



## Join Our Board!

YOUTH UNLIMITED IS CURRENTLY SEEKING INDIVIDUALS WHO FEEL CALLED TO SERVE IN OUR GOVERNANCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN BECOME INVOLVED, PLEASE CONTACT THE BOARD CHAIR, MATTHEW POLK.

CALGARY.BOARD@YFC.CA

### From the Youth Unlimited Team

As the year comes to a close, we are eager to share the inspiring stories of transformation from our various Youth Unlimited programs. Each represents a unique journey of impact within our community and is a result of your support.

StreetLight is in the midst of a realignment, refocusing on its mission to reach homeless youth with the love of Jesus. Campus Life and Youth Guidance, both use sports to create opportunities for meaningful conversations and mentorship, and help shape the future of students by instilling God's guidance in their lives. Bow Valley emphasizes the vital role of caring adults, highlighting the positive impact of volunteers who dedicate their time to building resilient disciples.

Worth Auto shares a heart-wrenching journey, underscoring the importance of support and prayer for their youth who are often found trying to navigate the challenges of profound loss and trauma. Keramiko showcases the power of one-on-one connections, as young moms find solace in simple things such as finding connection through a home-cooked meal, and often inspire us and other young moms by their resilience.

Additionally, Station One Eight unveils a unique ministry initiative that aims to bring God's love to the youth through a mobile cafe, as demonstrated by the profound impact something as simple as a safe space, mentorship, and speaking God's love into a young person's life can make. We are excited about the potential of this project, and your support has already made a significant difference. As we approach the year's end, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude to the community for standing with us in these transformative journeys.

Your support has been instrumental in bringing hope, healing, and purpose to the lives of youth in these stories. We invite you to join us in continuing this vital work by giving generously to the ministry of Youth Unlimited. Your contributions make a tangible difference in the lives of young individuals, allowing us to reach more hearts and build a community grounded in love, faith, and support. Through you, we are gifted the opportunities to share the love of Jesus! Thank you for being a crucial part of this impactful mission. To contribute and stay updated on our progress, please visit <http://www.YUDonate.ca>



## Tax receipts go out by the end of Feb!

EMAIL CALGARY@YFC.CA TO SIGN UP FOR A DIGITAL RECEIPT IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE SO BEFORE



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

#### One Time Donation

Enclosed Cheque  Post-Dated Cheque(s)  Or Bank Transit #  Inst#  Acct#

Or Visa/Mastercard Number  Expiry Date  CVV#

One Time Donation Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Email My Tax Receipt To: \_\_\_\_\_

PRINT CLEARLY

For Monthly Pre-Authorized Donation Plan (Void Cheque, Bank Information, or Credit Card Information Included Above)

Total Per Month \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly Transfer Date:  1st  15th Starting Month: \_\_\_\_\_

In Support Of (Staff/Program or Campaign Name) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

#15, 1725 30 AVENUE NE, CALGARY, AB T2E 7P6 403.291.3179 CALGARY@YFC.CA Donate Online www.YUDONATE.ca

WINTER 2023



## 2023 IMPACT

WITH YOUR SUPPORT YOUTH UNLIMITED CALGARY HELPED YOUTH FIND:

### ROOTED IDENTITY

as they engaged life with Jesus

### JOYFUL SERVICE

as they learned to put others first

### RENEWED CHARACTER

as they grew in virtue

### HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

as they found reconciliation and vibrant community

### CLEAR PURPOSE

as they discovered & utilized their gifts & abilities



BIG UPDATE INSIDE!



## CAMPUS LIFE ROSS ANDRESEN



I have been loving this new school year so far. The amount of opportunity in front of me is so incredible! This year I had the chance to go on the grade 9-12 retreat, and I've been able to be the assistant coach for grade 7-8 boys volleyball at a local school in the NE of Calgary. In these positions, I've had some really good conversations about God with some of the students! On the retreat, one of the students was asking questions about life after high school like what God would want him to do for a job and how he can know for sure what God wants him to do after he graduates. He was pretty stressed out about it. We were able to talk about how to hear God's voice and that God has a plan for him and then at the end, I was able to pray for him.

I've really liked being the assistant coach with the volleyball team because it puts me in a different position with the boys, and I've been able to have deeper conversations with them about things other than just about volleyball. In the upcoming winter season I will become the basketball coach for grade 8-9 boys, which I'm super excited about. It gives me the opportunity to have even more conversations with some of the kids in the hallways after coaching volleyball in the morning before school. My work is nothing without God at the centre of it, and without Him at the centre of my life I wouldn't be able to do what I do. It is cool to see God at work in me and through me as I serve with Youth Unlimited!

## KERAMIKO MARIA FRIESEN



Sometimes a kiddo just needs a home-cooked meal and a place to exhale, even just for a moment. Akisha asked me if I'd hang out with her sometime, and she chose to come to my home for dinner. Together, we prepared dinner, and I felt honored as she made her way around my kitchen feeling right at home... although we did set off the fire alarm, keeping things real. Akisha grew up in a church, but her journey was one full of trauma and rejection. Akisha first reached out to Keramiko in pursuit of Christian support, growth, and connection. The kid was lonely.

Over the course of the evening, Akisha opened up about her struggles, and I was moved by her vulnerability and determination to grow despite adversity. In a surprising turn, Akisha expressed interest in joining our Keramiko program after initially seeming hesitant to plug into anything more than connecting one on one. She sent a text saying, "After giving it some thought, I think I'm ready to join the (young moms) group on Mondays. I might not come all the time as it's really hard, but I do think that sharing my story and giving knowledge that I have learned over the last two years could really help some of the other moms." Despite facing challenges, Akisha recognizes the value of sharing experiences with others and understanding that everyone struggles and makes mistakes - she inspires me.

