

OCTOBER 2026



CROSSROADS

At NELA Youth, our heart is to reach young people where they need us most. Over time, the Lord has increasingly placed youth ages 10 and older on my heart, especially those entering the middle school years. This is such a critical season when childhood begins giving way to adolescence and important life decisions begin taking shape.

Around ages 10–15, puberty brings physical and emotional changes, peer pressure grows stronger, and questions about relationships, purity, identity, and belonging begin to surface. Friends, social media, and culture also begin having a much greater influence on how young people see themselves and the choices they make.

For many of the youth we serve, this is also when they begin understanding difficult circumstances in their own lives. Poverty, violence, abandonment, incarceration, abuse, neglect, and family instability can bring emotions and questions they may not know how to process.

I believe the Lord is calling us to meet them right at this crossroads. That is why our weekday mentoring, Bible studies, activities, and outings are shifting primarily toward ages 10 and older, with a special focus on middle school students. We want to provide consistent relationships and honest conversations about identity, friendships, peer pressure, purity, trauma, choices, and their future—all while pointing them toward Jesus.

Our younger children remain an important part of the NELA Youth family, and we will continue welcoming and transporting them to church on Sundays.

Our prayer is to reach these young people before the world defines them and while important life choices are beginning to form—helping them know who they are in Christ and choose a road of wisdom, hope, purpose, and Jesus.

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



Heavenly Father, protect and guide our youth through these critical years. Heal the places where trauma has left wounds, guard them from unhealthy influences, and help them know who they are in Christ. Give NELA Youth wisdom and love to walk beside them and continually point them toward Jesus. In His name, Amen.



NELA Youth is a mobile, Christ-centered nonprofit dedicated to mentoring and restoring some of the most vulnerable children in our region. We meet them right where they are, bringing hope into places marked by brokenness and guiding them toward healing and identity in Christ.

HIGHLIGHTS

- September was a great month at NELA Youth! During Outreach, we learned about Daniel and how he was placed in a culture with beliefs very different from his own, yet chose to stand firm and remain faithful to God. We connected his story to what our youth face today, discussing the difference between walking in the Spirit and walking in the ways of the world—and how we choose which path we will follow. After pizza, we had fun playing games and then came back together to review the lesson and talk about how it applies to the real-life choices our youth face.
- We also celebrated some of our youth with EARNED outings! Our girls enjoyed a girls-only thrift-shopping trip followed by a special treat at PJ's Coffee, while our boys earned a boys-only outing for an afternoon of jumping and fun at Altitude Trampoline Park. These outings reward positive choices while giving us valuable time to build relationships and simply enjoy being together.
- Throughout the month, we continued our after-school outings and our weekly after-school Bible study for middle school students, giving us even more opportunities to connect, mentor, have fun, and help our youth grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus.



NELA YOUTH CHRISTMAS CHILD TOY DRIVE 2026

We're changing it up this year with a **TOY DRIVE!**

All gifts will be handed out at our **NELA YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY** for kids in our community.

FOR KIDS AGES 8-16

Bringing **JOY** and **HOPE** to the next generation!

GIFTS KIDS LOVE!

SQUISHIES
 SLIME
 LED LIGHTS
 WIRELESS EARBUDS OR HEADPHONES
 BODY SPRAYS & LOTIONS (SCENTED)
 FUN SOCKS
 BLANKETS

+ MORE!

SHOP OUR AMAZON WISHLIST!
Purchase a gift and have it shipped directly to us!

SHOP HERE:
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2ENIBTFXJEW27?ref=w_l_share

TOGETHER WE CAN BLESS 40 KIDS THIS CHRISTMAS!

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US MAKE CHRISTMAS MEMORABLE!



NELAYOUTH.ORG



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HOW YOU CAN HELP

- PRAYER FOR THE KIDS
- Pizza (10-12) donation for our Sat. outreach
- Christmas gifts for our December party
- Snack size chips & drinks
- Financial donations