

## 2018 Youth Gathering Update

January 3, 2018

Our preparations for the 2018 Youth Gathering in Houston continue! Our December meeting focused on Compassion. We discussed how we'll encounter people from all walks of life when we go to Houston, and how important it is to show empathy to our neighbors. We watched a great video about the difference between sympathy and empathy – check below for a link if you'd like to watch it. We also discussed ways to show compassion to one another, as we'll be in close quarters for a week; we talked about ways to respect one another's needs while still having a good time. Our personal assignment for the evening was to write about a time when we experienced compassion; recognizing compassion shown for us helps us show compassion for others.

We also hosted a Parents' Night Out fundraiser during December. 7 children came to our PNO while their parents enjoyed some time away. We had an awesome time, cutting out paper snowflakes, playing Snowman Tag, playing a reindeer-themed game of duck-duck-goose, and making Christmas ornaments. We also enjoyed some hot chocolate before watching a Christmas classic, The Polar Express. One of the best parts of this event was the one-on-one attention our guests had; because our numbers were smaller, each child had a Youth as their buddy for the night! It was an excellent opportunity for our Youth to show God's love to others, and everyone enjoyed the time together.

Our fundraising efforts continue, and we are grateful to everyone who has given towards this experience! Thank you for your continued support, through gifts and prayers.

To watch the Empathy vs Sympathy video, click [here](#).