Keramiko has received incredibly generous gifts of support! The way in which the community has embraced our ministry, leaves us in awe of God's provision. Together, with you championing us along, we aim to help young moms like Akisha realize their value and potential. As we navigate this journey with her, we trust in a bigger plan for Akisha's life, and the life of her little child. Thank you for being a part of this transformative process.

**BIG UPDATE!**

## MOBILE CAFE MARIA FRIESEN

You're hearing it here first! The new name for Youth Unlimited's latest ministry initiative has been selected! While assisting us in brainstorming a fitting title for our mobile cafe, some of our youth resonated with the idea of incorporating the word "station" along with a scripture number. Some time later, one gal expressed, "I want to learn about these scriptures because I like to learn about Christian things," and inquired about the meaning of a specific verse that stuck out to us.

As I guided her through the chapter, the words impacted her profoundly, bringing her to tears. The two of us sat there in my office, by this time, both of us were in tears. I continued to speak to her about God's deep love for her, emphasizing how He delights in her and is both willing and able to be her refuge, regardless of the challenges she may face. I will forever cherish these moments as we shared a raw and transformative experience. In a reflective moment, she remarked to me, "This verse sounds like God to me." With that, we had our scripture: Psalms 18 (paraphrased) - "God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He reached down from on high and took hold of me; He drew me out of deep waters. He rescued me."

And thus, the new name of our mobile cafe was born: "STATION ONE EIGHT"! To those who have embraced this vision and supported us, you've already made a significant impact on the life of a young lady, and we haven't even opened our doors yet. This underscores God's gracious love and His desire for young people to be drawn to Him. Before Spring 2024, we aim to raise a total of \$200k to complete this project. To this point, you have generously contributed \$67,350. To achieve our next milestone in fabrication, we need to raise an additional \$13k before the end of this year. Would you consider partnering with us?

## STREETLIGHT BRIAN DENNIS



It's very exciting for me to share with you about what is happening in our ministry team, mostly because I myself am very new to the team. I'm currently fundraising my salary so that I can join full time, but, in the meantime, I've had the privilege of serving alongside the YFC team, and getting to know the kids that we serve. StreetLight has been going through a bit of a transition as we refocus on mission and rebuild a volunteer team. However, it has not taken long for us to gain back momentum. A good crowd of kids have been showing up each week. I personally have been excited to see several faces return week after week which gives me the opportunity to get to know them better each time. It's clear to see that God is at work through the volunteers and dedicated workers at YU as they go about showing the love that Jesus has for these kids. It is also clear that there is much work to be done here, as many of the teens are quite hesitant to go too deep or don't show much interest in who Jesus is. However, I'm confident that we are simply early on in forming relationships with those that come and I'm confident that over time, they will begin to better understand who Jesus is, and how He is ready to accept them into a deeper life.

As we continue to serve these teens, please pray that; we might be encouraged and not lose heart, that we would have patience and understanding for those that have been hurt before and are hesitant to readily trust that Jesus is who He claims to be, and pray also that we would trust and follow God when it is not obvious how He is working in the current situation. I believe that God can bring healing into their lives and relationship and I'd love to be a part of their journey. As I work to raise my support, I would also be grateful for your prayers and if you feel led, would you consider partnering with me in this mission?

## WORTH AUTO LORIN FRIESEN



In life, we encounter stories that deeply impact us, and Cal, one of our new young participants in the Worth Auto program, shared a narrative that truly stirred our hearts. During our God talk time, we asked Cal to share his journey. He revealed the profound loss of both his parents within the past year, surrounded by tremendous trauma. Trauma that moved both ministry workers and our youth, to tears. The thought of what this young man endured during an age meant for joy and hope is utterly heartbreaking. Instead of the carefree moments with friends, he bore the weight of caring for his ailing mother and a father struggling with addiction, losing them both within a matter of months. His story moved us deeply, and I expressed my belief that God had directed his path to intersect with ours so that we could be a part of his story, guiding him toward hope and success.

In the subsequent weeks, Cal struggled to engage, explaining that sharing his story had unearthed a multitude of emotions and suppressed pain, which required resolution before he could fully commit to Worth Auto. Although our desire to aid in his healing process is unwavering, for now, our role is to offer steadfast support and assure him that we stand ready when he is. I believe that God has placed us in Cal's story for a higher purpose.

Ever wonder what to do as a supporter? We sincerely invite you to join us in prayer for Cal. With God's help, together, we can play an intentional role in his future. Cal's journey calls for patience, faith, and continuous support until he is ready to embrace the healing and success waiting for him. Together, let's trust that God will intervene in his life in a profound way.

## BOW VALLEY SATELLITE TAMARA PRYCE-FISHER



It has been proven that having a caring adult in a child's life, other than their parents, helps that child to build resiliency. This is true both inside and outside the church. Research by Barna notes that 64% of children who have this meaningful relationship with an adult at church, are more likely to integrate the teachings of the Bible into their lives; study the Bible on their own and memorize scripture verses. They see church as the highlight of their weeks and make lifelong commitments to Jesus and they live generously, all because Mrs. Jones or Mr. Smith always give them a pat on the back or ask how they're doing.

This is simple, yet profound and it is part of the reason that I am so thankful for all our volunteers. They give of their time selflessly, week after week to engage with our students, and to speak the love of Jesus into their lives. They are not only making a difference now, but their small gestures of kindness and love towards these children are helping to create resilient disciples who, with God's help, will serve the Lord Jesus Christ for the rest of their lives.



**MERRY & BRIGHT**



**HOLIDAY BLESSINGS**

To stay updated on our progress, visit <http://www.YUCalgary.ca/Station-One-Eight>