

Annual Report - Department Paragraphs

Groups of The Heart

We believe that living freely in the fullness that Jesus intended, occurs in community. Our groups are designed to help people find that freedom through the Spirit inside us and the people around us! With this goal in mind, we are happy to have Men's, Women's, Educational & Training, Community, Youth, and Young Adult Groups of The Heart.

Last year was a momentous year for our small group's ministry! It has been a delight to see people step further into their calling as disciples in the Kingdom! We had 54 groups exist at some point throughout the fiscal year. We also equipped and released 43 new Group Leaders to either Lead or Co-Lead a Group of the Heart!! We are excited that so many people are using their God-given gifts to lead and help others grow in discipleship and we are excited to see how God expands it even more in this next season!

If you are interested in helping people Find Freedom through leading, co-leading, or hosting a group please email us at Groups@TheHeartCda.com to get started!

Ladies of the Heart

Ladies of the Heart is in full flourish mode!

We have vibrant small groups meeting throughout the week - 14 of which are open & 16 that are private. Women are being equipped, stirred & imparted to, to walk in their God-given purpose & design. Our fall ladies luncheon, held at the stunning Hagadone Event Center hosted over 250 ladies connecting & loving on each other in a deeply meaningful way. Our Revive Nights have become a favorite for our ladies' meeting quarterly with 100 to 150 in attendance. The gifts of the Spirit are in full activation with dynamic speakers & powerful worship. Come join us in one of our small or large settings- you are welcome here!

Men of the Heart

Men of the Heart are discovering their purpose and freedom in Christ! Our annual Man Camp this year - "Born to leave a Legacy" had 242 men gather for 3 days to experience the beauty of God's creation, enjoy some fun outdoor activities and to be challenged on how we live our lives as men, husbands, father's and grandfather's! More and more men are joining our weekly Men's Small Groups for daily encouragement, discipleship and accountability. Throughout the year we have Men's breakfasts, Daddy/Daughter date nights and a host of opportunities to get connected with other men and find a way to fulfill God's purpose in our lives!

Whether you are new to Heart of the City Church or have been here for some time, you are welcome to join us as Men of the Heart!

The Heart Kids

The Heart Kids; where our goal is to help kiddos be a People after God's own Heart. We cultivate this each week by providing an exciting, learning, experience.

- Exciting - we have lots of fun!
- Learning - we get to know God!
- Experience - we spend time with the Holy Spirit!

This past year we have been teaching discipleship within our four main areas; Know God, Make a Difference, Find Freedom, and Discover Purpose. We have also seen kiddos give their lives to Jesus, receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, learn how to hear the voice of God for themselves, and activate the gifts of the Spirit!! We are so excited to see what God wants to do in Heart Kids over the next year!

The Heart Youth

This year was a great year for our students and leaders. We have over 100 first time guests this year and we saw over 70 people make a commitment to Jesus and have watched our leadership team continue to grow. We now offer childcare for leaders which has opened the door for some that could not serve before to join our team. The next generation's hunger for Jesus is awesome! We have many students going all in and walking with leaders in fruitful discipleships. With our new focus in gatherings centered around small groups we have seen students getting plugged in deeper with consistent leaders in their lives. All in all I believe that God is really using our new form of gathering to help students go deeper and get plugged in.

The Heart Young Adults

The way that the Heart Young Adults attempts to accomplish being a people after God's own heart is by having a vision to build a healthy community of disciples. Over this past year, the Young Adult ministry has seen such incredible growth toward that vision. This community of young adults have gone deeper and grown in relationship, discipleship, worship, and so many other ways. The hunger of these young adults for God has grown and grown, especially since January, 2023.

Since July of 2022, the young adult ministry has seen a revamp in many ways. Marty and Israel Wheeler began leading the ministry, Aslan White began leading the Heart Creative, and Austin Etheridge began leading our Host Team.

