



Opportunity Profile

Children's
Minister



AUTUMN RIDGE
CHURCH



The Opportunity

Autumn Ridge Church is an independent, evangelical congregation where about 1750 people worship every weekend. Our dynamic Children's Ministry touches 500+ children who participate in RidgeKids (weekend ministry), Kid's Club (midweek ministry), and a host of other initiatives and events. Everything we do with our children targets this singular vision: "We are committed to a Children's Ministry where genuine disciples for Jesus are being made and dynamic disciple makers are being mobilized."

Our current vacancy was created when our Next Gen Pastor resigned. Because of the

growth of both the children's and students' ministries which he oversaw, the Elders are seeking to hire two ministers to fill the gap, one being a dedicated children's team lead. We are excited about what God is doing in the lives of our kids and are eager to find the individual of God's choosing to lead our Children's Ministry.

This individual will guide us in the pursuit of our vision, will serve as an enthusiastic ambassador for the ministry, and will coach our amazing team of paid and volunteer staff so that we raise up the next generation of leaders for Christ. We are confident that God already has His eye on a choice

servant who is ready to make an eternal difference in the lives of children in our community. We are praying for nothing less.

You may be that person! This profile will introduce you to Autumn Ridge Church, the ARC Children's Ministry, and the City of Rochester, MN.

Please contact us at childrensministryopening@autumnridgechurch.org with any additional questions.

Current Programs

The ARC Children's Ministries consist of eight core programs. In total, 500+ children are involved in the various ministries and are supported by over 400 volunteers and staff.

RidgeKIDS Weekend Program

Our weekend RidgeKIDS program is offered at all three services for children ages birth - 5th grade. It includes both large and small group worship and lesson time.

An average of 300 children are served by a team of over 70 volunteers each weekend.



Kid's Club Midweek Program

Our Wednesday night Kids' Club program for children in PreK-5th grade meets from September to May. It averages 200 children per week with 80 volunteers (who serve weekly). Children experience fun and engaging large group lessons/worship, intentional small groups and high energy games, all designed to help them learn who God is and how to daily live for Him.



Current Programs



Special Needs Ministry

Our Special Needs Ministry is divided into two components:

- 1) The Barnabas Ministry provides a self-contained classroom for children ages 5 -18 with cognitive delays or behavioral and physical challenges on Sunday mornings.
- 2) The Buddies Ministry provides trained volunteers who work one-on-one to support preschool and elementary children with behavioral challenges who can meet in their regular classrooms or small groups.



American Heritage Girls

American Heritage Girls (AHG) is a Christ-centered character and leadership development program for girls ages 5-18. AHG builds women of integrity through service to God, family, community and country. Autumn Ridge is the charter organization for our American Girls troop which meets on the second and fourth Mondays from September - May. Approximately 74 girls are led by 28 leaders.

Current Programs

Trail Life USA

Trail Life USA (TLUSA) is a faith-based scouting organization that provides Christ-Centered youth mentorship and character development. Autumn Ridge is the charter organization for our Trail Life troop that meets on the second and fourth Mondays from September - May. Approximately 54 boys are led by 20 leaders.



Summer Camps

Family camp in August and Camp Victory for kids in nearby Zumbro Falls provide opportunities to build relationships, grow spiritually and create long-lasting memories. Additional week long day camps such as Art Camp and Science Camp explore an area of interest from a Christian perspective.



Current Programs



Upward Soccer

The ARC Upward Soccer program runs from August through October for children in Kindergarten - 5th grade. Weekly practices and games help kids acquire and develop basic soccer skills within a Christian context.



Family Special Events

Year round activities offer fun for families to engage with each other and get to know other church families. A summer pool party, fall movie night and the Father/Daughter Ball in the spring have been highlights the past few years.



“The Children’s ministry is best summed up by the exuberance displayed by my five children as we prepare for Wednesday night programming. They continually express their joy and delight at heading to church...we are so thankful for a place that engages and excites them in the name of Jesus!”

