

NEWSLETTER

CHRISTMAS 2024

**Youth
for Christ****Youth Unlimited™**

WINNIPEG



The Light of the World

**BY CLIFF HEIDE**
Executive Director

“The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light”

Isaiah 9:2

Christmas is a celebration of God’s provision of a way forward. Through Christ we are offered a path to see what is to come, a light to see through the darkness.

The prophetic message of Isaiah highlights the contrast of light and darkness and also reminds us of God’s larger overarching story. From the first words in Genesis, “Let there be light...” God provided visibility - making a way for his creation, to see forward, and not stumble in darkness.

The gospel of John echoes this image, but expands it, reminding us that it is CHRIST who is the light of the world. God first announces the light, then provides The Light.

Going further, Jesus tells his followers to “let your light shine before others.” We are invited to not only display and reflect His image but also to become His likeness, bearing His light.

Our world today still holds the same darkness it always has - the strain of the fallen world, and the waiting for all things to be set to right. Through Christ, the Kingdom has come in part, but it has not come yet in its fullness. Youth today are living in this reality. In the search for meaning, belonging, and identity, youth right now have very little that feels completely clear or “well lit” for them.

We are grateful the story continues beyond our current reality. The book of Revelation announces a time where we will experience the light of God so fully, there will be no need for the sun! From God’s announcement, to Christ’s incarnation, to our participation, and into God’s

fulfilment - The Light is coming!

But for now our mission is to carry on God’s story - to reflect the light of Christ to others like a city on a hill that can not be hidden. We long to see youth have the opportunity to discover the light that gives life, and be in a place where they can see through the darkness. We invite them to come and see, to discover, and to have the chance to encounter The Light.

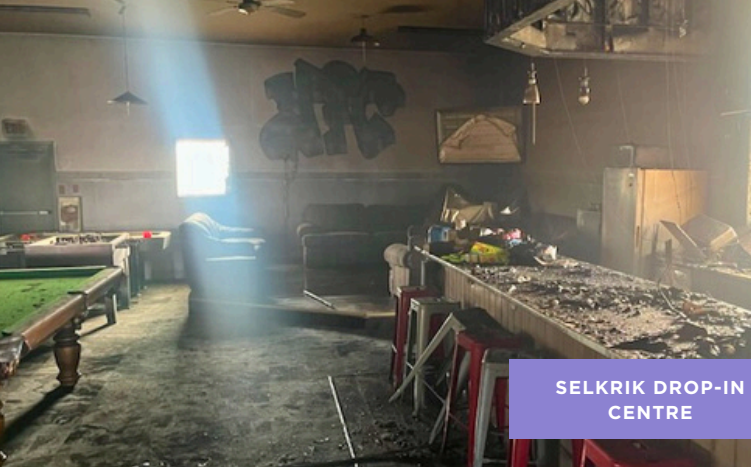
You are the encouragement and support that makes this possible. Your partnership with this ministry is part of this light. Thank you for partnering in this important work, we couldn’t do it without you, and we are so thankful. Together we are bringing an awakening, and helping the gospel light to shine out into the place where there is a present darkness. Merry Christmas!

Christmas Prayer Ornaments

Once again this Christmas we want to invite you to partner with us in prayer for the youth we serve.

As we are unable to send out our ornaments this year, we invite you to call us, and we can provide you with the name of a Youth who you can pray for this Christmas season. We will then place an ornament with their name on our tree.





SELKIRK DROP-IN CENTRE

“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.”

- 1 Peter 4:12-13

provision in the aftermath of the fire is the amazing way rental space was offered to us immediately. Within 24 hours the Selkirk Friendship Centre offered us their space to continue running our evening programs which is perfect for our current needs and it was miraculously available on all the nights we had been running programs. Our lunch program is still able to take place as well, as the Lutheran Hall was also available for us to rent and is just a short walk away from the Drop-In so the Jr. High youth can still walk over from school. God is so good!

