

**For release:** February 3, 2020

**For more information contact:** Keith Dow at 425-422-3711

### **YOUNG LIFE MONTANA EXPANDS; VOLUNTEERS, PARTICIPANTS SOUGHT**

**BILLINGS, MONTANA** – Young Life, a youth outreach organization for middle, high school, and college students, is expanding throughout Montana and is looking for adult volunteer leaders as well as young people to participate in its programs. The organization recently expanded to Belgrade and Red Lodge and is starting a new chapter in Columbia Falls, according to Montana-Northern Wyoming Director Keith Dow.

“The organization is about caring for kids,” says Dow. Chapters in Montana offer weekly social events, summer camps, athletic contests, and faith-based programming. Groups in Billings, Bozeman, and the Flathead Valley minister to pregnant teens and teen moms through the Young Lives program; in college towns such as Missoula, Young Life offers programs for older students.

The new Columbia Falls group will join established chapters in Kalispell and Whitefish. Age groups vary, depending on community response, says Dow. “We’ll talk to people, get lists of churches, and put a small team together, then meet individually with 30-40” in setting up the group, says Dow. “We tailor the age depending on the needs of the community, what the community is willing to support,” he says.

High school chapters in Red Lodge and Belgrade, “are up and running,” he says. “But we still need volunteers and are always looking for more participants.” Though the organization’s mission is to help adolescents know Jesus through discipleships, mentorships, clubs and camps, and weekly bible study, most participants come to Young Life from schools rather than churches, Dow says.

Young Life started in Texas in 1941 with a mission of helping adolescents grow in their faith. The organization has grown to more than 100 countries worldwide serving 2 million young people.

Young Life Montana is funded by the Gianforte Family Foundation, Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, and numerous individual donors. For information on Young Life or to volunteer, contact Dow at 425-422-3711.