In January, we spruced up and moved our weekly gatherings into the Community Room, which has made such a big difference in the overall feel of our weekly gatherings. Now they are much more intimate and being in a smaller space has

encouraged much more relationship building. We also partnered with the Market at the Heart and started serving a home-cooked meal each week to start our gatherings.

In March, we did a Vision series and talked about discipleship. After that message, we had 50 young adults indicate that they are being discipled or would like to be discipled and we have paired many of them up with someone from our growing team of mentors! Over the last year, we've had at least 27 people commit or recommit their lives to Christ. Over the last 6 months, we've seen an average of almost 4 new guests each week. We are very excited for the future of The Heart Young Adults!

Heart for the Nations

Heart for the Nations seeks to go deeper and wider than what one may think of when they hear "missions ministry." We want people to know God's heart for the world, and that we can each play a vital and unique role in the gospel going to the ends of the earth. This past year we were able to cultivate deep relationships with our missionaries, give an additional \$10,000 to brothers and sisters on the mission field, and link Heart of the City members to various short-term trips. We also connected the church body to what God is doing around the world through On-Mission weekend, globally-minded events and missional dinners, and regular monthly prayer and worship meetings. Our goal is to increasingly connect with the congregation and let them know that Heart for the Nations is not just for people who want to go on 'mission trips,' but is for people who love Jesus, are interested in other cultures, and want to see God's love transform the world.

The Market at The Heart

In the year 2021, we gave out 54,314 pounds of food at the Market. That does not include the 1800 Turkeys for Thanksgiving or food we gave to other local food banks, street ministries, senior centers, and schools. We served 3,425 individuals at our location. Between all our volunteers we accumulated between 6800-7000 hours of volunteer hours, which also includes the community service hours we were able to assist with. During this time we partnered with 2 new organizations and added a branch to Heart Reach (our non profit). Food4Tails is now supplying the Market with food for dogs and cats. We partnered with Victoria (a family and consumer science teacher at Lake City high school) and together we were able to feed 2,300 meals to individuals/students. The Heart garden is now an extension of Heart reach. The garden with now and will continue to provide fresh vegetables to our food bank and other people and pantries in need. It will also provide opportunities for small groups, ministries, and organizations to come together and work on giving to those in need and build relationships.

The Heart Creative (Audio/Music)

From April 2022 to March 2023, we introduced four Heart Creative originals to our congregation, and on July 15th, released "Fight For Me" on all music streaming platforms. We are hoping to get five Heart Creative originals mixed, mastered and released this year, as we have one being mixed by a producer currently, and some others getting prepped to be sent.

Something really special took place in our worship community this past February during the Sound, and because of it we have seen our weekend worship go to a new level. It's as though we have become an even more prophetic people in worship.

We have experienced so many Holy Moments, and it hasn't been limited to weekend gatherings only, but has become frequent on Thursdays during Young Adults and on Wednesdays during Youth.

The Heart Creative exists to facilitate significant encounters between God and people through creative expression, and we believe this has taken place more than ever this year. Our goal in musical worship is to minister to Jesus first and foremost in everything we do. Before we approach Him with any kind of request or need for ourselves, we acknowledge Him first. We honor Him first. We glorify Him first. We praise Him first. We love Him first.

If you'd like to get a closer look at what is happening within our community, we continue to meet for Creative Community Nights twice a month, where we fellowship, eat, grow as creatives and of course, worship together.

The Heart Creative (Production)

In the past fiscal year we saw a new level of immense growth in our production team. We have experienced an increasing level of excellence in our team with camera work, video switching, projections, lighting, and sound. It is so beautiful to see the impact Heart of the City has on our community and our world. We have seen growth in our podcast plays, seeing over 29,000 streams from over 50 different countries and having 33,000 views on Youtube with 9,900 watch hours and 2,701 subscribers! It is so beautiful to be a part of the reach that The Heart has outside the four walls of the church!