There will be lots of work involved, but we are confident that God will provide what we need, right when we need it. And that is exactly what He has done so far. We held our regular Tuesday Drop-In outside two days later, and one of our "regulars," a junior high girl,

came unprompted to say "Thank you for having drop-in even though your building burned down." A soft, but important, reminder that despite facing trials our ministry matters so much to the young people we serve and care for. We know we have a unique opportunity to show our faith and Godly leadership to those watching in this community.



Thanks to your support we have the human power and resources to withstand a disaster to our Drop-in and remain a consistent presence in the lives of youth, showing many first hand how to walk in faith

Overcoming Hardship

YFC Selkirk

On Sunday, Sept 15, it was discovered that our Drop-In centre in Selkirk had an electrical fire and had suffered significant damage. The ministry was suddenly faced with the new reality that programs would not be able to continue in that space for at least the rest of the school year. "As much of a shock as this has been," Teresa, YFC Selkirk Ministry Director says, "we have seen God's provision in unexpected ways throughout the past few weeks. Hopefully

we will be able to use this opportunity to make better use of the facility by re-designing the space." It is our hope that we can make the building a safer, more attractive place that can help effectively accommodate our youth and programs even better for many years to come.

We are also getting to network in new ways with other organizations in our community," Teresa says. One way that we have seen God's

Working Together

Work Force

Each year, approximately \$25,000 of the Work Force budget is raised to be distributed to youth in the form of honorariums for the younger youth or wages for the older ones. Youth are compensated for their efforts for fulfilling their roles within the program. Understandably, a common question asked is "So, what do most youth do with their money?" Which is a really good question. Most participants' efforts get put towards gift cards at their favourite

shopping places or food establishments. In the end, they often save up to get something they simply wouldn't be able to afford.

This past summer three siblings did something out of the ordinary and decided to work together to pull off a plan called- Project Puppy! Two brothers and their younger sister desperately wanted a dog, however their parents gave the common response, "You want one, you pay for one!" The three

agreed to channel their efforts and combine their gift cards. In less than a month, pooling each of their \$45 per week they were able to pay for the puppy and a short while later Charlie was part of the family! Puppy love is very therapeutic and the family is getting and giving unconditional love to their newest member. Charlie is also teaching them how to be responsible.

These youth exercised what they had been learning at Summer Work Force; they worked together to come up with a plan, set a goal, and are now enjoying the fruits of their labour! Way to go!

Thanks to our amazing business sponsors and the many individuals who continue to give towards Work Force making this type of ministry possible!



WORK FORCE

Shining Bright The Rig

At the beginning of summer, Samir and Youseff, two young men from Afghanistan showed up to the program, very eager to do parkour. It was pretty clear after a few short moments of them being in the space that they knew what they were doing! They quickly began skipping, dodging, and flipping over the obstacles like it was nothing! It was awesome to watch these two young men fly through the course and make it look so easy but what really was impressive were their stories of where they came from.

They shared that their families were part of the refugees that fled Afghanistan after the USA military left in 2021. This event

left their families, as Christians, vulnerable to the Islamic state of the country which is why they came to Canada.

Parker Bowles, The Rig Ministry Director, says "These young men are truly incredible. Having gone through some of the worst situations anyone could go through they still find time to be kids, have fun, and work hard. It shows in their character and the way they treat others."

At YFC we find it a true source of joy to be a place where youth, no matter their background, can come to our programs and be celebrated for who they are as Children of God who want to let their light shine.

Thanks to your financial support The Rig is able to offer fun and engaging programs that are completely free, removing barriers so that youth can come and hear about Jesus.



THE RIG

FOOD SERVICES



Growing Together Food Services

We have a number of individuals and organizations that support us in various ways throughout the year and we are so very appreciative of them. Whether it is donations of food for our lunch programs, sports equipment for our athletic programs, craft supplies for the Drop-in, or baby clothing for our Young Parents ministry, each fills a basic need and impacts our youth more than you know.

