

WORTH AUTO LORIN FRIESEN



FEAR. "False Evidence Appearing Real". A few weeks ago we entered the Crossfield Elks Demolition Derby. One of the young men in our Worth Auto program volunteered to drive the car. Going into the event, he was excited and couldn't wait for the day to finally be here so he could drive around in a square with other cars and smash into one other. Sounds kinda crazy but fun.... doesn't it? As he got into the square with the 3 other cars in his heat, something suddenly changed. As car after car crashed into him, he began to experience fear. As a result, his body responded with what we know as fight or flight. In his case he chose flight. He did an absolutely brilliant job of avoiding the other cars and managed to not sustain any real devastating hits. As a result, we survived the first heat and made it to the finals. As he drove over to the pits, he got out of the car and exclaimed, "I don't feel good, that didn't feel good at all!" It wasn't from being physically hurt but from adrenalin pumping through his veins and making him feel physically ill. At best the danger was discomfort but when the brain allows fear to settle in, it can literally overtake us at times. After some time and encouragement from each of us, he was able to get back into the car and overcome his fear and compete in the final heat. We ultimately got taken out by a failed battery cable but it was fun to see him face his fear head-on and overcome it in a physical way. Many times we have all felt that same way in life for various reasons. We started out enthusiastic and excited and then fear took us out and we may have missed out on overcoming or learning something about ourselves. It is great to have the privilege of being able to mentor young men and tell them they have what it takes and that we believe in them, even when at times they don't believe in themselves!



KERAMIKO SHARON HAU



As we drove to a housing resource centre, one of our young moms began to share with me the events of the past week. "I just want to keep things as normal for the kids as possible." She had just left her boyfriend and was staying in a women's shelter, hoping that her kids would be able to finish off the school year where they started; the one stable thing they had in their lives. She had scrounged together a few of their belongings and cut ties with an abusive partner, something that she had attempted to do multiple times before having the courage to follow through. "I just don't want my kids to be in that kind of environment anymore. I know that it's affecting them." Over and over, I have seen this young mom make decisions with her children's best interests in mind. She is fuelled with the desire to give them the best life that she can and it is an honour to be a part of that journey, whether it is for a small section or for the long haul.

CAMPUS LIFE SARA WAGAR



As a student, I always had a familiar excitement about the beginning of a new school year. I enjoyed back to school shopping, getting all my notebooks and different coloured pens in order. I even enjoyed buying all the new textbooks, that is, before I saw the cost. Then the year would start; a few days of orientation and wondering why we needed to be there for these few strange days before the September long weekend. Then the actual schooling would start and it wouldn't be long until my organized systems and motivation to study would be out the window in favour of doing something fun instead, and classes would be a grind until Christmas. I think I'm a classic case of a girl who didn't apply herself too much in school. As an adult, it's been focused work to relearn some skills that I could have had when I was younger. Sometimes I get stuck in a mindset of wishing I could go back and redo a few things. Maybe this is the reason why the students I've worked with have inspired me so much through the years - because I see so many of them do the work that I wouldn't do. I've seen them stick things out when they're hard, study ahead of time; not just the night before, and put so much energy into things that make them better. I see young adults who are eager to set goals and work to reach them. I wish I was making those decisions when I was 18. I'm grateful for the opportunity to watch another school year begin, and spending my time with these people who I know will make a huge difference in their world.

PROJECT SERVE DANIELLE FLAATEN



Project Serve has had a fantastic summer and wants to thank you for all your prayers as we prepared for Serve Week 2022. We saw God move in big ways in the hearts of the youth, leaders, and youth pastors. Our first overnight trip since Covid, we were able to connect as the body of Christ, doing life together for a week. From cleaning up dishes to serving in various ministries, we grew closer in community and closer to God, seeing and experiencing firsthand the beautiful heart of Christ. Giving up a week of their summer vacation, the youth grades 7-12 went above and beyond in loving those in our city through serving with existing ministries including the Mustard Seed, Monday Night Evangelism, the Calgary Pregnancy Care Centre, the Dream Centre, and many more. We were also able to connect with each other through evening chapels where we focused on The Gospel - diving deeper into what it is, what it means for us, and how we can share the Good News with others. We had a lot of fun together during our evening activities, one of which included a rescue mission around Bridgeland searching for our beloved Ouef (our mascot for the week). Serve Week 2022 was beyond our expectations, we can truly say that the Lord did more than we could have asked or imagined. He is so good and so faithful. Thank you again for lifting Project Serve in prayer, we know the Lord hears and answers your prayers.



YOUTH GUIDANCE BERNIE ADAM



Last year I received a donation of 4-5 thousand water bottles. I apologized to the person who gave me them because I felt like I had taken more than I should have taken. From the water that I had received 11 months earlier only 168 bottles remain. As a result, there is always an abundance of water for my sports programs. I get most of my snacks from the Food Bank and when I put in a request, I never know what I'll get. Sometimes I ask for 4 boxes of snack bars, which may only last a few weeks one time and then another time the same request will last over two months. It all depends on the sizes. My intention for my last Food Bank request was for it to be a small request. However, the boxes were double the size and I got triple the number of boxes that I expected. As a result, I took a trip to the homes of students who attend my program. At the first home, I went I loaded them up with food and check-in. The parents told me that her sister and family have moved in and now there are another 4 mouths to feed. The next house I went to I once again loaded them up with food, this house has twelve mouths to feed. I was on a mission to pass on the abundance of food that I had received. Another home was a single mom and due to health reasons isn't working. The next home is again a single mom with 6 kids, the son in grade four comes out, and he decides he would like carrots, milk, yogurts, etc. Then I went to two more low-income families whose kids come faithfully every week. The last home I went to didn't get the same variety as the others but I got to share a story of faith with them that has impacted me and I got a hug from a 4-year-old boy.