

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025



**Youth  
for Christ**  
Youth Unlimited™  
WINNIPEG

# Joining In God's Movement



**BY CLIFF HEIDE**  
Executive Director

**“We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.”**

Proverbs 16:9

At YFC, we spend significant time planning events, building relationships, and dreaming about how to help young people encounter the life-changing love of Jesus. But more and more, we're reminded of a deeper truth: God is already at work. Before we ever show up, He is moving. Our calling is not to create the current, but to step faithfully into the stream of His ongoing work.

Eugene Peterson often described the Christian life in terms of what Greek grammar calls the middle voice. It's not active (where we do the work),

nor passive (where something is done to us). Instead, it's participatory—we jump into an action already underway. This is how we serve in youth ministry. Jesus, our risen and interceding Savior, is already praying for these students, already sowing seeds of faith. Our role is to join in with Him.

Proverbs 16:9 grounds this beautifully. We plan diligently, but it is the Lord who guides our steps. That doesn't mean our effort is meaningless—it means our work is most powerful when it aligns with God's direction. It's a call to hold our strategies loosely and our obedience tightly.

This is why we need you. This mission - of seeing every young person living fully in Christ - is not something we can do alone. We are walking with youth as they discover joy, purpose, and faith in Jesus and we need a

community of supporters who believe that young people matter to God, and who are willing to step into this sacred work with us.

Your partnership as stakeholders - through prayer, financial support, mentorship, and service - makes all the difference. Every gift, every hour, every word of encouragement helps us stay in step with where God is already moving. You aren't just funding programs or helping out at events - you're saying, “Yes, Lord, I want to be part of what You're doing in this generation.”

So we invite you: step into the stream with us. Let us move forward not just with passion, but with awareness, attuning our eyes and ears to the movement of the Spirit. And let us walk together into the unfolding story God is writing in the lives of young people.



We are very excited to share that three Work Force youth decided to go on the “Eye's Wide Open” Life Teams ministry trip. An adventure that promises to be both beautiful and transformative.

Life Teams, a ministry of YFC Canada, is a one-year discipleship program for youth who've recently graduated high school. It's an intense, faith-deepening experience that equips young people to engage in meaningful ministry with the next generation.

This trip is all about exposure, helping the youth we serve catch a vision for what's possible after high school.

Three of our current staff are Life Teams Grads!

Let's join in with Him, because He's already at work.

We hope the following stories of God already at work inspire and encourage you!

# Together in Grief, Together in Strength: Remembering Lana Work Force



It is with heavy hearts that we share Lana's story, a young lady who was a part of our Work Force community for the past few years who has tragically passed away. Lana was only 19 years old.

She first got involved in the Work Force Ministry in 2023 where she was part of the Job Studio garden project, a new initiative at the time where youth were tasked with taking care of a large section of land, growing vegetables.

She decided to quit smoking cold turkey on her first week of work! As you can imagine it made for some ups and downs on her first few shifts. On top of that, this was her first job experience, and there was a lot to learn. During that first week there were times when she simply refused to work... One particular time stands out. She was asked to go do a task and a while later she was found just

laying on the ground, sunbathing in the warm sun.

A few weeks later we asked her to move some heavy logs. She went into it with full force, angrily throwing the logs with everything she had. We didn't realize she was so strong! "I let her go at it and gave her some space. The next shift, she told me that she was really thankful she was able to do the hard work of moving the logs because she said it let her get out a lot of the anger and frustration," says Dan Benson, Work Force Coordinator.

Throughout that summer she showed lots of growth. She successfully quit smoking, she increased in confidence, learned to take direction better, and became one of our hardest and most reliable workers! She also took a personal interest in our sunflower patch, even working through her breaks to continue weeding and watering.

As staff, we were privileged to be able to walk alongside Lana on her faith journey over the past few years. She was connected with a church, where she was baptized and was surrounded by a loving community there as well. Lana really enjoyed our "God Talks" and as staff we really liked having her there to keep the conversation going! She asked intelligent questions and showed a genuine interest in learning.

Lana had her struggles, but was always willing to pray and ask God for help along the way. She was also very open to talking about her ups and downs and it was inspiring for us as leaders to see the humility and also the perseverance that she displayed. Lana had plans to get back into school and finish her grade 12, and to take a cosmetology course.

We all miss Lana very much! This year we will be planting sunflowers in honor of Lana at the garden.



**It was such an encouragement to attend Lana's funeral and to see how many people came out to support the family in their grief. It was also an encouragement to hear the pastor speak of Lana's relatively recent baptism and her growing faith. Death and grief are never easy but the burden is lightened when we know that we will be reunited in heaven.**

—SHAUNNA GOODE  
Work Force Youth  
Development Coordinator

We are grateful for your support knowing one day we will be able to reunite with Lana in Heaven with our Lord and Saviour!

## Three Years of Mentorship

Shaunna, Lana, Ian



Since Lana's passing, our Work Force team has had the opportunity to engage in deep and meaningful conversations with many of our youth. We've shared how, as Christians, we view death from a very different perspective—one of hope and eternal life. We continue to pray for more uplifting and encouraging conversations in the days to come.

Please join us in praying for our youth as they continue to process their grief. Many of them have already experienced a great deal of death in their circles, and this leads them to try to somehow numb this overwhelming sense of pain. This can be very detrimental to them in the long run.

You can also pray that our staff would have the wisdom and grace needed to support the youth at this time. That we would be able to effectively communicate and model the hope that can only be found in Jesus; a hope that shines even in the darkest of times.





