

Starv-a-thon

Vision/Who are we serving?

Starv-a-thon is a Veracity Youth event involving service, giving, prayer, fasting, and fellowship. The mission of this event is to provide local foster children and youth with Christmas gifts this season. Foster children and youth have been taken from their original home and placed into another family due to abuse and/or neglect in their original home. Many of these children and youth have suffered deeply and being placed into another family who they do not know, while safer, may be frightening, uncomfortable, and heartbreaking. Many are separated from siblings and all other family through this process. This Christmas, we want to encourage them by giving Christmas gifts in effort to make them feel a slighter sense of “home” and security. We also hope to communicate to them the grace and love our Lord Jesus Christ has for them.

Who Can Participate?

Everyone. The target group for raising money, buying Christmas gifts, and wrapping gifts will be youth, but we need much more help with other things too! Adult help is needed to: drive youth to and from Wal-Mart and the church, chaperone a phase or phases of the event (arrival to church, Wal-Mart, Gift wrapping, lock-in, morning, and lunch), and provision of lunch on Saturday. *Everyone* can pray, fast, and give money toward this cause.

What is the deal with fasting?

Part of the Starv-a-thon experience will be encouraging the youth and other participants to develop empathy toward the children and youth we are serving. One of the ways we will do this is by fasting. Fasting is also a means for creating a deeper prayer experience. Youth group messages and some short sessions during Starv-a-thon will review the importance of fasting and help youth to gain a better understanding of its purpose.

The youth will be encouraged to fast from all food and drink (besides water) from 12 noon on Friday to 12 noon on Saturday. This 24 hour fast consists of “skipping” Friday’s dinner, and Saturday’s breakfast. This type of fast is strongly encouraged. *However, other fasting options are available for those who medically cannot fast.* Please speak with a leader about these options.

If you or your child chooses to fast, you will be asked to sign a release form indicating that you are aware of the risks involved. Most people do not have trouble going 24 hours without food (especially when a portion of those hours are spent sleeping!) If you cannot fast or choose not to, you will be responsible for providing your food during those 24 hours. We ask that you eat dinner *before* arriving to the church on Friday evening. The only food eaten at the church will be lunch on Saturday, provided and prepared by volunteers.

What is the schedule going to be? *Subject to change

6:00 PM – Arrive at the church and meet in fellowship hall

6:15 PM – Devotion/group meeting/prayer

6:45 PM - Separate into buying groups and receive money to buy gifts for your specific child/youth

7:00 PM – Drive to Wal-Mart to purchase gifts

9:00 PM or earlier – Leave from Wal-Mart and return to church

9:30 PM – Begin wrapping gifts

12:00 AM – Split off into sleeping arrangements (boys and girls separate; one group in fellowship hall, other group in youth cave)

9:00 AM – Worship Service/Group Processing Experiences

12:00 PM – Break fast together

What do I need to be doing now?

Raise money using sheet provided by Veracity Youth (ask individuals, companies, corporations, etc. for donations)

Participate in spaghetti fundraiser on **December 14th** after service

Do individual or group fundraisers: create and sell crafts, food, etc., go to neighborhoods and walk door to door for donations, collaborate with others for ideas!

Donate money yourself

Attend youth group, which will be focusing on positioning our hearts with a giving, loving, and prayerful attitude

Pray that the hearts of these youth and children will be open to receiving the gift of Jesus this Christmas