

2024 District Nazarene Youth International President's Report

Greetings from your Florida District NYI!

What a crazy year it has been. Last year we set a goal for building and growth. We aimed to grow together, build our team, and connect on a deeper level with more and more teenagers of the Florida District. But most importantly, we directed teenagers to a relationship with Jesus.

This could not have been done without our incredible team. Ed Leanza (Vice-President, Co-NYC Coordinator), Vicki Foley (Treasurer), and Mickey Cox (Secretary, PK Retreat coordinator) have all led well and helped direct and guide the ship over the last year. The ministry truly couldn't be done without their leadership and insight.

We also have had some incredible leaders step up to lead some amazing events. Dustin Proehl once again led our Extreme Days and TNT events. We were able to grow and build in that event by having Cassandra Trotman lead a worship band with a bit of a different style that we are used to. We hope to continue to be inclusive in more ways than just music and worship within NYI as we grow and build a very diverse community.

Jen Showalter was another who stepped up to direct our camp last summer. We ended up having 280 people at camp, which is the most we have had since pre-covid. What is so great about this growth and building in numbers is that 280 people got to encounter Jesus together for a whole week. Now going into this year Richard Stout will be leading the camp charge while also leading us to a new campground with an incredible new opportunity to grow and build.

The Florida District had the opportunity to host NYC, Nazarene Youth Conference, last summer, and The Florida NYI showed-up and showed-out. Ed and Barb Leanza led a group of 160 youth and leaders to Tampa as we partnered with 10,000 other Nazarenes from USA/Canada to worship, serve, and experience what God had in store. As the hosts, we also had about a dozen churches in the Tampa area partner with NYC to bless their community. Countless man hours were poured into these communities, and lives of those not even participating in NYC grew and were built up. We are so excited as Josh and Meaghan Turner have been handed the reigns to lead this amazing event in 2026 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Kimberly Heard has been leading our Bible Quizzing ministry for years, and it continues to grow and build each and every year. Even in a year where many long-time participants graduated out, more churches, more students, from all different backgrounds are storing the word of God in their hearts. The young people of this district are growing and building.

There has been a common theme in the work that God has done across The Florida NYI. God is calling leaders to lead. We have incredible leaders all across this district and God is calling many more. Jesus gave us the ultimate example of leadership in John 13:12-15, "12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have

washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." Leaders lead by being a blessing.

We believe that NYI will be at the forefront of developing leaders in 2024-2025. Leaders who not only do the work at the district level, but leaders who truly Bless Their Community, and bring change to the world around them.

Respectfully submitted,

Seth Lenderman; Florida NYI District President