

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** GREG HUTCHINSON



At a season in life when friends and social acceptance are paramount, cell phones and social media offer teenagers a virtual world of instant and endless connectivity. Today's teens touch their phones at least 800 times a day – that's once every two and a half minutes. The impact of this new technological reality, however, is resulting in an increasingly disconnected generation.

Mentorship and one-on-one connections are at the heart of every Youth Unlimited program and activity. When you support us at Youth Unlimited, you are supporting staff and volunteers that are connecting with over a hundred youth every day in some form of a mentorship program.

Loneliness is not often thought of as deadly, but science says otherwise. According to Julianne Holt-Lunstad, a leading loneliness researcher at Brigham Young University, as a predictor of premature death, loneliness is equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes a day. Social media appeals to a youth's strong desire for connection, yet it can only deliver an illusion, creating a vicious and painful cycle of perceived exclusion. Studies show that the number of girls feeling left out jumped 45% since 2012. This trend only worsens for vulnerable populations.

Your partnership with us allows our team to make a difference. Creating safe places for youth to talk and process their feelings is critical. Our team values every youth we connect with, and we journey with these youths for months and even years. Your support of \$25, \$50, \$100 or \$1,000 a month helps us know you are journeying with us as we journey with youth.



# INSIGHTS



**Youth Unlimited's Annual Golf Tournament**

**\$7500 Titanium Dinner Sponsor**

Major signage in the banquet room & in program, 4 golfers.

**\$6000 Platinum Tee Sponsors**

8 golfers, 8 dozen premium golf balls.

**\$3000 Gold Tee Sponsor**

4 golfers, signage on hole, banquet room, program.

**\$3000 Tungsten Cart Sponsorship**

Company logo on all carts, one golfer.

**\$2500 Silver Tee Sponsor**

2 golfers, signage on hole, banquet room, program.

**\$1500 Bronze Tee Sponsor**

Signage on hole, banquet room, program.

**\$425 individual entry offered after May 5 pending availability.**

**MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP FORM**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

- ONE TIME DONATION (CHEQUE ENCLOSED).
- POST-DATED CHEQUES (ENCLOSED).
- VISA OR MASTERCARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRY \_\_\_\_\_
- PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT PLAN (VOID CHEQUE ENCLOSED OR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION ABOVE)

TOTAL PER MONTH \_\_\_\_\_ MONTHLY TRANSFER DATE.  1st  15th STARTING MONTH \_\_\_\_\_

DESIGNATED TO (STAFF MEMBER OR PROGRAM NAME) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ **THANK YOU!**

**KERAMIKO** KAIO ESAU



January always feels like the month that never ends. It's long; it's dark; and it's bleak. There's a reason that blue Monday happens in January and that the rate of Seasonal Affective Disorder rises. We all have seasons of despair and hardship, but we know there is light at the end of the tunnel. Keramiko aims to be that hope and light for the young moms we serve.

2019 has started well for Keramiko. Myself and some of the Keramiko volunteers have been joining the Streetlight team downtown two nights a week. Going in, we knew that there were two girls who were young moms, both who attended Streetlight with their babies. We've discovered there are a few more young moms, including one who is pregnant with her third baby. Custody issues and social service involvement is prevalent, and those are stressful situations to navigate on your own. We want to build those relationships so we can navigate that world with them.

We have two main goals we are currently working on. First, we are trying to put together a good collection of tangible donations for the moms and their children. It's an easy way for us to connect with these young women and help them lower their defenses. We want to be able to build a trusting relationship, and this is a good place for us to start. Second, we are looking into starting a more permanent program, separate from the other programs at Youth Unlimited. We are looking for space to use where we can offer a program to make healthy foods for these young families. The moms will come, learn how to make a healthy snack/meal, and take whatever they make home. Their children will spend time in a special program just for them. We hope to get that up and running shortly.

We have lofty long-term goals for Keramiko and ask that you keep us in your prayers as we move forward with programming. If you'd like to donate any tangible items to Keramiko, they can be dropped off at the office or you can contact our office to arrange pickup.



**WORTH AUTO** ROMAN WIK



Terry joined Worth just over a year ago after a work exposure program stint with Alberta Job Corps. A great guy with a big heart and a touch of hillbilly who loves trucks, 4x4'ing, 70's music, and love for talking about pretty much anything at length, he was a welcome addition to the crew. Over the year he has opened up more about his life at home where his dad is dealing with a potentially terminal illness, a sister who is currently in transition to a male, a brother with Downs, and a mom that has been out of the picture for most of his life. It's easy and heart breaking to see

the weight he carries, not only with the family dynamics but also the mantle of responsibility that progressively grows as they await to find out his father's options - and not to mention the fact he shoulders this at the young age of seventeen.

