Legacy of Hope

65 Years of Youth Ministry is just the beginning

Spring often brings thoughts of hope, especially to Manitobans. It’s often exciting to leave behind a season of challenge or difficulty (or cold) in favour of hoping something better is to come. Many of the youth we care for live in a place where circumstances do not just shift with the seasons. Many vulnerable youth are immersed in struggle to the point of feeling that there is no hope. This is where our staff and volunteers step fully into their calling.

“The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” — Frederick Buechner

There is a deep hunger in the world today, and especially in the youth we serve. Hunger for meaning, purpose, family, community, love and acceptance. As our staff, volunteers, and partners live out their calling, each with their unique role, hope becomes present and tangible.

We have hope in seeing our staff grow in their true identity in Christ. As our staff grow in their personal spiritual formation they are able to offer ministry out of overflow.

We also have great hope in youth being able to “live fully in Christ” through interacting with our staff and volunteers that love and serve them. This is where hope can bring transformation and new life. When youth say “this is where I feel accepted” or “you were the only people that cared for me during that time” we know that God is at work using those He has called to bring hope. For many youth YFC is the only place that they can take a deep breath and feel safe or cared for, and the place they first experience Christ.

This year YFC Winnipeg celebrates 65 years of ministry to youth. This milestone is worth celebrating! Through the years hundreds of staff, thousands of volunteers and thousands of partners have left a lasting legacy of serving youth and carrying out the mission God has called us to.

This is our “Legacy of Hope.”

Looking back over the years at all God has done in and through us at YFC, we are so incredibly thankful, and we are believing for so much more in the years to come.

YFC Winnipeg may be 65 years old, but we are just getting started!

- Cliff Heide
Senior Ministry Director
New Hope
for the next generation

One thing I have learned, is that God is always working behind what we can see, to bring about His purposes and plans for us. Some of the ways God has invited us into His work lately are through one of our volunteer mentors who spent an afternoon talking through issues with a young mom who is struggling with mental health. Another way was to provide diapers for a mom who needed them urgently. We had another mom who called me at 5am after her family had to run out of their burning house in the middle of the night, so we had the opportunity to come around her and support her with formula, diapers, clothing and other things required for daily life. We have had opportunities to sit with moms in court, fighting for custody. We have sat by the hospital beds as babies are sick. These are all times we can show up as trustworthy adults in these young parents’ lives, displaying Christ.

God has used these experiences to soften the moms’ hearts toward His word. We have been having great conversations about God, about His huge heart of forgiveness, and about how Christ took all of our sins upon himself, clearing up the way for us to have a relationship with God. At the fundraiser we just held, Channa, one of our teen moms, shared how she has grown in faith and relationship with God because she realizes she can be forgiven and is so very loved by her heavenly Father.

God invites us into His work, and He lets us have the joy of sharing His good news and of learning His heart of love and compassion.

- Deb Richards, Director of New Hope for Teen Parents

Alvina’s Journey
has just begun

My name is Alvina Red Eagle. I grew up in Selkirk in a non-Christian, single parent, Traditional home. My mother struggled with multiple challenges and since we didn’t have family supports, sometimes my brother and I were placed in short term foster care.

In grade 5, a friend told me about Youth For Christ. Eventually, I went to all the lunch and evening programs throughout the school year. That summer I learned my mom was doing drugs. I began to change. I was depressed, and followed everyone else’s lead. I too began experimenting with drugs. At my lowest point, Youth For Christ was the only safe place I felt I could be myself.

I became a Christian during my second year attending Camp Cedarwood. But when I went home, I still didn’t know how to cope with all the negative influences which drew me away from Christ. I looked forward to returning to camp, and that third summer, I renewed my relationship with Christ. This foundation has been growing stronger ever since.

I felt called to camp ministry and was thrilled to work at Camp Cedarwood as a Leader in Training. Serving at Camp Cedarwood has been a complete life changing experience! Throughout the summer, God grew my heart for serving in ministry. I’m hoping to pursue that work by continuing my education in Bible College or doing missions for a year. I’m absolutely amazed at the work God has done in my life. I’m truly blessed to have Youth For Christ in my life!
Hello! My Name is Jessica Dawes and I love working at YFC!

In my current role I get to be one of the first faces youth see when they arrive at YFC, and I'm one of the first voices heard when someone call us.

I coordinate the facility rentals, and help plan and execute our special events. I love being a part of the YFC family, seeing youth fill the building with laughter, and knowing that God is using the gifts of administration He gave me to serve this ministry.

