

SEEING THE HOPE AND POTENTIAL IN EVERY YOUNG PERSON

June 2021

AN UPDATE FROM YOUTH FOR CHRIST WINNIPEG

Choosing to hope

Staying the course of love

"Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us....I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love."
-Romans 8:35, 37-38a

We continue to live in the space of unprecedented turmoil and unexpected possibility. There is an ongoing sense that the world will turn or change; what is not clear is which direction things will go. Will we turn toward deeper compassion and belonging, or will we turn towards even more intense forms of division and cruelty?

Our desire and prayer is to have our world move to a place that is less polarizing and more full of the love and shalom of Christ. But to take this compassionate turn towards Jesus, we need to be a reflection of Christ to those around us.

We continue to work towards choosing unity in love, even in places where we may hold differences.

Together we do our best to serve the youth God has called us to.

Youth are facing mounting challenges in this season. Recently the Kids Help Phone's statistics came out. In 2019, they answered 1.9 million calls. In 2020 the calls more than doubled to over 4 million. As we continue to adapt to changes in what we are allowed to do within health orders, our staff are giving it their all to find and recreate ways to connect and offer the good news of Jesus. At times our efforts feel small or clunky, and not like what we have done in the past. But two things remain consistent: youth still need the love and hope of Christ; and in that, our labour in the Lord is not in vain. (1 Cor. 15:58).

So this is where we are living - giving ourselves fully to the work of the Lord in the most covid-safe and respectful ways we can. We are not being stopped, we've just needed to redirect our energy to different ways of sharing the good news of Christ with youth. Our role is also in helping youth build resilience to be able to walk through this.

Statistics show that youth have an incredibly higher chance of success in life when they have at least one caring adult supporting them.

The youth with whom we have been entrusted have us, and when you pray and financially partner with us they have you as well!

Thank you for all you do in partnering with this mission.

Thank you for choosing to hope.



*Cliff Heide
Executive Director
YFC Winnipeg*

Skate camp transformation

“The best spring break of my life!”

We only had three weeks to put together our first ever Spring Break camp, due to a change in Manitoba Health restrictions. We quickly came up with a name (Spring Chickens Skateboard Camp), poster, and registration. We sent out our invites and we booked solid in 36 hours!

On Monday we had a full group of excited youth ages 8-13. There was one 12-year old girl, named “Val”, however, that was not excited to be there. She had a skateboard and rolled around for 20 minutes and then sat off to the side. I spoke with her briefly and she said she shared she was just here because her brother wanted to come. We tried to encourage her to get into our planned games and circle time (where we stretch and share something about ourselves), but she was so shy that we could not hear her talk. Brad, a full-time Edge staff, spent an hour with her just sitting, watching skateboarding, and talking to help her get comfortable. On Tuesday “Val” was still shy but she seemed comfortable hanging out with Brad. She got involved with some games but was still very timid.

The next day “Val” connected with a volunteer named Bridget. Bridget helped her spend more time skateboarding, which resulted in her learning how to roll down a ramp! At one point she rolled down the ramp without any help at all and as she rolled away she put both arms up into the air to celebrate! It was a true accomplishment for her! That same day “Val” won a prize.

On Thursday she fully came out of her shell, made friends with the other girls at the skate camp, started speaking louder, and even told a few jokes. By the last day “Val” was the last skater to leave the park. Her mom told us “Val” said this was the best Spring Break she has ever had! I love how our last minute spring break camp was able to give “Val” confidence and help her make some new friends.

- Caleb Elias, Director, The Edge Skatepark



Dancing for community

Masterworks students give back



Masterworks Dance studio has not let COVID stop us from blessing our students or the community. While serving others with the gift of dance has always been important to the Masterworks team, this year we felt compelled to show their students how they could be the hands and feet of Jesus.

First, the students involved in our Surfacing (post high school) program taught a Creative Movement class to a group of 4-6 year olds, and a Dance Exploration class for ages 7-9 at St. Aidan’s school. What a delight to see the smiles on the faces of these little ones as they safely danced six feet apart.

The students also taught a Creative Movement class to a group aged 4 and under with their parents at a local housing co-op. The families were so thankful for the fun, safe activity, and our students were moved at how their service impacted these families.

“I didn’t realize how many kids are struggling in Winnipeg,” said Surfacing student, Kaylani. “I hope I can continue to support the people we served by getting involved in helping out at schools and places of need in our city. This impacted my faith and prayer life as it reminded me of all the people that need help and prayer.”

