

2019 Mission Endowment Fund Recipient – NT-NL Fund for Youth Leaders



In 2019, the Mission Endowment Fund granted \$80,000 to 29 ministries.

This is the story of one of those ministries.

The NT-NL offers multiple opportunities for young people in the Synod to learn leadership skills. Most frequently these opportunities are hosted by Briarwood Leadership Center, which encompasses 60 acres of heavily wooded land, much of which is unspoiled, virgin growth. It can comfortably serve 160 guests in a wide variety of housing units. The developed areas of the center include two large activity fields, several miles of hiking trails, and 27 buildings. It is a paradise for city bound youth!.....
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The Mission Endowment Fund Board awarded a grant for the Bishop and Synod office to use to develop young leaders, particularly in the emerging Latinx communities. One such event was the very success Middle School gathering in September 2019, where the attendees learned how to transform their community by being God's agents of C.H.A.N.G.E. In a world that pulls us towards things that are easy but not always good, the youth learned how they are called by God to stand for what is right even if it is hard. But, what was this all about? The program discussed what it means to set an example for others no matter our age relying on the theme verse:

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." *1 Timothy 4:12*





The retreat for the Middle Schoolers was not all about education and learning. Lively activities included the climbing wall, night games, team building, a bonfire, crafts, camp meals, sharing stories and laughter!! There were approximately 60 young people and 10 sponsors attending. The grant from the Mission Endowment Fund enabled the Bishop's office to identify those who would not be able to attend without financial assistance. The success of this program means it will be continued again. Just ask any of those in attendance if they would like to come back again!

The Mission Endowment Fund grant for youth in emerging congregations has supported this activity as well as other events that have the goal of developing youth leaders within the NT-NL.