# More Than a Hangout King St. Drop-in

Leo is a young man who has been a big part of our King St. Drop-in community for the past 3 years. We recently interviewed Leo and the leaders that serve this ministry about his passion for YFC and how the community here has helped him discover who God is.

**How did you get connected and what stood out to you about YFC in those early days?**

**Leo:**  
Some friends at my school invited me here because they were already regulars and they invited me to just play some basketball and volleyball. It's

become so much more over the three years that I've been attending. I feel God's presence, I'm just overwhelmed with love and happiness. I'm just so thankful for Steve, he's a great teacher, great friend and he's just been like one of the most important mentors in my life.

**Steve, What stands out to you about Leo and his passion for coming to YFC?**

**Steve:**  
I see it. I can look around the circle of people during our God Talk, some people have their heads in their phones and Leo is just nodding along. I can see he's listening. I can see he cares. I can see that this matters to him. When he's talking about how God is moving in his life, I don't take the credit because it's not me, we're talking about Jesus, He is moving in big ways. I'm just so happy that YFC means so much to him. I'm proud of him for grabbing onto God and it just makes me joyful to hear these responses from him.

**How has your life changed as a result of the Drop-in?**

**Leo:**  
I had gone to church when I

was younger, but I didn't really know what or who God really was. So when I started going here, I really learned who He is, what He's done for us, and how much He loves us.

**How is Youth for Christ different than other programs you have been a part of?**

**Leo:**  
There is a big difference at YFC because it offers volleyball and basketball like some other open gyms, but it also offers a community of Christians, where we can just help each other out whenever we need and to listen. I only have one year left here. I don't really know what life is going to look like next year but I know I'm in good hands with God but it's sad. This place just holds such a big place in my heart, this community I just love so much!

**Tiara, it is obvious that "community" has played a big part in Leo's faith journey, how would you describe the community of the King St. Drop-in?**

**Tiara:**  
As Drop-In staff we have been so encouraged by the community that our older teens have created for themselves here. We have many youth this year who are eager to grow in their relationship and knowledge of Jesus. It shows in the conversations we have and through their actions. These youth are eager to bring new friends, and make sure they are being inclusive to everyone. Even if that means having 10 youth on each side of the

volleyball court all playing a chaotic game together.

We do a short "God Talk" each night and you can see them truly taking in and thinking about what was shared and how they can apply it to their lives. After our talks we will often take time to go chat one-on-one with some youth and offer prayer; however, recently by the time we look back from putting away our notes the youth have already laid hands on one another and started a prayer circle lifting one another up to the Lord!

It also is fun to see youth like Leo who made it a goal to be more bold and go talk to youth who he might not normally and it was exciting to see that change in him! His courage to make new friends and inspire others through his testimony and God's Word is truly impactful.

We love our youth so much, and I could go on and on about the Drop-In community they have formed and how proud we are but hopefully that gives you a small picture of what we get to encounter!

Because of your support we are able to provide mentorship and caring community to youth like Leo, who are hungry for more than just an open gym.

Leo's interview was part of our recent Power of Hope radiothon. Listen to his full interview and many more inspiring testimonies, by scanning the QR code below.

THE POWER OF  
**HOPE**  
RADIOTHON

## Thank You!

Thank you to all who participated and made donations toward The Power of Hope Radiothon! We are pleased to announce that over \$72,000 was raised during the event.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT

### FULL DAY SPONSOR

- Concord Projects

### HOURLY SPONSORS

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- The Sonnichsen team - Royal LePage Dynamic Real Estate
- Bye & Associates Family Wealth Management
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- Fusion Industries
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- Park and Buzz
- Mat Master
- Prairie West
- A Little Pizza Heaven
- Danny's Whole Hog



### Help Us Save Resources — Go Digital!

Did you know you can help us reduce costs and waste by receiving this newsletter by email instead? It's easy — just give our office a call and let us know you'd prefer to get future newsletters (and tax receipts) digitally. Thank you for helping us use our resources wisely!

# Forward Together

## How you can get involved: This Spring

"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

YFC Selkirk: Please continue to pray for our staff, volunteers, and youth in this community as we go through the process of fundraising and re-building our youth centre after a devastating fire.

King St. Drop-in: Join us in praying for the youth we serve, for protection and further growth of the exciting community that is being developed in this ministry.

Staffing: Pray more people would be interested in coming into our ministry, the harvest is plentiful and we need more workers.

Partnerships: Praise God for all the generous ministry partners who support our staff and ministries. Pray that more will join us as we grow to 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 serving hands on with youth in Winnipeg or at one of our satellite centres, don't hesitate to get in touch.

Do you have gifts in hospitality, cooking, handiwork, or administration and would like to be part of the volunteer team at our beautiful camp and retreat centre, Cedarwood? Contact us and let us know!

Even for our summer camp, we have volunteer opportunities; Help shuttle youth to and from the city, drive the boat, serve in the kitchen, or lead an activity.

### 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 are also in urgent need of camp health officers, lifeguards, and male cabin leaders for several weeks this summer!

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 including: Accounting, Events, and communications coordinator positions.

### Upcoming Events



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

[yfcwinnipeg.ca/careers](http://yfcwinnipeg.ca/careers)

[yfcwinnipeg.ca/volunteer](http://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 leaves 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](http://yfcwinnipeg.ca/our-team)

#### TO GIVE VIA E-TRANSFER

[DONATE@YFCWINNIPEG.CA](mailto:DONATE@YFCWINNIPEG.CA)

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

#### TO GIVE ONLINE

[YFCWINNIPEG.CA/DONATE](http://YFCWINNIPEG.CA/DONATE)

FOR OTHER WAYS TO GIVE SCAN HERE:

