



January 2026



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Since 2018, when this journey first began in a simple soup kitchen, we have watched God expand the work far beyond anything we could have imagined—into youth programs, mobile mentoring, and ongoing support for families across Northeast Louisiana. Yet through all that growth, one truth has become unmistakable: the harvest is abundant, but the laborers are still far too few.

Each week we encounter children surrounded by neglect, violence, drugs, and abuse. Many are growing up in environments where chaos is normal, stability is scarce, and love feels uncertain. They are carrying trauma, fear, and confusion far beyond their years. When there are not enough people willing to disciple and guide them while they are young, the world is more than willing to step in—shaping their identity, numbing their pain, and normalizing destruction. And when that happens, the need does not go away; it only becomes harder to address later in life.

This is not a call to NELA Youth alone—it is a call to the entire Body of Christ. God has given each of us unique gifts, talents, and callings, and when those gifts are brought together, they create lasting Kingdom impact. Sometimes that means allowing ourselves to be stretched—stepping outside familiar routines, letting go of rigid expectations, and creating space to truly meet people where they are. Ministry was never meant to be confined within four walls; it was meant to move into broken places with love, humility, and action.

Our community does not need perfect people—just willing ones. Presence matters. Compassion matters. And even one small step of obedience can make a profound difference in a young person's life.

The fields are ready, the opportunities are before us, and the impact reaches far beyond what we can see. We pray for laborers—and we warmly invite you to be one.

All for the glory of God!
Andrea Jones & the NELA Youth Team



HIGHLIGHTS

- We hosted our Christmas outreach party, highlighting that the genuine essence of Christmas isn't centered around gifts or Santa, but is rooted in Jesus. The celebration featured engaging games, delicious pizza, and an abundance of delightful Christmas surprises!
- We were thrilled to receive Jimmy's Bike Drive from North Carolina, which delivered hundreds of bikes to our community. A total of 39 children were gifted new bikes and helmets! It was truly remarkable! Furthermore, the Assembly of WM generously provided Christmas gifts for several of our children, ensuring that those who were not sponsored still had a joyful holiday. These children experienced a special Christmas thanks to wonderful people like you!
- In light of a change in our Sunday church schedule, we have initiated a weekday bible study, enabling us to delve deeper into God's word.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY Dad, Tia & Malaysia



PRAYER: We thank You for the children You have placed in our care and for the work You are doing in our community. Give us hearts that are tender, attentive, and willing to respond when You call. Help us to see others the way You see them—with compassion, patience, and hope. Lord, stir within Your people a desire to serve, to step beyond comfort, and to make room in our lives for those who need love and guidance. Show each of us how You have uniquely gifted us, and give us the courage to use those gifts together for Your Kingdom. We ask that You protect our children, surround them with caring voices, and lead them into paths of life, truth, and peace. Use us as Your hands and feet, and let our obedience today plant seeds that will bear fruit for generations to come. We trust You with the harvest and with the laborers, and we say yes to Your leading. In Jesus' name, Amen.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- PRAYER FOR THE KIDS
- Volunteer at our monthly outreach meetings
- Pizza (10-12) donation for our 1st Sat. outreach
- Gas cards
- Snack size chips & drinks
- Financial donations

NELA Youth is a mobile, Christ-centered nonprofit dedicated to mentoring and restoring some of the most vulnerable children in our region—youth who have endured abuse, neglect, severe poverty, violence in the home, parental incarceration, foster care instability, and even human trafficking. These are children who have been overlooked, unheard, and forced to grow up far too quickly. We meet them right where they are, bringing hope into places marked by brokenness and guiding them toward healing and identity in Christ.

NELAYOUTH.ORG



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