



Youth for Christ

Youth Unlimited™ WINNIPEG

SPRING 2022 UPDATE

Spring is in the air, finally!

If you are receiving this quarterly newsletter for the first time, you may be wondering why. Part of our strategic planning this year is to improve the level of communication with everyone who supports the ministry and staff at Youth for Christ Winnipeg. We want to consistently share the great things that are happening all throughout YFC, and keep you well informed about how your partnership is making a difference, especially in the lives of youth. Whether you support a staff member or specific program through prayer or financially, please know we are so thankful for your partnership. This is not another request for more support, but rather an added way for you to be encouraged in hearing where God is at work through the many programs and community locations that YFC is serving youth. We want you to continue praying and giving where you have already felt led to do so.

It is our hope that you will also enjoy seeing a small snapshot of all the YFC programs and events in these quarterly updates. Each of our programs, and every one of our staff are a part of an incredible effort to help, love, and care for youth and give them the opportunity to be living fully in Christ. If you ever have any questions or would like to tour any one of our facilities to see firsthand what happens here, please give us a call, we would be happy to set something up. Thank you so much for being a part of these stories and this Kingdom work, we couldn't be doing it without you.

A Season of Growth

Masterworks excited by growing community

This past season has been a mix of blessings and challenges. The blessings are being able to welcome everyone back and run full sessions, attend competitions, and plan a recital. The challenges are seeing so many of our youth struggling with vulnerabilities. The Masterworks team has noticed a real hesitation in their youth to step back out into the world and to be themselves again after 2 long years.



It is a blessing that the community around Masterworks has grown, and the way everyone has been supportive of each other has been awesome. The parents, volunteers, and staff have really come together to devise creative solutions for the frequently changing pandemic problems. A particular source of joy this year has been uniting our different classes with a common theme. The name of this year's dance recital was Community Gardens, which became the theme for the whole year. The Masterworks team has also been intentional about diving into various biblical teachings related to gardens, plants, and growth during their "Breathe" times, the time set aside to talk about faith.

The pandemic has been a real struggle for young people in our community and has taken a toll on their mental well being, the need for hope in our youth is real. Please pray for the youth in our program, that they would feel courageous, loved and valued. That they would not hide or fall into the trap that they are anything less than amazing and full of potential.

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter via email, please let us know at info@yfcwinnipeg.ca

Sowing Seeds

Exciting summer opportunities for Work Force

From the moment Ian Croatto and Dan Benson, Work Force Director and Job Studio Coordinator, discovered the First Jobs Fund Grant they were excited to get to work planning a summer full of opportunity. After months of prayer, planning, and waiting expectantly for God to provide, they received notice in early May that they would be receiving the substantial grant for their community garden proposal. Praise be to God!

What better way to provide a calm, nurturing place to provide the Work Force Christ-centered therapeutic milieu while practically equipping our youth with “hard working, get down and dirty” life skills only a garden can provide. Working in the Garden last year, we learned every youth has different capacities and 20 or 30 hours could simply be overwhelming. With this grant we have the opportunity to oversee the whole process and work with the youth where they are at by providing a customized program to build their skills and capacities.



A garden also provides the perfect environment for us to incorporate devotional times and specific training opportunities such as preparing, preserving, and cooking with what is produced! It is an understatement to say we are excited to see what God has in store for the youth in our program this summer! Please continue to pray for the team and the youth as we continue the YFC mission to see “every young person living fully in Christ!”

Bearing Fruit

Building community at The Edge

Being one of the only indoor skate parks in the province, The Edge is a great resource and opportunity to make some strong community connections. This past year some partnerships have resulted in new regular scheduled sessions and it has been amazing to serve a wider variety of skaters. One group in particular, Manitoba Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Council, has started two sessions a week, named "Inner City Skate". It has been great to see the growth and excitement around this new initiative.



Meet Nick

Nick has been coming to The Edge since he was 14 years old. Caleb Elias, The Edge Program Director, took him to B.C on his first skate trip while he was filled with teenage angst. Caleb was able to learn part of his story that week and would continue to get to know him over the the next eight years. Nick would go from an Edge "kid" to one of the best summer staff we have ever had. His journey has been amazing to see as he became a Christian and devoted himself to a local church. Just recently he got baptized and he thanked The Edge community in his testimony. Caleb says that it was an honour to baptize Nick. The real story is that God's love for Nick transformed his heart. Pray for Nick, the newly baptized!



Deepening Roots

YFC Soccer has seen a huge spike in interest

Coming out of the pandemic, our soccer program has seen a huge amount of interest. Starting with 20 youth, which is only enough for two teams a night in September, it has quickly grown to over 60 youth by the end of the year. Amazing!



What makes this group so unique is that 90% of these youth are of global majority, many only recently coming to Canada as refugees from their home countries. A large proportion of these youth are from Muslim families as well.

This has not stopped them from coming to YFC run programs every week or being a part of the God talks. The youth are making real connections with the leaders and building stronger friendships amongst themselves. Samuel Mwendwa, Soccer Program Director, says "It is turning into a special community, YFC is like a second home to some of these youth and a highlight of their week. Many will come even if they know they are not playing that night just to be here. The few that are graduating this year are looking at ways to stay involved."

Plans for summer and fall are already in the works and while there are capacity challenges the staff are excited about the opportunity ahead of them. Please pray that the team will continue to find ways to deepen their relationships with these youth and that they would be able to meet the many needs of their diverse group.

Flourishing Opportunities

YFC Carman hopes to break ground this summer

The team out in Carman, MB is incredibly excited for their new Youth Centre. To date \$1,136,000 has been raised, and while the \$1,700,000 target has yet to be reached, we are hoping to move forward this summer. YFC Carman has a very strong presence in the area, serving 170 different youth over the past year.

Programs run every weeknight, from drop-ins, Girls Night, Basketball Night and Free Meal Fridays. Tyler Friesen, YFC Carman Director, is looking forward to having all their programs operate under one roof. The added gym space and commercial size kitchen will be a huge blessing, allowing them to share the hope of Jesus with even more young people. Please pray for the success of this project!



Power of Hope Radiothon

Thank you to each and every one of you who participated in the YFC Power of Hope Radiothon and our Season of Hope campaign.



We are pleased to announce that \$156,751 was raised to help youth in our community!

Special Thanks to the following sponsors. We couldn't have done it without you!

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How You Can Get Involved

"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another." 1 Peter 4:10

Pray

Please pray for our Ministry leaders, Staff and Volunteers as we continue to serve youth that are facing anxiety and uncertainty. And that our activities, programs and resources would be effective in showing the hope of Christ to youth in our communities this coming season.

Volunteer

Consider using your gifts to engage and equip youth to follow Jesus. We have many amazing opportunities for those looking to serve in a volunteer capacity.

yfcwinnipeg.com/volunteer

Join Our Team

Has God been nudging you to start a career in youth ministry? Currently we are looking to fill a number of key positions on our staff team:

yfcwinnipeg.com/careers

- *Turning Point Counselor*
- *Accountant/Bookkeeper*
- *Camp Cedarwood Summer Staff*
- *Events Coordinator*
- *Volunteer Coordinator*
- *Program Director - The Rock*
- *HR Coordinator*
- *Hospitality Coordinator*
- *Program Coordinators (The Edge, Young Parents)*



Sponsor An Upcoming Event

YFC Golf Tournament 2022

Tuesday, July 26

Glendale Golf and Country Club

For More Details:

yfcwinnipeg.com/events