- Rachel

“I thoroughly enjoyed the ARC Father Daughter Dance. This special dad/daughter date allowed for time to talk, laugh, snack, fellowship with others, and dance the night away.”

- Derek



“I am grateful for the local missions focus at Autumn Ridge Church. We have opportunities to go out into the community and share God’s love through ARC programs. My children have also been able to serve along with us in some of these opportunities.”

- Ben



“My wife and I chose Autumn Ridge Church as our church home because of the awesome children’s ministries. Once we moved 20 miles away, we kept going because of the children’s ministries and the wonderful people who go to Autumn Ridge.”

- Dave



The Position Children's Minister

But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, "Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

(Mark 10:14)

VISION

Inspired by Jesus' priorities, the leaders and members of Autumn Ridge Church desire nothing less than a children's ministry where genuine disciples of Jesus are made and dynamic disciple-makers are mobilized.

WHOM WE SEEK

We are looking for an individual who dreams of how children can become growing high-impact disciples of Jesus Christ. Specifically, such a person will be:

- **Called:** Loves children like Jesus loves children and ministers to them out of a sense of divine calling.
- **Zealous:** Rooted in Scripture, prays boldly, follows Jesus passionately.
- **Motivator:** Helps people discover what God wants to do through them and pro-active in equipping them to realize that vision.
- **Team-Builder:** Develops an environment of open communication, robust interaction and encouraging collaboration.
- **Relational:** Thrives by building and maintaining healthy relationships with children, staff, and parents.
- **Advocate:** Energized and confident championing Children's Ministry in the church and community.

The Position Children's Minister

CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Autumn Ridge Children's Minister will assume six core responsibilities:

- Vision-Casting: Ignite and maintain a congregation-wide passion for the children's ministry vision.
- Ministry Oversight: Oversee all aspects of children's ministry (birth-5th grade), including budget development and management, curriculum selection, policy and procedure implementation, and resource provision.
- Staff Oversight: Direct the recruitment, development, and equipping of children's ministry volunteers and paid children's ministry staff as disciple-makers. Serve as minister, mentor, manager, and model for all staff. Lead effective meetings with and review performance of all paid children's ministry staff.
- Lead Teacher: Impart biblical truth in an engaging and age-appropriate manner as a primary lead teacher for Sunday morning elementary large group meetings.
- Minister to Families: Encourage and support parents in their responsibility to disciple their children and provide pastoral care to children and their families.
- Communication: Communicate with ARC staff, congregation, parents, and students regarding the children's ministry.

QUALIFICATIONS

Here are minimum requirements for all applicants:

- Education: Applicant must have completed a Bachelor's degree, preferably in children's ministry or elementary education. Top-tier applicants will have a graduate degree in ministry or education or equivalent professional experience.
- Experience: All applicants must have experience in leading a vibrant, multi-faceted children's ministry. A high value applicant will bring proven experience in leading a children's ministry similar in scale to that of Autumn Ridge Church.



The ARC Kids Team

This amazing ministry doesn't just happen. We have an incredible team of staff who are serving faithfully and enthusiastically.

Children's Ministry MA

As the full-time ARC Children's Ministry Assistant and Welcome Center Coordinator, Danielle McLean supports our entire Children's team.

Early Childhood Staff

Adele Thompson and Beth Huffman focus their efforts on ministering to children ages birth through pre-K and their families during our weekend

ministries. Adele Thompson is our full-time Early Childhood Director. Beth Huffman is our part-time Early Childhood Coordinator.

Weekend Elementary Staff

Kim McLean serves as our Weekend Elementary Coordinator. Her primary duties are to recruit, schedule and train the elementary small group leaders for our Sunday morning programs.

Kids' Club Staff

Our Kids' Club staff, Lois Hyde and Elann Wright, minister to children in Pre K through 5th

grade who attend our Kids' Club program on Wednesday nights. As our part-time Stompers Coordinator, Lois Hyde manages the programming for children one year out from kindergarten and kindergarteners. Elann Wright serves as the full-time Elementary Kids' Club Director.

