



Youth for Christ

Youth Unlimited™ WINNIPEG

CHRISTMAS 2022

Season's Greetings

The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood." - John 1:14a, The Message

During the season of Advent, the Church reflects on the great mystery of the Incarnation. In an era of oppression, darkness, and long-suffering, God entered our world in the form of a small, vulnerable child. And, as the gospels tell us, this child-king grew up not to acclaim wealth and worldly power, but to model the depths of God's upside-down, suffering-servant love for all of humanity.

As we look back on Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, we can also expect and celebrate God's new birth within each of us. Our practice of advent invites us to remember that God continues to take on flesh and blood today, through the lives of ordinary people like you and me. As followers of Christ, we are the continuation of the incarnation, the hands and feet of Christ for our weary world.

Much like at the time of Christ, our world still experiences oppression, darkness, and long-suffering, and needs to experience God's loving presence. God partners with us, giving each of us the opportunity to bring His hope, mercy, and love into the lives of those around us. This is intrinsic to the work we do at YFC Winnipeg and is reflected in how we are physically present with youth and families that need love and care.

This December, we are once again inviting you to participate in our Christmas Prayer Ornament appeal. We hope you will use this opportunity to join together with us in specifically praying for one of our youth and their families. Together we pray that they would know and experience the love of our God who draws them close.

As we near the end of the year, we are so grateful for your prayer and financial partnership with YFC Winnipeg. May God meet you and your families in this season of waiting and anticipation for the present and coming light of the world. Merry Christmas!

- Cliff Heide, Executive Director

Invitation to Pray

About Our Christmas Ornaments

Our new logo is an abstract take on the speech bubble, combined with an upward facing arrow, integrating bold angles that reinforce the movement towards Christ. This bold icon represents the upward-moving conversations staff and volunteers have with youth through programs and relationships. The icon is also a container that holds the Gospel message. The ornament appeal embodies all of this with a youth name in its centre to allow for your prayers to be a part of their journey. We hope you will join us as we pray for our youth.



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

Finding Joy in Community

Steven's Story

Steven is a young man in grade 7. Last year he showed up as a quiet, reserved, very shy kid who wouldn't move much on the court. In spite of that, we could tell he was enjoying himself because he kept coming back, and although he wouldn't engage with the other boys, he did respond to the coaches at times. He spent his time between games just taking shots at the net, from the same spot. As the weeks went on, it was obvious his confidence and comfort levels were growing as Steven started to move a bit more. The coaches and the other players' continued attempts to get him involved slowly started working and he has become increasingly engaged with the community.



We are now at the start of Steven's second year in the Ball Hockey program. The first email we received starting up again this September came from him. "We are currently rebuilding our Jr. High program so there are not many regulars at the moment, but it's clear that Steven will be a building block of the program. He shows up every Friday night and can be seen shooting from his spot on the court, and he is definitely more engaged," says Jamie Wilson, Ball Hockey Program Director. A kind and respectful kid, he will make sure that if you don't have a ball, he'll give his up so you can shoot. He is still very reserved and shy, but you can see his joy and his confidence growing by being a part of our small ball hockey community.

We are incredibly thankful for the opportunity we have to provide welcoming spaces for fun and for community to happen, like Jr. High Friday Hockey, where youth like Steven can find happiness, build friendships, and discover their potential.

Return of the Lunch Program

Feeding Body and Soul

Every week the YFC team out in St Pierre run a lunch program for the two local high schools. In the past, we have had over 100 kids attend each week! These days we are trying to rebuild that momentum, and the response has been very encouraging so far this year. Every Thursday & Friday high school students flood the Drop-In during the lunch hour. Some are drawn in by the free warm meal, others are just looking to break up their school day, but all are offered an opportunity to hear the gospel and build connections with caring adults!



Our staff and volunteers prepare the food, serve the meals, share the gospel, and engage with the youth. Some days the program gets close to 50 high school students. What an amazing opportunity we have to build relationships and share the Gospel with high school students.

We never take this for granted and we thank God always for the opportunity we have. We continuously pray for protection over this program, and for the schools' favour towards us. God has blessed us with great relationships with our schools.

Scooters

An Awesome Reminder of Fatherly Love

Over this past summer, The Rig began hosting a group of youth that were participating in the Work Force program as a way for them to have some fun and let off some steam. During the sessions one youth connected with Parker, The Rig Program Director. They began conversing about his experience with Work Force, what he liked about it and what he was going to do with the money he was earning. This young man shared that he really wanted a scooter, a colorful trick scooter. After their discussion, Parker felt God calling him to be the one to get him the scooter.

Parker only saw this young man a few more times over the summer. Recently this young man showed up for one of The Rig's program nights, the same week that Camp Cedarwood had decided to get rid of their unused BMX bikes and colourful scooters and they happened to be just sitting in the lobby. The best part is that there wasn't just one scooter, there were four! As God would have it, this youth had invited his three best friends to come with him that night. Parker excitedly gifted the boys the scooters. To have the opportunity to bless him by gifting these scooters to him and his friends was such an incredible moment. It not only made his day, but it showed him that Parker remembered their talk, and that he cared. Parker was able to testify to this young man about how God knows the deepest desires of our hearts and if we are truly honest and give it to Him, He will make a way.

What an awesome opportunity, to give this boy and his friends a tangible reminder, something that they can see and feel, that there is a God who knows and loves them more than they could ever know!



Thank you to those who joined us for our Fall Banquet either virtually or in-person. We hope that you felt encouraged by the work that God is doing through YFC.

The support and feedback we received was amazing, and over \$60,000 was raised. We are incredibly grateful!



We would like to acknowledge the following sponsors for supporting this event:

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Ways You Can Get Involved at YFC

"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 serve youth that are facing anxiety and hopelessness. 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 know and follow Jesus. We have many amazing opportunities for those looking to serve in a volunteer capacity. To discover areas to get involved or to apply, please visit:

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 in both our administration team and various youth ministries:

To view our opportunities please visit yfcwinnipeg.com/careers

Administrative Roles

- Events Coordinator
- Office and Human Resources Coordinator
- Accountant/Bookkeeper
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Hospitality Coordinator

Youth Ministry Roles

- Camp Cedarwood Staff
- Program Director - The Rock
- Program Coordinators (Soccer, The Edge Skateboard Park, The Rig Fitness Centre, Ball Hockey, Young Parents)



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