

Greetings from Sheridan!! Over the last few months I have been challenging myself to think and dream further out when it comes to where Real Life is heading. Over the years of ministering, I have been given different tools to help with this. I was working through one tool which asked me to list some of the strengths and weaknesses of the church. It is always interesting to do some evaluation of where you are.

As I started listing strengths and weaknesses, one of the weaknesses jumped out at me. Right now Real Life is very much John, Whitney, Ryan and Pam dependent. Being a year and a half old church, it makes sense that it is the pastors and their wives doing much of the work.

We are excited to let you know that there are two new teams starting that will give ownership to our members and encourage people to contribute in a whole new way! The first is a team that we are calling the “Dream Team”. This team is our dreamers and idea people. The goal of this group will be to dream up a list of events, outreaches, service projects, sermon topics, and much more that fit within the vision of Real Life.

The second team, the “Get It Done” team, will talk through the list of “dreams”, and decide what ideas to run with. Once they nail down what projects they feel would fit Real Life for that time, they will recruit, plan, and execute the project.

We are getting things done!! Our Get It Done team recently met with the Sheridan Angels, who closed their doors this summer, about a project they have done for the last few years of gathering and distributing around 300 to 400 backpacks.

After a week of investigating and talking to more people in the community we are planning on gathering supplies for 350 kids in Sheridan County. We have seen the community of Sheridan come together to help with buying backpacks and businesses like Walgreens, Wal-Mart, or Ace Hardware letting us set bins in their stores for people to leave donations. We have had a local food truck give donations of their sales downtown.

Another business is offering a \$750 Go Fund Me match, giving people the chance to double their money for this program. We have received grants to buy supplies. We only have a few weeks to get it all together, but feel that we can accomplish it!!

This will all lead up to a Family Fun Event inviting people in need of school support on Sunday Aug. 20th @ 2pm. After checking in, families will be able

to “shop” for their supplies with a brand new backpack. Once they are all set for their first day of school we hope to have them stick around to enjoy our 40’ Inflatable, snow cones and cotton candy!! Our goal is to fill backpacks for 200 kids this day and give the schools the other 150 backpacks for the individual school to fulfill the needs that they see.

Hearing all this and seeing it come together has been an amazing process and it has been the work and dedication of the Get It Done Team. They have invited others in to help and are taking things to a whole new level!! Our staff is there to support and encourage this team, freeing us to continue to focus our effort on vision, preaching, and discipleship!! What a blessing!!

Follow the Backpacks on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SheridanCNTYBackpacks/?ref=bookmarks>

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