

## Why do we exist?

### Our mission is two-fold:

Foster and reinforce positive values, habits, and lifestyles upon which middle and high school aged youth and their families can build their lives and communities.

Overcome the trouble, difficulty, and dysfunction in the lives of youth and their families with the hope of God (Jeremiah 29:11).

## What will this look like?

### Our vision is:

to transform the parts of the culture in the Big Horn Basin that have trouble, difficulty, and dysfunction with the overcoming hope of God. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." Where ever a culture of trouble, difficulty, and dysfunction is found, The Shack will cultivate a new culture of joy, peace, and right living [soundness] (Romans 14:17-19) in individual lives, family relationships, and the fiber of whole communities. It is not our intent to force youth or others to participate in religious activities.



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### THE SHACK

831 North 6th Street, Greybull, WY, 82426

Phone: 307-765-2190

E-mail: [theshack180@gmail.com](mailto:theshack180@gmail.com)

[DavidBot@Juno.com](mailto:DavidBot@Juno.com)

[www.TheGreybullSHACK.org](http://www.TheGreybullSHACK.org)

[www.facebook.com/TheGreybullSHACK](http://www.facebook.com/TheGreybullSHACK)

# What's The SHACK?



A Youth Community

(307) 765-2190

[www.thegreybullshack.org](http://www.thegreybullshack.org)

The SHACK is a faith oriented, community based, donor/self funded youth community. We offer recreational, secular and faith-based social, and religious programs.

We target middle and high school aged youth and their families. We focus on at-risk youth and families.

All religious activities will follow the federal guidelines regarding the voluntary nature of the program.



## What do we believe God has called us to do?

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### Our values (key result areas) are:

1. Provide a fun, safe and supportive social, physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual environment.
2. Provide faith-based, faith friendly entertainment and information.
3. Give youth and their families the opportunity to experience a life changing encounter with Jesus Christ.
4. Provide a positive peer culture encouraging mature attitudes.
5. Model and teach a moral value system that benefits the youth and their families as well as fellow members of the community.
6. Provide youth and their families with an opportunity to discover, develop, and use their unique gifts, talents, and abilities.
7. Provide a means of making “first-contact” with youth and their families who are experiencing problems.
8. Provide proactive intervention in the lives of youth who are deemed to be “at risk”.
9. Fully develop the community’s involvement with The SHACK including volunteers, as well as professional, spiritual, and financial support.

## How will we accomplish or know when we are accomplishing what God has called us to do?

### Our goals/objectives are:

#### Under value one:

1. Remodel building
2. Hire and train staff
3. Recruit and train volunteers
4. Purchase skate board park equipment and supplies
5. Purchase gaming equipment and supplies
6. Purchase food service equipment and supplies
7. Purchase office equipment and supplies
8. Purchase furniture
9. Purchase cleaning supplies
10. Purchase promotional materials.
11. Develop programming

#### Under value two:

1. Purchase concert equipment and supplies
2. Purchase music materials
3. Purchase print materials

#### Under value three:

1. Train staff how to share Christ
2. Provide opportunities to share Christ

### Under value four:

1. Train staff on what this positive culture is and what mature attitudes we want to develop
2. Provide programs

### Under value five:

1. Train staff about this moral value system
2. Provide programs

### Under value six:

1. Train staff on how to help youth and their families discover, develop, and use their unique gifts, talents, and abilities
2. Provide programs

### Under value seven:

1. Train staff on how to make “first contact” with youth and their families
2. Provide programs

### Under value eight:

1. Train staff on how to proactively intervene in the lives of youth and their families
2. Provide programs

### Under value nine:

1. Meet with churches, businesses, organizations, and individuals to fully develop the community’s involvement with The SHACK
2. Form a community adult advisory board
3. Form a community youth advisory board
4. Develop a capital campaign drive
5. Develop and use functional structures for communication

## **When and where will we do this?**

The SHACK focuses on the three integrated areas of all youth's and their families' lives: recreational, secular and faith-based social, and religious. The following programs are designed to meet the needs in these three areas:

**Our programs:** (numbers in parentheses correlate with the values as numbered above) The activities and events which will help in accomplishing our goals to fulfill our vision to achieve our mission.

## **Recreational programs**

### **General Recreation (1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9)**

The SHACK's General Recreation program is the key to attracting youth off the street into a fun, safe, and supportive environment where they can develop positive attitudes. Activities include pool, foosball, video games on large screen projection systems, and arcade style video games. As part of this fun and safe environment the music does not glorify violence and does not devalue women. We have no "R" rated movies or "M" rated video games.

### **Concerts (1-3, 7, 9)**

The SHACK offers inexpensive concerts featuring Christian and positive value groups from the region with music appealing to youth of all ages.

### **Special Events (1-3, 6, 7, 9)**

We hold special events throughout the year including: movies, "lock-ins" and picnics.

## **Secular and faith-based social programs**

### **Life Intervention Initiative (1, 2, 4, 5, 7-9)**

We establish "first contact" with youth and their families in difficulty, and help them resolve problems and eliminate destructive coping patterns. We encourage parental and professional involvement and initiate staff follow-up. The SHACK provides a fun, safe and supportive social, physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual environment.

### **If Walls Could Talk (6,7)**

Youth are able to express their creative talents through mural painting.

### **Parenting Classes (2, 5, 8, 9)**

In response to community need, we are developing a parenting program that is both faith-based and non faith-based. Parents can learn about specific issues facing youth today.

### **Substance Abuse Classes (2, 4, 5, 7-9)**

The SHACK will partner with other organizations that provides classes to help overcome addictive behaviors. Other classes are offered as the resources and programming are made available.

### **Community Youth Advisory Board (4-6,8,9)**

Youth have the opportunity to participate in giving ideas and input and volunteering at The SHACK.

### **Work Outs (1, 4-7)**

Twice a week we offer a work out using our Kinect gaming system — fun and challenging.

## **Religious Programs**

### **Young Life Mentoring (2-9)**

All youth and their families who enter The SHACK are offered, if they desire, a life changing encounter with Jesus Christ and follow Him including attending the local church of their choice. Youth and their families are encouraged to develop positive attitudes and grow in their faith.

### **Girls Night Out (2-6, 8, 9)**

Girls meet once a week for Bible study, to talk about life, and look at what God has to say about their growing years.

### **Guys Night Out (2-6, 8, 9)**

Guys meet once a week for Bible study, to talk about life, and look at what God has to say about their growing years.

### **Local Church Partnerships (2-6, 8, 9)**

The SHACK believes the best support system for youth and their families to grow in their spiritual lives is the local church. The Shack looks to local churches for volunteer staffing, financial assistance, prayer support, and — through the Board of Directors and Community Advisory Board — direction. Thus partnering with local churches through input and information, resources, shared programming, etc, is a high value of The Shack. The SHACK encourages active involvement by youth and their families in the programs of the local church of their choice.

