

FRIENDS IN FAITH KC

United in Friendship,
Empowered by Faith



Friends in Faith KC



Recent Research

- People aged 18-22 are more lonely than those over 72 (Cigna, 2018)
- 44% of teens reported “persistent feelings of sadness and hopelessness.” (CDC, 2021)
- 40% of young people age 13-25 say they have no one to talk to and feel left out (Springtide, 2020)
- 28% of teens say they always get the social and emotional support they need, while 77% of parents believed they did. Black and Hispanic teens were markedly less likely to report always/usually receiving adequate support compared with White teens. (Nat. Center for Health Statistics, 2024)

Recent Research cont'd.

- 55% of young people agree that their religious or spiritual life matters for their mental health (Springtide 2022)
- 74% of young people who say they pray daily also say they are “flourishing a lot.” (Springtide 2022)
- Numerous studies show that the most important factor in helping kids cope with adversity is having at least one loving, consistent and supportive adult in their lives.

Current Sites

Bishop Ward High School

- about 90 students, 75 Adult Friend volunteers involved
- meet one Thursday per month, 10:20-11:05am

High School group at Donnelly College

- about 10 students and Adult Friends involved
- meet two Tuesdays per month, 5:30-6:30pm, dinner included
- dinner, community service, outings

New Donnelly College for 1st gen college students

- meet first and third Tuesday each month, 10:15-11:00am
- guidance for first generation college students

Student Survey Results



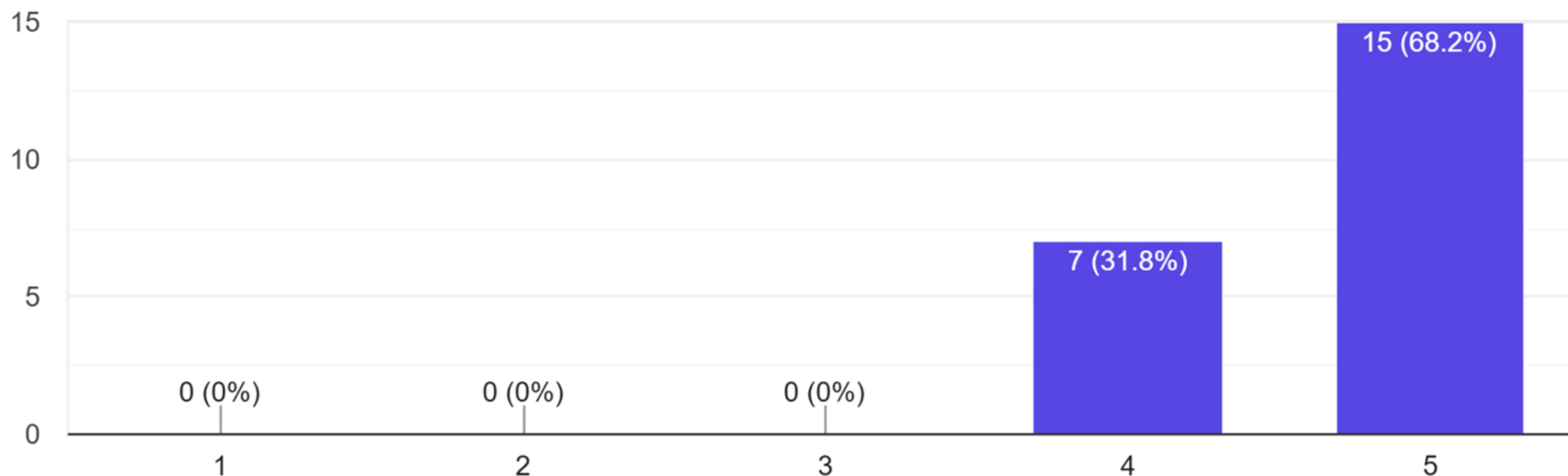
What students told us about their experience

Their feedback points to the power of
consistent relationships, practical guidance,
and faith conversations.

