

# CHAMBER MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



This chamber member spotlight features Jennifer Albright with **Youth Core Ministries**.

Jennifer works as the Director of Kingman Youth Core Ministries & Core Mentoring.

## Tell us a bit about your organization.

"Youth Core Ministries of South Central Kansas has been operating in Greensburg for 20 years. We were Youth For Christ up until about 4 years ago. Youth For Christ changed their mission concerning the ages of whom they serve and the ministries that we operate were outside of that scope so we formed our own non for profit/ministry called Youth Core Ministries.

Youth Core Ministries has several programs that function under the title of Youth Core. We have **Core Life**, **Core Community**, and **Core Mentoring**. **Core Life** ministry is about introducing kids to Jesus. We train our volunteers to utilize the time at our weekly, high impact program to engage youth at a deep level. **Core Community** is a ministry where we work with the whole family and walk alongside them to walk out of poverty. **Core Mentoring** is a faith based mentoring program where we match younger kids with high school students or adults, and they walk with them and mentor them by visiting them one hour a week or longer. Currently in Kingman, we have **Core Community** and **Core Mentoring**.

I start my 9th year with Youth Core this fall and could not ask for a better ministry to work with. I run the mentoring program in 3 high schools and 4 elementary schools. We have other Mentoring Directors that cover 6 more schools, so our mentoring program is really helping a great number of kids find value, love, and hope for their future. The mentoring program has a faith based program and a school based program."

## Who all does Youth Core Ministries serve?

"Right now in Kingman, Youth Core has Core Mentoring and Core Community. Core Mentoring serves kids ages 5-18 years of age, and Core Community serves the whole family."



## What are your personal goals for Youth Core?

"My personal goals for Youth Core Mentoring would be to match all the kiddos on the waiting list. Kingman's mentoring program is up and going again this year. The mentors and mentees are super excited to start seeing each other again. I was also asked to be a presenter at an Esdack Conference in Kansas City to present about our mentoring program, how it works, and how we continue to make it grow and be so successful. We are looking forward to that opportunity."



**What got you interested in mentoring and ministry?**

"I have always worked with youth as I received my degree in Education and taught pre-Kindergarten for 14 years. During that time, I felt a call to ministry and that led me to working with Big Brothers Big Sisters. I loved seeing what mentoring does for our kiddos, and how it can have such a dramatic impact on someone's life but felt like there was one important factor that was missing — that was talking about faith.

So after working with BBBS for 3 years, I was on a mission to start a faith based mentoring program. While I was at a training, I was introduced to Youth For Christ out of Greensburg who ran a faith based mentoring program. After several conversations, I decided to take a leap of faith, quit my job, and begin raising money to start the mentoring program in Kingman with Youth For Christ. In about 9 months, I was able to get paid 1/4 time, and after that, the program just kept growing and growing.

We now have over 120 school based and community faith based matches and every year we grow just a little bit more. This last spring, we had more 8th graders sign up to mentor in high school than ever before.



This community sees and understands the powerful transformation a mentoring relationship can have on our youth and for that, I am grateful! Parents would tell me that their kids would rather have a mentor than a Christmas present! That was super heartwarming."



**Favorite Bible Verse:**

"I tell you these things so that in me you will have peace. In this world you will have trouble, but take heart that I have overcome the world." John 16:33

Youth Core Ministries & Mentoring is available in many areas, Kingman being one of them. If you'd like to seek more info on how your child can be involved, contact Jennifer Albright at [youthcorementoring@gmail.com](mailto:youthcorementoring@gmail.com)

Find them on Facebook: "Youth Core Ministries / Kingman County Core Community"

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