

# IMPACT REPORT

2023

 **Youth  
for Christ**  
Youth Unlimited™  
WINNIPEG

DISCOVER  
YOUR IMPACT  
PG 2

STORIES OF  
TRANSFORMATION  
ON CENTREFOLD

CELEBRATE GOD  
AT WORK IN  
OUR PROGRAMS  
PG 6

# YOUR IMPACT

## in 2023

2,359

Youth in direct ministry contact

106

Youth responded to the opportunity to follow Jesus

159

Youth in follow up discipleship programs



32,008 Meals or snacks served



174 Youth in mentoring relationships



98 Food hampers delivered



100 Youth were assisted in finding a job



1,941 Rides given to help youth attend programs



66 Youth were helped in finding a local church



253 Youth supported through a crisis or milestone



200 Youth were given their first Bible

# The Invitation to Be Known

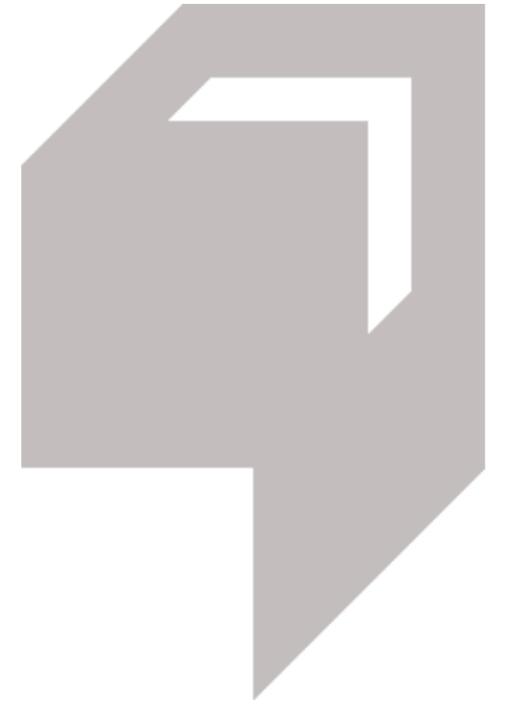


Cliff Heide  
Executive Director

Every day youth are asking questions: What to post on social media? What will they do this weekend? What job should they apply for? Many questions lay on the surface of life. But if we were to listen deeper, underneath are questions around identity, belonging, and purpose: Who am I? Where do I fit? What difference can I make? Our role in loving and caring for youth is to help bring these deeper questions up to the surface, and walk with them in relationship - knowing that the best answers to these questions come from Jesus.

Studies in social sciences reveal that personal transformation does not happen due to power of will or determination, but rather through relationships, attachment, and love. Yes, Youth for Christ offers safe spaces, resources, and activities - but first and foremost our purpose is to model Jesus to the youth that come to our programs in offering meaningful relationships and positive community. Through this, youth may find a place for connection, a place to belong, a place to be known, and a place to receive love and care. These relationships offer incredible healing potential and opportunity for transformative life change.

We offer youth this invitation to be known and loved through real relationships with caring staff and volunteers. But even deeper, we offer them an invitation to be known and loved by Jesus - an attachment that can carry them through all of life. Every 'impact' in this report represents a relational connection that was made with the hopes of it being fostered into lasting transformation. We are thankful for the opportunity to faithfully serve youth in partnership with you, and celebrate the tangible impacts.



- The Rig
- The Rock
- The Edge
- Ball Hockey
- Soccer
- King St. Drop-in
- Arborg
- Niverville
- St. Pierre
- Carman
- Young Parents
- Work Force
- Film & Media
- Masterworks Studio
- Turning Point Counselling
- Stonewall
- Selkirk
- Camp Cedarwood
- South Osborne

# Stories of Transformation...

## ... in the heart

In January 2023 we launched a brand-new ministry which has given youth an opportunity to learn and be mentored in all things filmmaking and media creation while being disciplined in their faith. We started the year with a group of six youth gathering bi-weekly to create films, and continued to see attendance increase to engaging 50 youth throughout the year.

This ministry has become a place for youth to find community and discover their own creativity that God has given to them. As each youth has discovered how God has given them gifts, they have realized how they are unique and valuable. We have also been learning about God's story of redemption and many youth have taken that true story to heart. We praise God for what He has done through this ministry and what He will continue to accomplish!



**Caleb Mogilevsky**  
Film & Media Ministry Director

“This is one of my favourite places because I feel the most freed up creatively... We're all together able to express ourselves and express who God is really, this place is very meaningful

-Film & Media Youth



## ... in faith

“We started making Bibles available for the moms, taught them how to find specific verses, and encouraged them to read the verses for each devotional. This has opened them up to God's word in a new, curious way. Many of them have since taken Bibles home to read and they are becoming hungrier for the truth found in God's word.

-Deb Richards  
Young Parents  
Ministry Director

“A former participant got baptized after particularly adverse circumstances, ten years in the making.