Student Survey Results

How would you rate your overall experience of Friends in Faith (5 stars are the best)?

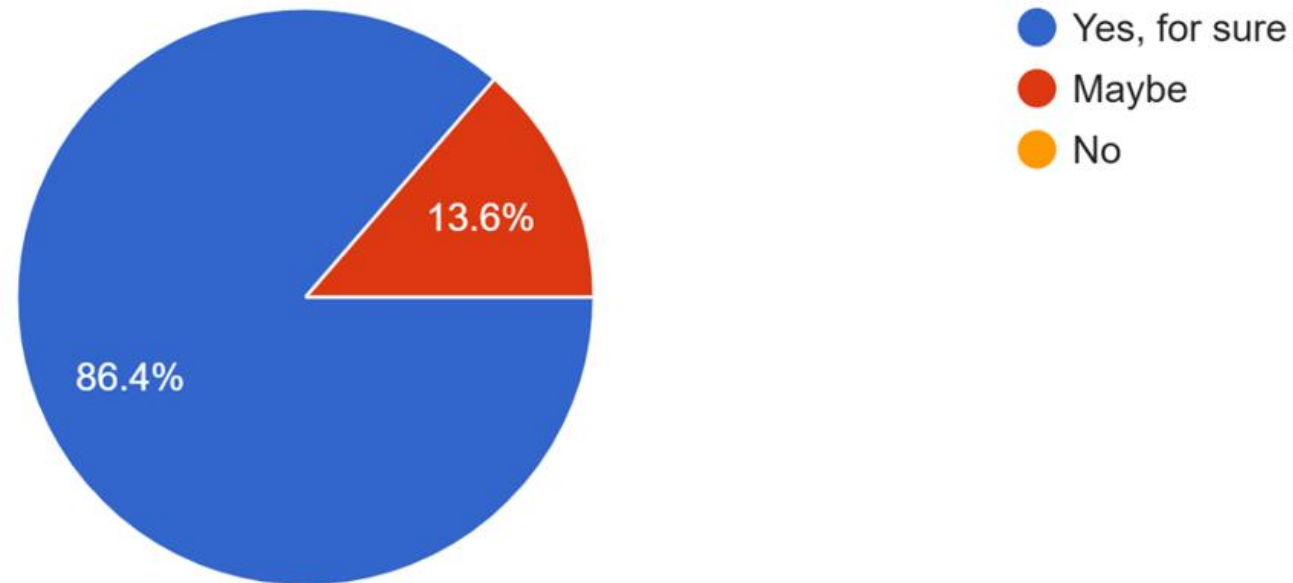
22 responses



Student Survey Results

Would you recommend Friends in Faith to other students?