Special Needs Staff

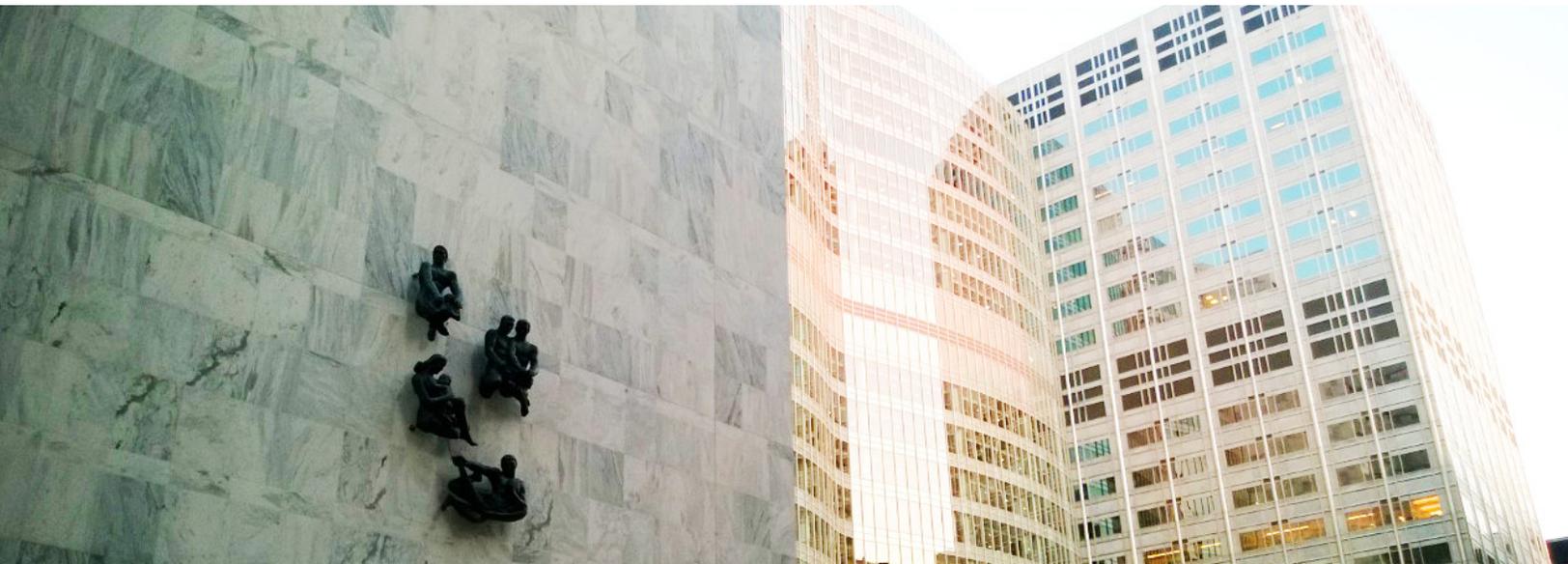
Marsha Jagusch serves as our part-time Special Needs Director. Her primary duties are to recruit, train and support volunteers to minister to children with special needs in preschool through twelfth grade.



Welcome to Rochester

Rochester is located in southeastern Minnesota and serves as a medical, commercial, and agricultural hub for the region. Rochester has a population of 114,011, making it the third largest city in Minnesota after Minneapolis and St. Paul. Located in Olmsted County, Rochester comprises 75% of the county's overall population. Of the approximately 114,000 who live in Rochester, only about 25% attend church on any given weekend.

Rochester is best known as the home of the world-renowned Mayo Clinic which describes its overarching value as "the needs of the patient come first." The Clinic employs about 34,000 people in the Rochester area, and from its operations in Minnesota and elsewhere, receives almost \$11 billion in annual revenue.





