



# REAL LOVE



*“Let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.” 1 John 3:18*

it happens when someone chooses to step into another person's pain.

Many missionaries and ministers quietly labor in places where need outweighs resources and faith is tested daily. The work is often unseen, uncelebrated, and misunderstood. But it is there—in presence, perseverance, and faithfulness—that real love is made visible. The Church was never meant to be passive. It was meant to be alive, moving, and responsive to the suffering around it. When love fails to act, it is not because the need is small, but because comfort has taken precedence over compassion.

The word love is spoken often in our world—but lived out far less. Those serving on the front lines of ministry see this clearly. We don't encounter a world filled with people seeking from entitlement; we encounter people who are genuinely hurting—children, families, and individuals carrying burdens they never chose. Their need is not abstract. It is visible, persistent, and deeply human.

Yet many times, what is offered is conversation instead of compassion, concern instead of commitment. There is no shortage of talk about ministry, justice, or reaching the lost—but far fewer are willing to step out of comfort to live it. Even within Christian spaces, needs are often acknowledged while action remains absent, and the fruit of love is nowhere to be found. Jesus never modeled a distant or convenient love. He entered broken places. He interrupted routines. He crossed boundaries. He touched those others avoided. His love was costly, personal, and active. To be the hands and feet of Jesus requires more than agreement with truth—it requires obedience to it. It requires sacrifice, humility, and a willingness to move beyond self-focus. Real impact rarely happens in comfort zones;

Our prayer is that hearts would be awakened again—to see with God's eyes, to love with Christ's heart, and to respond not merely with words, but with action. Because real love does not remain theoretical. Real love does not remain comfortable. Real love shows up.

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



# HIGHLIGHTS

- During our January outreach, we had the pleasure of welcoming Doris Britton as our guest speaker. She shared insights on Esther and the importance of doing good. Doris also emphasized that the only obstacle to achieving one's goals is oneself. Additionally, we organized a "Crank That Holy Ghost" dance competition, where the winning group received a special outing as a reward. The older kids have been given jobs at outreach and are doing amazing!
- Bonecrusher Boxing generously invited some of our kids to join a special boxing lesson event and talk about bullying.
- We are excited to announce the launch of our small group Bible study on Thursdays, where we will be exploring the Gospel of Mark in depth.



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## NELAYOUTH.ORG



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**PRAYER:** Father God, Thank You for showing us real love through Jesus—a love lived out through sacrifice. Forgive us for the times we have spoken about love but failed to act. Soften our hearts where comfort has replaced obedience. Open our eyes to see the hurting as You do, and give us courage to step beyond ourselves. Strengthen those serving faithfully in ministry and missions, often unseen and weary. Use our lives to reflect Christ through action, not just words. May real love rise again—love that shows up and glorifies You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

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

# WHY NELA YOUTH??

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**.

Across North Louisiana, countless children are growing up in environments shaped by trauma and instability. Many bounce between homes, witness violence, lack consistent meals, or are left to raise themselves. These kids often feel unwanted and unseen, believing their lives will always be hard because it's all they've ever known.

Without intervention, these children remain caught in generational cycles of hopelessness, survival-mode living, and emotional isolation. They rarely have someone who shows up consistently—someone who believes in them, speaks purpose over them, or helps them navigate life in a healthy direction.

**NELA Youth exists to change that story.**



Our mission is not to offer momentary relief, but to walk with at-risk youth through ongoing mentorship, physical activity, life skills training, spiritual discipleship, positive outings, and meaningful celebrations. We help them break destructive cycles, rebuild confidence, and discover who God created them to be.

One of the ways we steward donor support with excellence is through our mobile mentoring model. Instead of operating from a traditional brick-and-mortar facility with high overhead costs, we bring programs directly into neighborhoods, schools, churches, and community spaces. This allows us to keep expenses low and impact high—ensuring that more resources reach the children who need them most.

Because of this model, **88% of all funding goes directly into youth programs**—supporting mentorship, meals, outreach events, educational resources, transportation, and life-changing experiences for the kids we serve.

We believe every child—no matter their circumstances—deserves a stable mentor, a safe place, and the chance to rise above their past. Through Christ-centered guidance and consistent love, we are raising up young people who will become healthy, confident, Christ-rooted leaders—restorers of their families, their communities, and their future.

When you give to NELA Youth, you are not simply supporting a program. You are changing the trajectory of a child's life—replacing fear with hope, isolation with belonging, and brokenness with purpose.

*Thank you for your support!!*