-Gordon Kroeker  
Niverville Satellite  
Director

## ... in friendships



“I like seeing a lot of kids that also believe in what I do ... I don't see that often at school, and so I grew in my faith because there are these new friendships. Having a complete week with no distractions, and just being able to be with God and people who know God, and being able to ask questions.

-Cedarwood Youth

## ... in community

In 2023, our ministry experienced significant breakthroughs. Notably, we welcomed approximately 30 new youth to our programs, a substantial increase from previous years. We've been fostering a culture where Bible reading is normal and discussing life's big questions is comfortable. Evangelism happens over a meal, a game of ping pong, pool, or video games!

Furthermore, we successfully hosted our inaugural Building Bridges Community Fundraiser, a dynamic street-festival-style event that actively engaged the local community both in-person and financially. The event raised over \$44,000. God is definitely at work in this community.

We raised a significant amount of finances and garnered more than 60 volunteers. We estimate about 350 people came for the event. 2023 was financially, the best year in 10 years!



**Colin Chen**  
YFC Arborg Ministry Director



## ... in livelihood

Job Studio is an employment and life skills training program for youth ages 16-20. Over seven months, the course focuses on job skills such as resume writing, how to search and find a job, interview practice, teamwork, dealing with conflict, and what to expect when starting a new job. Youth also learn practical skills like budgeting, cooking, avoiding debt, computer skills, avoiding scams, etc.

This past year we have seen unpredictable youth attendance transform into a habit of showing up regularly, on time, and communicating with their leader. These three things are the foundations for succeeding in their future jobs. We also saw 10 out of the 13 youth participating continue on to find summer jobs!

After youth complete Job Studio, they are helped to use their new skills to find jobs, and are given the opportunity for mentorship and discipleship. By meeting regularly twice a week, we provide a safe, structured, and Jesus-centered environment where youth are able to build strong habits and discover their potential.



**Dan Benson**  
Work Force Program Coordinator



## ... in families

As a ministry of YFC, we work together to care for every part of a youth including their family system. As youth are referred to us, we can also introduce them to other YFC programs that further help them grow. It is our prayer that as we meet their needs for psychological and emotional help, that they may find the hope and full potential of their lives as designed by God. It is an honour to walk alongside those who are struggling, and when we get to witness the transformation that can take place in a counselling session, that is truly the greatest impact.

532 Counselling Sessions Total

35 Families Served

197 Free Counselling Sessions



**Katy Mesics**  
Turning Point Ministry Director

# Let's Celebrate!

328 youth came to experience Camp Cedarwood

95 youth were supported through to high school graduation



468 pizza slices served on a typical week thanks to an amazing partnership

1,050

students visited our YFC Winnipeg facility with school groups. For some this would have been their first time at YFC, connecting them to our fun and accessible programs!



“A youth shared that the community that he experiences here at YFC is far more supportive and desirable than the other hockey rec leagues he plays in.”  
-Jamie Wilson  
Ball Hockey  
Ministry Director



9 young moms were supported through childbirth!

9 youth took the opportunity to work and serve in their programs over the summer, growing as leaders and in their faith



300+ youth participated in the YFC Soccer ministry, making it one of our most highly engaged programs!



24,000+

bible verses were read on average between four of our Satellite Drop-In Centres, where youth can read Bible verses in exchange for concession items.

“Many of these young people have never even seen a Bible before. Some of them struggle to read. In more than one case, a parent commented that she had never heard her son read out loud, even at school.”  
- Chris Harwood  
Senior Ministry Director



**Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves.**

Romans 12:10

# Thank you for being part of our team!

<b>55</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>3,733</b>
FRONTLINE STAFF	ADMIN / SUPPORT STAFF	SEASONAL STAFF	VOLUNTEERS	CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS	ACTIVE GIVERS

“Some youth have been with us for years and talked about their goals they’re slowly working towards, while others are learning how to survive amidst their difficult situations. Countless youth have reached out in their darkest times to be encouraged and walked through their mental health struggles. The scripture calls out to each of us to “taste and see the Lord is Good” (Psalm 34:8) and **it has been wonderful being part of allowing the youth to taste of His faithfulness and goodness through each of our staff, volunteers, and programs!**

-Ian Croatto  
Work Force Ministry Director

“Debby is one of my heroes, and we are blessed to have her as a weekly volunteer, a steering committee member for our satellite drop-in, and a prayer warrior that meets weekly to pray for our youth. After years of working in the schools with students of all ages, she is so excited to be able to share the Gospel with kids freely. She is inspiring our youth to memorize scripture, and they are so proud to recite what they have learned every week. We thank God for Debby, her huge heart and the impact she continues to make on our youths' hearts and minds!

-Teresa Galashan  
Selkirk Satellite Director

81% of our funding comes from our incredible ministry partners.

“The drop-in is a fun community full of caring, loving, fun people who you can become friends with. A place where you can be yourself, play sports, then chill and eat pizza. You can even do your homework! You should come to YFC because it’s a great place to spend your time after school without spending any money but still having fun!!

-YFC Youth

Join our Prayer Team  Subscribe to our Newsletter  Create Change Get Involved  Partner with us financially 