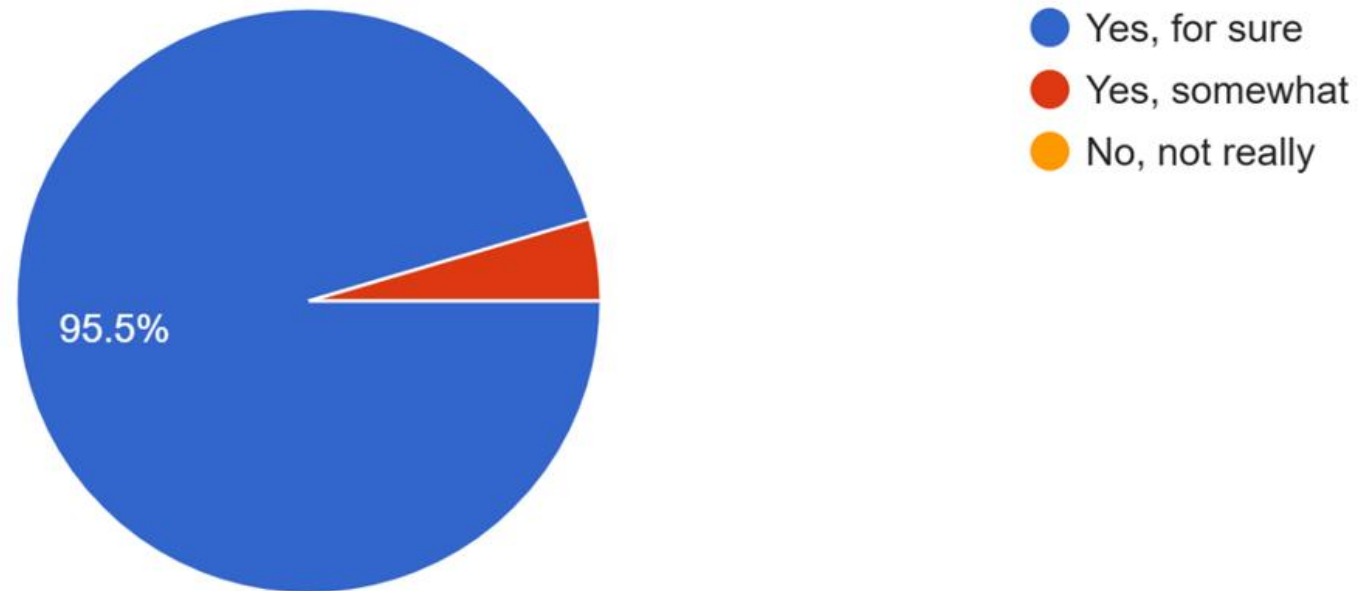
22 responses



Student Survey Results

Has your your Adult Friend given you helpful advice?

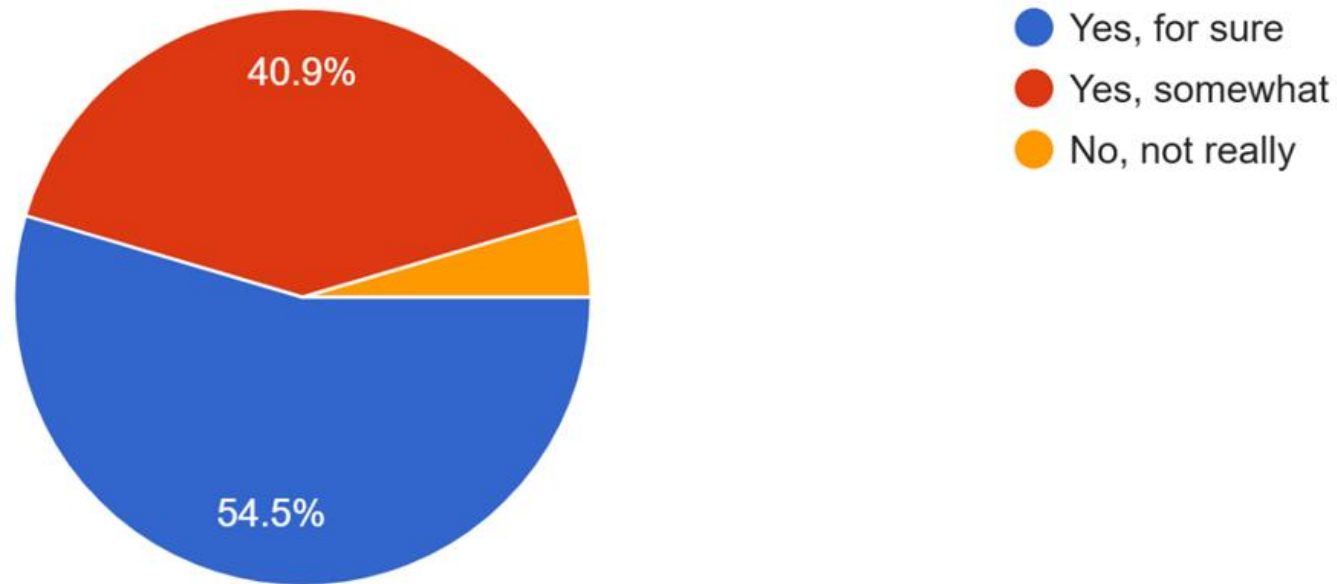
22 responses



Student Survey Results

Has your involvement in Friends in Faith helped you to grow in your faith?

