315.36*

It's the number of logged volunteer hours since our beginning in 2017!

*This is absolutely mind-blowing, and note that this does not even include the countless number of **unlogged volunteer hours!**

Here are a few more stats from the past year...



Teen VIP Vault Investment Program



Empowering teens through experiential learning and leading

Teen VIP is a program with a mission to help equip teens to explore and discover new interests and passions, improve life skills and academic success, and inspire leadership and community service values.

Our goal is for our teens to become well-rounded adults, valuable employees, and productive members of their community.

Learning and Leading Opportunities

- After-Hours Enrichment Classes
- Envision U Summer Career Camps
- BizTown Entrepreneur Club
- Golden Gears Cafe Small Business & Leadership Program
- Student Ambassador Leadership Program
- Student Dog Handler Program
- Tutoring & Homework Help
- Community Service



SUPPORT FOR THE VAULT



Would you consider an end-of-the-year monetary donation and/or a donation of an item or two from our Wish List below?

Your support allows us to provide programs & services **FREE OF CHARGE** to teens in 6th - 12th grades.

Thank you!

You can use the enclosed form to send in your tax-deductible donation or simply use the QR code!

Note: All 2023 donations must be postmarked by December 31st.



THE VAULT'S WISH LIST

Program Supplies

Super Mario Bros Wonder for Nintendo Switch
AAA and AA batteries

Gift cards for Prize Vault:

- 5 Below
- DQ
- Coffee Corner/Scooters
- Buffalo Wild Wings
- Steak and Shake/McDonalds
- Clintonia Eagle
- Sweet Mae's
- Walgreens
- Jumpstart

Sand for shuffleboard
Woodburning tool
Pool sticks (various sizes)

Facility

Two-ply toilet paper
Paper towels
Windex
Pinesol
Stainless steel appliance cleaner
Business envelopes
White copy paper
Airwick plug-in refills (Food scents 😊)
Chalkboard chalk (bold colors)
Whiteboard markers
Trash bags (5-gal and 30-gal)
Mints for bathroom
Gift cards:

- Ace Hardware
- Hobby Lobby
- RP Lumber

Janitorial and window washing services
Volunteer handyman

Cafe

Individually wrapped snacks:

- beef jerky
- granola bars
- pretzels
- chips
- bottled water (16.9 oz)

Canned soda:

- Coke
- Dr. Pepper
- Sprite
- Mt. Dew

Keurig coffee cups: a variety of flavors, including dark roast

Disposable gloves (vinyl, powder-free, sizes S, M and L)

Boba straws (1/2" diameter X 8 1/2" long)

Gift Cards:

- Save-a-Lot
- Sam's Club

Individual flavored coffee creamers (liquid)
8-1/2" paper plates

Other wishes

Homemade frozen meals for benevolence

Baked goods for programs

Money towards:

- benevolence fund
- 10-15 gallon aesthetic trash cans
- replacing three cafe chairs
- a paper organizer for the art area



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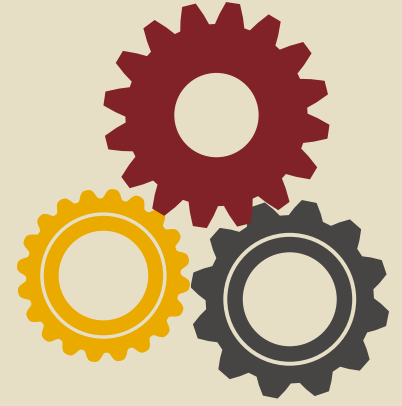
STAFF

Tammy Wilson, Executive Director
Jason Kitson, Program Director
Wendy DeMent, Director of Marketing & Finance
Chelsea Irwin, Education Liaison
Kaitlin Burton, Program Assistant
Alex Kreoger, Student Café Manager

VOLUNTEER STAFF

Michelle Witzke, Founder/Community Connections Coordinator

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A place where...
Every teen is welcomed.
Every teen is valued.
Every teen is WORTH IT!

THE VAULT

