



## The Purpose Project

by Andrik Powell

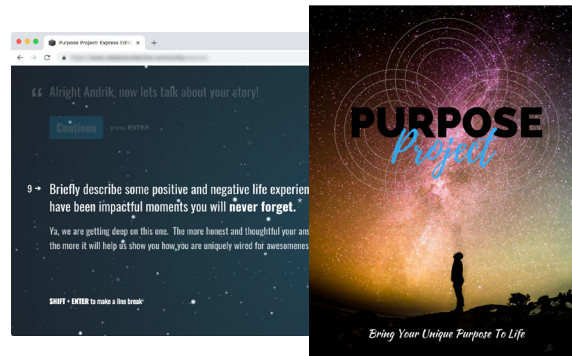
In everything that Catalyst Collective does, from after school programs to volunteer work, the Purpose Project is always mentioned. But what does the Purpose Project actually mean? According to Founder Joe Elliott, The Purpose Project is the foundation of developing people personally, professionally and spiritually. But isn't that the main goal of Catalyst? I think that thinking of the Purpose Project as the foundation and catalyst to what Catalyst Collective does would be the best way to look at it.

Joe Elliott relates the Purpose Project to a concept of how you develop other people. It takes people through all the different parts that make them unique and looks for common themes. Once these themes are realized, the Purpose Project ties them together and says "here is a potential picture of what you can do to impact the world". Catalyst Collective uses the Purpose Project in all of their settings including After Hours, one-on-one mentoring / coaching, podcasts, workshop scenarios and more.

It is important to note that the Purpose Project is not limited to just one-on-one interactions. In workshop scenarios, Catalyst strives to help whole churches and businesses by helping pastors and staff understand how everyone is wired and how to better work together. Joe Elliott said next month he will be speaking to 150 or

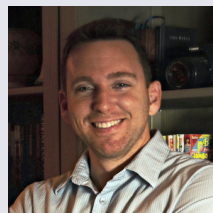
more employees of Williamson County Juvenile Services who will take the online assessment of the Purpose Project, and then Catalyst will help them find all the unique parts of their staff and help them maximize working together.

"It's a snapshot of how we're wired and then learning to read the important parts of what makes us unique and what to do with it," says Joe Elliott. Different forms of the Purpose Project assessments include a short online assessment, an online course, and survey plus workshop. A Purpose Project workbook written by Founder Joe Elliott and Program Director Zac Tinney is also available. ♦

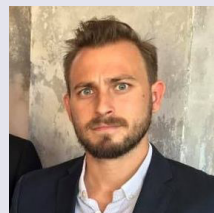


Short online assessment "Purpose Project Express" (left) and the "Purpose Project" workbook (right). Photos above and below courtesy of Catalyst Collective.

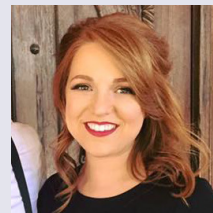
## CATALYST LEADERSHIP



**Joe Elliott**  
 Founder and  
 Executive Director



**Zac Tinney**  
 Program Director



**Kaitlyn Tinney**  
 Program Lead /  
 Advisory Board

**Nicholas Sanchez**  
 Accountant

**Peyton Borgheiinck**  
 After Hours McNeil  
 Lead

**Will Menjivar**  
 After Hours Hopewell  
 Lead

**Aaron Alba**  
 After Hours Team

**Andie Garcia**  
 After Hours Team

**Alex O'Neil**  
 After Hours Team

**Chris Adams**  
 Film and Contact  
 Team

**Edwin Quinones**  
 Film and Contact  
 Team



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## Finding Your Unique Purpose

by Andrik Powell

Every Thursday, I used to go to the Catalyst event known as Austin Lit, where young adults aged 20-30 would go to have thought provoking conversations discussing everything from religion to controversial topics such as immigration and abortion. That was, until the school season ended at the end of 2017 and Austin Lit was temporarily suspended. Since then, Austin Lit was reintroduced as Equinox. Catalyst took their discussion-based Austin Lit and combined it with their worship night Liturgy.

I had been meaning to check out Equinox for quite a while now, but never found either the time or motivation to do so. You see, I had been to Liturgy once or twice, but found it to be not as interesting as Austin Lit. Therefore, I had been skeptical of this new Equinox. However it was this month that I finally had the opportunity to check out Equinox, multiple times no less. It was last Thursday at Equinox, that I finally found out fully what Catalyst was all about.

I was expecting to go to another Equinox night of discussion and some music, but was instead greeted with some hard work. That week, Catalyst had agreed to help tear apart a hay bale and set up for a Pumpkin Patch for the folks of Anderson Terrance. It is at this venue that Catalyst uses to host its Equinox nights. And although, I will say that I was



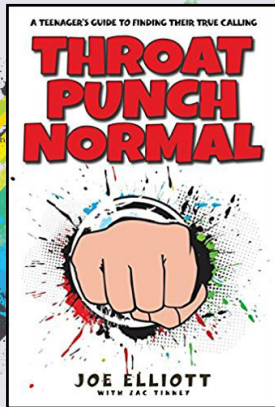
I ended up helping Catalyst set up for the Anderson Terrance pumpkin patch. Photo courtesy of iStock.

quite surprised, I was also glad to help. After all Catalyst is known for its volunteer work and I had no objections to letting myself be a part of a cause that was not my own.

