

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that 2024 marks our 5<sup>th</sup> annual SoulStock Festival! I never dreamed SoulStock would receive such an overwhelming response, let alone experience how it has continued to touch more & more lives each year - healing wounds, breaking chains and setting souls free!

2023 was a pivotal year for SoulStock. We witnessed our largest attendance to date and were blessed to watch as eight souls stepped forward into a new life as followers of Jesus by publicly proclaiming their faith through water baptism. But out of all the testimonies, words of encouragement and powerful moments, there is one story that truly reflects our mission to *"glorify God by carrying the life-changing Gospel of Jesus outside the walls of the church and into the streets to reach the lost, broken and unsaved"*

Last year, a young man named Zach was at SoulStock with his family to see Ben Fuller perform. Zach was struggling with something serious, and he was visibly restless and troubled. His torment did not go unnoticed and soon a few different individuals were ministering to him, praying over him and eventually led him to accept Jesus that night. Something changed in Zach immediately, and after this encounter, his parents said that his whole demeanor was completely different. They were grateful for this night and how the door to Zach's heart was opened and he welcomed Jesus to come inside.

2 months later, Zach died tragically in an automobile accident. His family was heartbroken, but as followers of Jesus, they have found great comfort in knowing Zach received the gift of salvation that night at SoulStock, and that the promise of his eternal life was sealed. All because at this God-ordained moment, someone was bold enough to answer the call to duty, and share Jesus with this young man, thereby changing the course of his eternity.

As I struggled with how I would share this story, and how I would find the words to adequately express the impact SoulStock is making on many lives, for some reason this cute little phrase we came up with a few years ago to encourage donors to join our "Army of Hope Dealers" crossed my mind. However, the more I thought about it, it really started to resonate not just as a catchy slogan, but how we as followers of Jesus truly are "Soldiers" in God's Army.

The term "Soldier" in the New Testament is a euphemism for all Christians and does not refer to a literal army or physical battle but rather our spiritual warfare against the enemy. To be a "Soldier of Jesus Christ" means we fight spiritual warfare with prayer, evangelism and by standing on the Word of God when faced with trials and tribulation. Zach was fighting a very tough spiritual battle that night at SoulStock, but there were "Soldiers" there to go to battle with him, to comfort him, share Jesus with him, and lead him out of the darkness and into eternal light.

SoulStock is 100% donor-supported and is possible by the generosity of our community through financial gifts, donations, volunteering of time and services, and most importantly by your prayers, testimonies, and words of encouragement to keep spreading the life changing message of Jesus. Gather on the Grass Worship is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and all contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

SoulStock is only a few short weeks away, and we still have a lot of money to raise to cover the expenses for what we believe will be our most life-changing event ever. Attached is information on Sponsorship Levels and promotional benefits your organization can receive in exchange for your financial donation.

We have been blessed to partner with the three primary Christian radio stations broadcasting in our region – Family Life Network, Rev FM and Way Truth Life Radio, to increase our reach for promoting SoulStock 2024! In addition, we received a tourism marketing grant from the Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau which allows us to further promote SoulStock on WTAJ through commercial ads & a guest spot on Studio 814, as well as increasing our internet and social media advertising spend. Our website views have increased almost 200% in the past month which is a strong indicator that SoulStock 2024! is gathering momentum and your investment in this event will not only help to fund a worthy cause, but also bring visibility to your brand!

Sponsorship forms & payment are due no later than July 12<sup>th</sup> for your organization's name to appear on the back of the SoulStock Official Event T-shirts, or by July 19<sup>th</sup> to ensure your company's sign/banner is ready by the start of the event.

If you are interested in making an "in-kind" donation of supplies (water, snacks, food/meals for performers) or Basket Raffle items (merchandise, gift cards, theme park or sporting event tickets, etc.), please feel free to contact me at 814-971-2848 to arrange pickup/drop-off.

We are also still accepting applications for SoulStock 2024! Vendors, if you would like to reserve a space to promote your business, sell goods or even offer a fun activity for attendees. Our goal is to make this a community event and your participation is welcomed!

Thank you in advance for helping to spread the message of hope!

There is no greater gift than eternal life, and there is nothing better than to see your loved ones come to the Lord!

Love & Blessings,

*Janice Schatz*

Executive Director

Gather on the Grass Worship Inc.