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FAQs About *YouthWorks!, Inc.*'s Acquisition of Youth Specialties

1. Who is *YouthWorks!, Inc.*?

YouthWorks!, Inc.® (YW) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was founded in 1994 by Paul Bertelson. YW started out as a ministry exclusively serving youth—designing missions trips and ministry experiences that appropriately challenged them and supported their walk with Jesus. From the beginning, though, we wanted YW to become a broader resource for the Church and in 2008 we expanded our mission statement to say “*Our core purpose is to help the Church be the Church by providing life-changing Christ-centered resources for ministry.*”

Today, the organization serves a much broader audience. The YW family of ministries provides significant Christ-centered ministry experiences—and more—for children, youth, college students and multi-generational groups through:

- *YouthWorks Missions* provides week-long, Christ-centered, missions trips for junior and senior high school students and multi-generational groups.
- *SportsLife Camps* are innovative sports and arts-themed day camps for kids ages 6-11 that are designed to help the church develop children’s faith in Jesus.
- *GreaterWorks* is a year-long experiential ministry program that provides young adults with an opportunity to work, serve and learn while living in community.
- *YouthWorks Foundation* provides resources and grants to create and foster youth and community ministry in locations where *YouthWorks Missions* has a presence.
- *Recharge* is a multi-denominational event that aims to inspire and equip church staff and volunteers in their efforts to help kids and families love, follow and serve Jesus.

2. Where is YW located?

YW is headquartered in Minneapolis, MN and also operates out of three regional offices—Chicago, Philadelphia and Birmingham, AL—plus one Canadian affiliate located in Vancouver, BC.

YW has a presence in more than 80 cities in the United States and Canada and, over the past 16 years, we have served 400,000 participants through 10,000 churches. We employ 65 full-time employees and 350 summer staff.

3. How are you funded and how do you operate?

YW operates as a fee-for-service organization, facilitating youth and multi-generational missions opportunities, summer camps and ministry experiences for churches and other organizations.

4. Why *Youth Specialties*? How does this fit with the YW mission?

For nearly 40 years *Youth Specialties*—which is headquartered in El Cajon, CA—has worked alongside Christian youth workers from just about every denomination. Each year, the ministry reaches 100,000 volunteers and youth workers through relationships with 10,000 churches.

We see great value and potential in *Youth Specialties* as the recognized industry leader in equipping youth workers through a variety of events.

With its focus on training and equipping—essentially to “Help the Church Be the Church”—*Youth Specialties* is a wonderful complement to the YW ministry focus. Working together, we believe more churches will be exposed to and experience unique ministry and missions opportunities. More teens and families will be forever changed by experiencing God’s Word in a relevant way.

5. What is included in the acquisition?

The agreement is for YW to purchase *Youth Specialties*; however, publishing rights will remain with Zondervan.

6. When will the acquisition be complete?

The acquisition is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

7. What are *YouthWorks*' plans for *Youth Specialties*?

We are committed to the original heart and mission of this organization and want to advance the ministry and honor the legacy of the ministry and its founders. YW is developing a plan that allows *Youth Specialties* to continue its vital work of serving youth pastors and ministries. We hold dearly the stewardship of the *Youth Specialties* legacy that is being passed on to us.

8. Will the *Youth Specialties* headquarters relocate to the YW location?

At this point our plan is to maintain a presence in both California and Minnesota.

For more information on *YouthWorks!, Inc.*, visit www.YouthWorks.com and or more information on the acquisition visit www.YouthWorks.com/YS.asp