Catalyst Collective is all about helping their own community improve personally, professionally and spiritually; but also Catalyst is about helping people outside of their community in those ways as well. After an hour and a half of helping set up the Pumpkin Patch, we were treated with some Pizza and margaritas, and a short discussion on whether prayer does anything in our lives.

So what does this story of helping set up a Pumpkin Patch have to do anything? I think that I had been too preoccupied with what I could do to improve myself personally, professionally and spiritually, that I almost forgot one of the most important things: helping our community improve as well. ♦





## CHECK OUT JOE'S BOOK

by Andrik Powell

Joe's latest book *Throat Punch Normal* is a self-discovery book written specifically for teens. Based on The Purpose Project (the foundation of developing people personally, professionally and spiritually), *Throat Punch Normal* is Catalyst Collective's answer to the many churches that have been looking for a curriculum to take their youth through. With examples that young adults can readily understand and grasp and numerous references to the Bible and scripture, *Throat Punch Normal* is 'the ultimate teen life hack.' If you are a teen and know a teen who doesn't know his/her life purpose, check out this book. ♦

## An Interview with Joe Elliott

by Andrik Powell

**Andrik:** What is Catalyst Collective and what is your role in the organization?

**Joe:** Catalyst Collective is a non-profit faith-based organization that primarily works with the next generation: teens to young adults ages 13-30. I am the Founder and Executive Director of Catalyst Collective.

**Andrik:** To what extent is Catalyst Collective faith-based?

**Joe:** We believe that God has created us for a purpose and has given us the freedom to explore that purpose. Therefore, it is based on this faith that Catalyst offers all of its services. We want everybody to have the opportunity to explore their own purpose.

**Andrik:** What are Catalyst Collective's main goals and what services do you offer?

**Joe:** Catalyst Collective's main goal is to help people improve personally, professionally and spiritually. We constantly seek to answer the question, "how do we help somebody find their unique purpose in life and how can they achieve it?". As for services, Catalyst offers after school programs to high schools and middle schools, events that we host such as Equinox, and mentoring or self-coaching to help people grow and find their unique purpose.



Joe Elliott, Founder and Executive Director of Catalyst Collective. Photo courtesy of Catalyst Collective.

**Andrik:** Where do you see Catalyst Collective in the future?

**Joe:** We have three main goals that we hoping to achieve. Firstly, Catalyst being a mobile organization, we need to stabilize our income. To do that, we would like to open a 24/7 coffee shop and co-work space open to the community. Secondly, we have had popular demand for more after school programs, but have not had the funds to create them. Lastly, We want to create a better digital social following. A lot of the communication and life we're living right now is taking place online, so we want to be better at leveraging the resources that are there: Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and more. If we can build a stronger social following, we can then create more ways for people to engage with us and then we can, in return, help them to find their unique purpose. ♦

[www.catalystcollective.community](http://www.catalystcollective.community)



## Equinox: Community Reimagined

by Andrik Powell

Equinox is a combination of the two previous Catalyst Collective programs, Austin Lit with its thought-provoking discussions about real life issues young adults and college students may be dealing with; and Liturgy with its live music and carefree self-reflective type atmosphere. Equinox can be seen as a sort of hybrid church for young adults, ages 18+. But what is a hybrid church? Joe Elliott explains it as a more modern idea of church more focused on community, education and opportunities to serve and give back.

I was able to attend a couple Equinox meet ups, which each one was different than the last. The regular Equinox night usually consists of a couple tables set up with an art table where if you're into creative drawing, you can knock yourself out. There's normally a musician at the front of the room playing some relaxing music for the first half of the night. This first half of the night is a time where you can



Program Director Zac Tinney and young adults hanging out thursday night at Equinox. Photo courtesy of Catalyst Collective.

converse with friends. The second half of the night is where one of the leaders will bring up a topic for everyone to discuss; some topics being more controversial than others. After around a 20-minute discussion, the night closes with a free community dinner. Overall, I enjoyed the relaxing atmosphere of Equinox and I do think that it is better than both previous programs. ♦

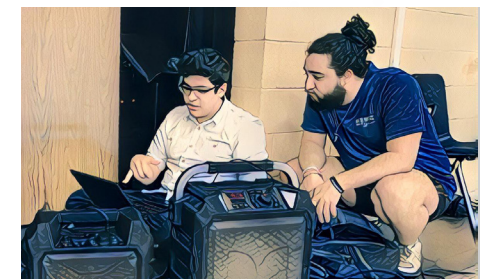
## After Hours: Helping Students

by Andrik Powell

Programs like Equinox are directed toward college students aged 18+, but what about younger students? Catalyst Collective's program After Hours is a program directed toward students, middle to high school. As its name suggests, After Hours is hosted at various schools before or after normal school classes are being conducted. At the moment, After

Hours is currently being run at four schools, McNeil and Leander high schools in the Austin area and Boswell and Saginaw high schools in the Fort Worth area. After Hours occurs every Wednesday or Monday depending on the location.

After Hours exists to create a relaxing environment and host free classes that help the students explore something they are interested in, something students may not have the opportunity to learn in school itself. Some examples could include learning how to play guitar, martial arts, video game coding, writing and



Aaron Alba of the After Hours Team writing music with student. Photo courtesy of Catalyst Collective.

playing music and much more. During After Hours, many tables are often set for students including a creation station, concessions, video and board games and gaga ball. ♦

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