I grew up in a Christian home with an amazing family, but I know not all young people have that experience. I am so thankful that YFC can be that safe, fun place for kids.

I've been blessed to have been a part of The Meeting Place as my home church since the age of 5. I've been a volunteer there as a youth leader since the age 14, and have been working with the same group of girls for 10 years now.

I felt called to missionary work about 3 years ago, but I didn't know what that looked like until I got a nudge from a former youth leader of mine who now works at YFC. I've been on staff since January of 2018, and just love being a part of the YFC team!

In addition to my work responsibilities, I have started volunteering with YFC's New Hope for Teen Parents program. Being a volunteer mentor for a teen mom has been a deeply rewarding experience.

One thing I have learned since coming to YFC, is that God calls a diverse group of people to serve in this ministry, as there much diverse work to do!

If you'd like to know more about the work I do, or how you can partner with me in this work, please feel free to email me at jessica@yfcwinnipeg.ca

Meet Jessica Dawes
Hospitality Coordinator

One of the things I love about the Drop-in is that you never have the same day twice!
Recently a young man came out, and I couldn’t wait to connect with him. This young man was born and raised in Congo and fled to Canada with his family at a young age. He described to me some of the difficult things he went through as a young boy, including witnessing one of his best friends die. He opened up to me and confessed that he wanted to get his life right and stop being “bad”, that he wanted to make better decisions and a better way to live life. What better way than getting to know the One who is the way, the truth, and the life everyone is searching for!

I described to him the beautiful, redemptive Gospel and my testimony, and he began to well-up with tears. We prayed, God's presence surrounded us, and this young man invited Jesus into his heart.

I am so thankful that this is the work that God has called me to!

- Chris Tamagi,
Program Director,
King St. Drop-In

Radio Thon
April 9-11 on CHVN

Be sure to tune into CHVN 95.1FM, April 9-11 between 6:30am and 6:30pm for the Youth for Christ “Legacy of Hope” radiothon!

Over those three days you will hear several inspiring stories from our youth about how YFC is impacting their lives.

You will also hear from former youth, staff, and volunteers as we celebrate all God has done over the last 65 years and look forward to all He has planned in the future!
Legacy Stories
Help us celebrate by sharing your story

We are celebrating 65 years of youth ministry. What a legacy!
We want to celebrate by sharing stories of people who have been impacted by YFC Winnipeg over the decades. Stories like this one:

“Back in the 50’s young people always went to the Youth for Christ rallies. Young people really wanted to be there. My first date with my future husband was in October, 1956 at a Youth for Christ rally. It was a good place to go! Don was the love of my life. He was a good man, a devoted Christian, and loving father. We had four wonderful children.
The work YFC continues to do is phenomenal. The activities they have are incredible! You can climb a climbing wall, take dance lessons, go skateboarding; it just goes on and on and on! And they do it all so that God receives the honour and glory.”

- Joyce

We would love to hear your YFC story! Did you attend YFC rallies when you were a youth? Did you meet your future spouse at a YFC event or program? Did YFC play a part in your faith journey? Please let us know by emailing us at legacystories@yfcwinnipeg.ca or write to us at Youth for Christ Legacy Stories, 333 King Street, Winnipeg, MB, R3B 0N1

We have been so blessed to have been able to serve this community for so many years, and we look forward to continuing the work for many more years to come. We invite you to be a part of our celebration by sharing your YFC story, and/or by making a financial contribution towards the work God has called us to today.

Get Involved
Make their future your passion!

Pray
that our staff and volunteers will be led by Jesus, to lead more like Jesus, and to lead more to Jesus.

Volunteer
Volunteers are the heart of YFC. You can apply online, download a volunteer application form, or pick one up at our office.

Donate
You can help us cultivate and grow leaders. Make YFC a charity of choice.

You can make your gift by mail, phone, or online. See contact information below.
Donations can be made by Cash, Cheque, Visa, or by MasterCard. Thank you for your generosity.

Your Legacy
Will the legacy you leave reflect the life you’ve lived?

Your Will is the last statement you will ever make. You want it to be a meaningful one. The inheritance you leave to your loved ones is about more than the monetary assets of your estate. It is about their best interests and the values you want to pass on.

1. What will be the spiritual inheritance you leave?
2. Do you have a Will that adequately reflects your heart and properly prepares the next steward?
3. Will your legacy of giving extend beyond your own life?

For more information on how you can give a Legacy Gift to YFC, contact: John Courtney, Exec. Dir., 204-669-4205

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