In his time engaging with the youth alpha series, he has been shifting in his character, choices, values, self-esteem, and worldview. He came in with the mentality that his life was governed by karma and chance, but is now acknowledging God as real in his life and that his identity is woven into something so much more than mere chance and coincidence. Though there is pain and struggle, there is also hope, comfort, and grace to light the way. And though he hasn't yet fully embraced Christ, Terry is showcasing Jesus' work in his life more and more each day. Every day he becomes more of who God created him to be, and I think it's safe to say, he is realizing this!



**CAMPUS LIFE** SARA WAGAR



When I was graduating high school just a few years ago, I remember being so glad to be done. I had no idea what I wanted to take in university or if I even wanted to go at all - so I took a few years off and eventually picked my major out of a hat. My options were limited because my grades weren't great but I wasn't too worried about that. All my friends were taking a few years off too, so we were all in it together, working retail jobs during the day and hanging out every night. Eventually, most of us got a post-secondary education or figured out what job we wanted and started doing that full-time. A decade and a bit later, everyone I still keep in touch with from high school is doing good - careers, married, having kids - occasionally reminiscing about our teenage years when everything seemed so simple.

It's not like that anymore. I sat down recently with a girl who is in her first year of university. She is so glad to be out of high school, because now she has "way less stress." She is working and studying, trying to pay for her next semester, writing longer papers than she ever has before - yet she considers this stage of life easier and more enjoyable. After all, she's no longer taking classes she doesn't like or ones she has to take just so she can keep her options open. She's not trying to manage extra-curricular activities, daily homework from every class, and changing friend dynamics all the time. She's not alone; a lot of young adults would say it's easier being out of high school than it ever was being in it. I remember thinking the exact opposite. It's so different now than when I was a teenager, but the need for grace, hope, and relationships are just as important as they've ever been.

**STREETLIGHT** CARISSA LAWTON



"I can't thank you enough for the warm meals during the times I didn't have a home as a teenager." I received this message on our StreetLight Instagram after posting about going out for the evening. This message was sent from a youth who used to access StreetLight, someone I have never met, but it didn't make this message any less meaningful.

As of 2016 there were approximately 600 known youth who were considered to be homeless in Calgary. We say known youth because we can only really account for the ones who access services within the city. That number is a staggering number, but if we think about it like we think about domestic violence cases, that means that's probably only about 10% of the real issue. That can feel disheartening when we see youth come through our door and leave without any noticeable change. But then we get messages like this and it reminds us that we are here even if it's for that 1%.

Jesus leaves the 99 to reach to reach the 1. That is what we are called to do. We are called to go out and pursue the youth of this city. I know we are making a greater impact than that 1%. I know that because we are going out in God's name that youth will be changed and that we will see revival in our city. We will see transformed youth start to transform our city. And that... that is why we do what we do. We are so excited to be on this journey and to have you all come alongside us!



**YOUTH GUIDANCE** BERNIE ADAM



One value at Adullam Soccer is that this program is a safe place for students. Weekly, we observe situations that are contrary to this value, like when an older student colors on a younger student's paper and says they were just being funny, or when students are unkind and mean with their words and actions. Another incident that we faced involved a theft that affected many students.

And so, I meet with the parent of this student and let her know what had happened. I ask for permission to speak to her son. Then, I ask him if he knows why I am there? He's hesitant so I let him know it's related to the last time that he came to our program. He looks down and continues to do so for the whole time that I am there. He confesses and tells me what he did. Instead of a reprimand, this student hears from me that he did a good thing by being honest and that I think a lot of him for telling me the truth. After we talk I ask him if there is anything that he has learned from our time. He says he isn't sure. But his mom reaffirmed what I said and tells her son that even though he stole, his identity is not a thief and that he is a son who God has created, that he is giving and thinks of others and is kind.

For the first two to three weeks after this incident, this youth walked his sisters to Adullam and stayed for a while, waiting for an opportunity to talk with the student whom he had stolen from. When this student didn't come, he would then leave. Over the next weeks we kept inviting him out, then when school had a break I was able to take him to McDonald's. Still his head was down, but slowly a relationship is being built with him.

He has started coming back now and is regularly attending. Weekly we share a devotional with the students, and I leave them memory verses to learn. This seemingly small component of our program is something that this student (and many other of our students) is putting a good amount of effort and time into. He is weekly learning verses. These Scriptures that he learns give us glimpses into his heart as they are verses that he chooses himself, and they give us a glimpse that God is doing something in his life.



**OUR VISION** OUR VISION. OUR BOTTOM LINE.

We envision that as youth in Calgary experience God, His love, His truth, and His life-changing power, they will be transformed and will be a redemptive presence in our city and beyond.

Our vision is to see transformed youth transforming this city, so that our impact will not end with the youth that we serve, but rather that it will continue to benefit the community as these youth become positive contributing members of society.