Here's the inside scoop on what some of our search team members think about living in Rochester.

Derek - For me, Rochester is small enough to find your niche and big enough for numerous opportunities. My family and I enjoy the local bike paths, Quarry Hill nature center and Oxbow Park to learn about local creation. We have enjoyed local festivities such as Rochesterfest, Fourth of July Parade in nearby Stewartville, and Olmsted County Fair. Our family has enjoyed swimming lessons at the Recreation Center and has participated in community education classes. We also enjoy proximity to Minnesota Zoo and Como Zoo in the Twin Cities area. Rochester is a fantastic place to raise a family and to call home.

Ben - I am thankful to have the world's foremost healthcare provider right here in town. It has been a blessing for my family to receive the medical care they have needed over the last few years from the local experts we have at the Mayo Clinic.

Rachel - Born and raised in Rochester, I have seen the city grow and change in many wonderful ways, but delight in the "small town feel" that it still offers. We love the community feel, the recreational activities and the Rochester Athletic Club (especially to stay active as a family in the winter months!).

Dave - I am grateful for the low-stress environment God has provided us in the Rochester area. Rochester has a lot of the perks of a big town, but it is easy to escape to nature, whether it is to some of the parks in the summer or skiing in the winter, or just going for walks outside.

Katie - My husband & I own a business in Downtown Rochester, and enjoy the city feel of working Downtown & then, going home to our small town feeling neighborhood. Our family of 5 loves visiting parks & walking/biking on the Douglas Trail. There has been a lot of growth in the 15 yrs. we have lived here, and we look forward to seeing how God will continue to shape & mold the City of Rochester.

Looking Ahead

We gave some thought to the challenges we are currently facing in the ARC Children's Ministry. Here are the big four:

- Tech – We are acutely aware of the need to develop a ministry to children that understands the challenges of our technologically driven society, that leverages media into a ministry tool, and that equips parents to help their children negotiate the world of tech in a way that honors the Lord.
- Transition – Our senior pastor of thirty years recently retired and a search for his replacement is underway. We are cognizant of the fact that a season without a senior pastor makes the need for a vibrant children's ministry all the more acute. This is a time to move forward; not to merely mark time.
- Expansion – Our success is one of our greatest challenges: Because of the high level of participation we are experiencing, especially on Sunday mornings, we are near the limits of our facility. How can we creatively maximize the use of our facility, staff, and volunteers?
- Next Gen – Even though we have an amazing cadre of volunteers, developing connection methods to tap into and train a whole new generation of volunteer staff is critical to our expansion. Doing so in a way that does not rely on arm-twisting but imparts a bigger vision will be key.



Dreaming

We don't know what God wants to do in the next 10 years in and through our ARC Kids. But we dream!

- We dream of a church that celebrates ministry among children in ways that reflect Jesus heart. He says, "The Kingdom belongs to the kids."
- We dream of a place where children are mentored to become missionaries for Jesus in our community and aspire to become the next generation of disciple-makers. Imagine the most natural thing in the world was for our kids to bring friends from all around them to ARC Kids ministries, simply because they love what they're doing and value what they're getting.
- We dream of hosting events that showcase the ways kids are remarkable (through theater, art), that does so with excellence, and that uses this as a platform to draw kids (and families) to Jesus.
- We dream of sports programs (like Upward) where ARC Kids are a minority but a force to be reckoned with as bold ambassadors for Jesus.
- We dream of a church where children are ministry partners who are serving alongside adults and teens.
- We dream of seeing parents equipped with all the tools God has to offer and prevailing against the challenge of raising the next generation of leaders for Christ.
- We dream of having so many eager, qualified volunteer staff that we have to start a waiting list! (Okay, that's some pretty big dreaming!)

So as we're dreaming, are you saying, "Me too!" Maybe God is calling you to join us so we can dream together? To indicate your interest in this position, please send your resume to: childrensministryopening@autumnridgechurch.org