Normally, Masterworks would be planning for a mission trip to the Dominican this summer, but as that is not possible, they did a Worship Dance Workshop with their friends in the Dominican via ZOOM. It worked well, and everyone had so much fun they’re going to do it again this summer!

While this spring has been a challenge, God has still been present and has shown Himself to our staff, students, and the community we’ve been able to serve during this time.

- Kristie Sidwall, Senior Director, Masterworks Dance Studio

Hope and belonging

Newcomers welcomed and loved

Jadiha and Jabiha Gill are sisters from Pakistan who have become a part of YFC's King St Drop-in, even though for months, they were never actually able to physically come to the drop-in.

The sisters and their family had to flee their country due to persecution for their Christian faith. They were refugees in Bangkok, but again faced persecution. Thankfully, City Church and Charleswood Church in Winnipeg sponsored the family to come to Canada. The family was thrilled to come to Winnipeg, but arrived in the middle of COVID-19 lockdowns, which made it particularly difficult for the girls to connect and feel a part of the community. It was a lonely time for Jadiha and Jabiha, until they met Greeta, the Program Coordinator for YFC's King St. Drop-in, at their church.

"I was a refugee, too," says Greeta, "so we connected very easily. I could relate to what they have been through." Greeta routinely brings food to the family, and goes for walks and talks with the girls. "We are so happy to have made friends with Greeta and the volunteers at YFC," say the sisters. "We just feel so loved, and like we are a part of the YFC family, even though we haven't been able to enjoy your amazing building yet."



Top: Gill sisters
Bottom: Greeta, YFC Drop-in

Thank you!

Thanks to everyone who tuned in to CHVN 95.1FM on April 6-9 for our **Power of Hope Radiothon in support of YFC Winnipeg.**

With all the challenges of this past year, we set a faith-stretching goal of \$100,000 and by NOON on the third day of the radiothon we met and passed that goal. God and His people are so generous! Our final total at the end of the event was an incredible \$120,877.17

We'd like to thank the team at CHVN for all their hard work, and our amazing staff and young people for sharing their stories. God is good, and He is greater than any challenge we've faced this year!



Join us at Pine Ridge!



We are thrilled to be organizing another amazing golf tournament this summer!

We would love to have you join us for a wonderful day of golf at beautiful Pine Ridge Golf & Country Club, AND make a valuable investment in the lives of young people in our community!

We can't do the work we do without your support, so please consider being a part of this special event on Wednesday, July 28th.

For more information:
judy.richichi@yfcwinnipeg.ca

Thank You

Cool donation from Harvest Manitoba

A big thank you to Harvest Manitoba for providing the funds needed for our King St. Drop-in Centre to purchase a new refrigerator! We have placed the fridge in the centre of the Drop-in area and it will be used to keep snacks and drinks cool for the many youth that come through our doors to hang out or join in one of our many activities. The fridge will also be invaluable during day camps this summer, when young people will bring lunches for the day and need to keep them refrigerated. The impact of this generous gift will last for years! We are very excited to re-open and share this new gift with our youth!



Camp Cedarwood

After several months of “code red” hunkering down, does your family need to get out of the city and have some “covid-safe” fun?

Camp Cedarwood is renting out cabins, and have planned special family retreat weeks that include fun activities for the kids and lots of amenities for the entire family.

Camp Cedarwood is located just outside Lac du Bonnet, MB, and they would love to welcome your family for your much-needed getaway.

More information at cedarwood.com, or by calling 204-345-8529 - or emailing office@campcedarwood.com



Meet Ashley

Ashley Klassen joined the YFC Winnipeg team in 2013. Since her youth, Ashley has felt a sense of calling towards working in ministry. Over the years this led her to pursue a Christian Ministry degree while working for Athletes in Action sports ministries, and later on a Counselling degree through Briercrest Seminary. While completing her masters and looking for an internship placement, Ashley was thrilled to discover that Youth for Christ Winnipeg had a counselling ministry. It became very clear to Ashley early on that YFC was the ministry God wanted her to be a part of. Since then, Ashley has served within Turning Point as a Counselling Intern, Counsellor, Interim Director, and Ministry Director, and recently took on the responsibility of equipping and supporting ministry staff as a Senior Ministry Director for YFC Winnipeg.



Youth
Unlimited™

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