We recently featured our new food services ministry in our Fall Newsletter and we would like to follow up on that story by sharing that [At Minimarket](#), a local specialty supermarket

that sells a diverse collection of Latin American and Asian food products have stepped up to support this ministry financially. They believed in the vision of the program and wanted to support it. We are so grateful for their partnership.

We have many ways that organizations can support our ministry programs and be a real blessing to our youth. If you feel your organization can sponsor a program or help fill a need, please let us know! We would love to celebrate your contributions and how you are making a difference in the lives of our youth.

Thank You!

Thank you to all who participated in our various banquets this fall! We have many amazing reasons to celebrate and it was so great being able to do that with you. In total over \$185,000 was raised at our banquets towards our ministry, in Winnipeg and surrounding communities.



Special thanks to the following sponsors and the many individuals who attended. We couldn't have done it without you!

GOLD SPONSORS

Winnipeg

- Concord Projects
- The Bill and Margaret Fast Foundation

Stonewall

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- Royal LePage Legacy
- East Creek Farms
- Columbine Holsteins
- LCL Construction
- Graysville Mennonite Church
- Rippleview Hoof Care
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- Fine Line Tattoo Studio
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- Caisse Financial Group
- RMB Plumbing
- St. Pierre Garage
- A Baker's Story Inc.
- Candice Bakx-Friesen Real Estate Agent

Forward Together

How you can get involved: **This Winter**

Pray

YFC Selkirk: Please pray for the staff, volunteers, and youth in this community as they go through the process of re-building their youth centre. For energy, discernment, and encouragement through all the decision making, coordinating, and improvising needed in the days ahead.

Work Force: Join us in praying for the youth we serve, that they would experience hope in Jesus. And that our staff and volunteers would speak truth and love as they lead and build up those in their programs.

The Rig: Pray that the youth in our care would find themselves, discovering their strengths, passions, and joy so that people would see Jesus through them.

Partnerships: Praise God for all the generous ministry partners who support our staff and ministries. Pray that more will give so that our team may grow and our ministry programs can expand to the meet the needs of youth in our communities.

Volunteer

We are always looking for caring and responsible adults who love the Lord and are excited to make an impact in the lives of young people.

If you are interested in being a part of a ministry program in Winnipeg, at one of our satellite centres, or simply want to know more, don't hesitate to get in touch.

Camp Cedarwood: We have a need for more help at Camp Cedarwood this fall/winter. If you are interested in using your gifts of hospitality, cooking, or handiwork we would love to hear from you!

Join Our Team

If you have a heart to serve young people would you please consider joining us for the upcoming ministry year.

Camp Cedarwood: We are looking to hire a Camp Director. We also have opportunities for people who want to use their gifts of hospitality or administration.

The Rock & The Edge: Program Coordinators and Directors to help facilitate and deliver programs for our rock climbing and skateboarding ministries.

Admin: We are hiring for several new roles in our Winnipeg office.

"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



To learn more about how and where you can serve, please visit:

yfcwinnipeg.ca/careers

yfcwinnipeg.ca/volunteer

Donate

Whether you are giving to one of our programs, a staff member, or our general ministry please know that your gift is a life-changing legacy, and together we can help young people attain their full God-given potential, in every area of life. Below is a list of areas that you can designate your donation to:

GENERAL MINISTRY

Winnipeg Niverville
Arborg Selkirk
Carman St. Pierre
Stonewall Camp Cedarwood

(Note that all community designations stay in their community)

SPECIFIC PROGRAMS

Young Parents The Edge Skatepark
Ball Hockey The Rig Fitness Center
Film & Media The Rock Climbing Gym
Work Force Turning Point Counselling
King St. Drop-In Masterworks Arts Studio
Soccer

MISSIONARY STAFF

To explore our team and make a gift to one of our missionary staff members visit:

yfcwinnipeg.ca/our-team

TO GIVE VIA E-TRANSFER

DONATE@YFCWINNIPEG.CA

Please include your donation designation and contact information in the message box!

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