22 responses



Feedback from students

What have you enjoyed most about Friends in Faith?

“ I enjoy the talks about God and our faith as well as the activities.

“ I enjoyed being able to share my thoughts freely and get great life skills.



Feedback from students (cont'd.)

Explain what advice or help your Adult Friend has given you.

“

My mentor gave me good advice by never giving up and keep pushing for what you need the most.

“

Advice of how to organize myself with all my tasks. Advice for health and advice in faith.

“

I learned a lot of life lessons from her. She gave me advice to handle tough family problems.

“

Never take anything for granted.

Feedback from students (cont'd.)

Please explain how you have grown in your faith through involvement in Friends in Faith.

“ It made me more open to see what is right and how life is something we must not take for granted.

“ Deep conversations that make me question and ask more.

“ To trust God and let everything work out.

“ I have prayed more for people and their needs.

“ She always finds a way to involve God and I like that...I get to learn more about him.

“ My Adult Friend taught me you always put God before everything.

“ I now involve prayer into my morning routine when I can.

Adult Friend Survey Results

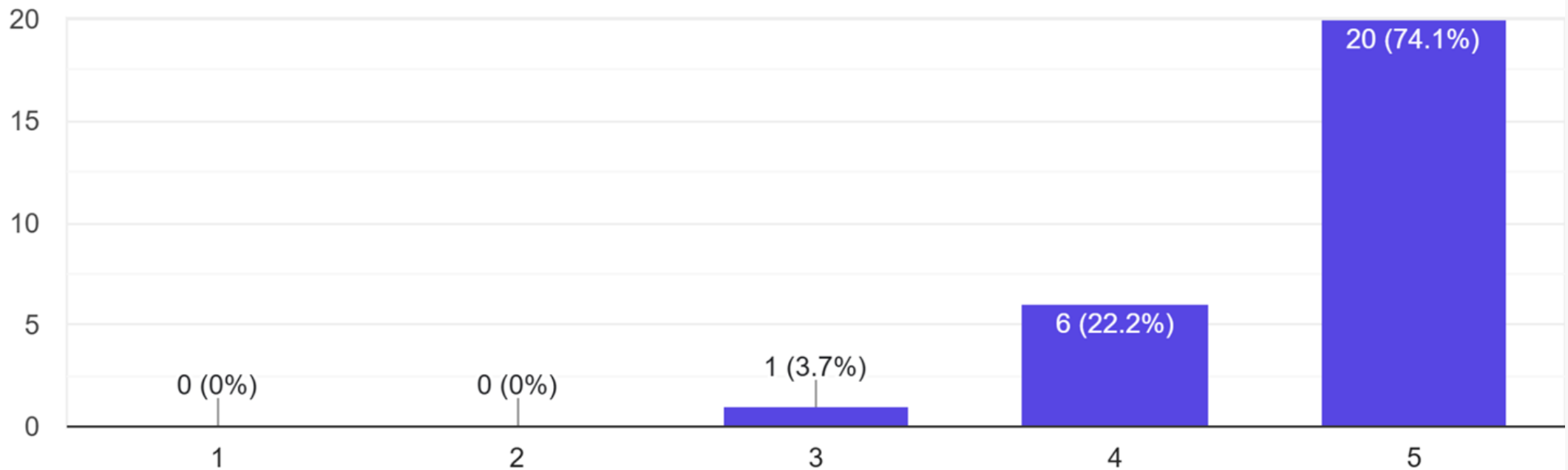
What adult volunteers experienced and learned

The impact goes both ways: students receive support, and Adult Friends grow through the relationships, conversations, and shared faith.

Adult Friend Survey Results

How would you rate your overall experience of Friends in Faith so far (5 stars is the best)?

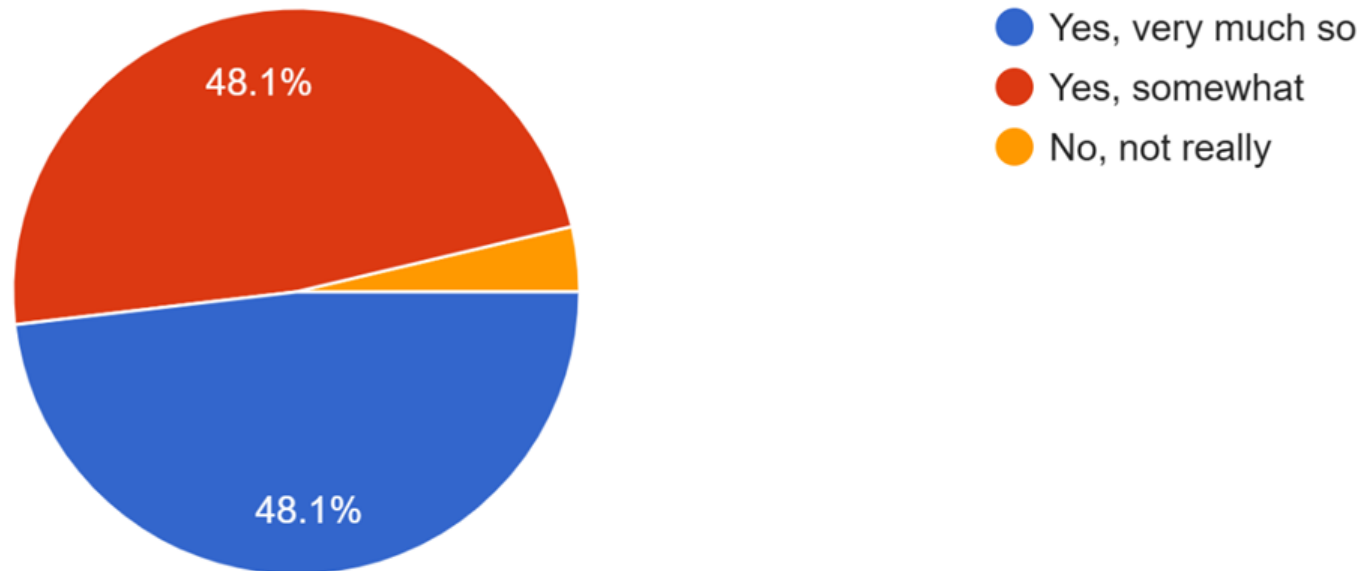
27 responses



Adult Friend Survey Results

Has your involvement in Friends in Faith provided inspiration, new insights, or a deepening of faith for you?

27 responses



Feedback from Adult Friends

Has your involvement in Friends in Faith provided inspiration, new insights, or a deepening of faith for you?

“ I liked having us pray for one another and following up at our next meeting.

“ The questions of faith with my student has caused introspection of my faith beliefs. Having to explain a faith topic helps deepen your faith by thinking through it more deeply.

“ Helps me relate better to my teen grandkids. I am a better listener now.

“ It brought into focus that many people who live close by live very different lives. The resources my family provided for me are not available to every family.



Feedback from Adult Friends (cont'd.)

“ [Because of my involvement in Friends in Faith,] I pray for someone new in my life now and I am compelled to meet the goals I have set with my student, mostly so that she can meet hers too. But I also know she's praying for my goals as I'm praying for hers. There's great accountability in that!

“ This is a terrific ministry with staggering potential. I think we are on the right track.



Field Trip to Giving the Basics

Students and Adult Friends serving together



THANK YOU!

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