

“Volunteering is not just about **helping**, it’s
about **changing the world.”**

--Linda, age 16



This year, **Child and Youth Friendly Calgary**
became **Youth Central.**

**We still have the same mission,
vision and values,
but a new name to reflect our focus
on the awesome youth
we work with every day.**

Mission: Inspiring, engaging and celebrating youth through
community participation.

Vision: All youth participate in shaping a vibrant community.

Values: We value all young people and their importance in our
society. We value a community in which all children and youth are equal
and respected, and are encouraged to be active citizens. We value the
diversity, skills, creativity and talents of our volunteers, participants
and staff. We value community partnerships that promote and believe
in the value of actively engaging youth in the community.

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Message from the Board Chair

This past year was a significant one for the organization as we officially made the leap to the new name and identity of Youth Central. This change involved input from stakeholders within and outside the organization at all levels and culminated in a new brand that better reflects what the organization is all about. It also more effectively supports our mission of inspiring, engaging and celebrating youth through community participation.

In the process, we were fortunate to have an opportunity to reach out to community members, funders, alumni and others and through this work validate the important contributions that this organization and its thousands of youth volunteers make to the community. Now, with a new name, Youth Central has a renewed focus, energy and enthusiasm to continue the many successes of the organization and its core programs.

To support this, the Youth Central Board of Directors was, once again, highly engaged this past year, leading new fundraising efforts, improving governance through creation of new policies, procedures and accountability metrics, and through developing the structure for a sustainability fund. The board has also taken steps to enhance succession preparedness within the organization, improve the budget process to ensure alignment with strategic priorities, and was highly involved in the re-branding process.

At the same time, the organization worked diligently to maintain a balanced budget in what was another difficult year for the non-profit sector. As a result of continued economic pressures in 2010, demand for our services significantly increased while our funders grappled with decreased dollars to give.

I would like to thank our amazing funders for their continued support, and I would like to thank our dedicated Executive Director and staff for their willingness to do more with less. Through these collective efforts, Youth Central was able to continue its important work in engaging all sorts of youth – including those at risk – in developing philanthropic and leaderships skills by contributing to the Calgary community. In fact, I’m pleased and proud to say that the youth in our programs gave an incredible 40,000 hours to community causes in 2010. This, in turn, helped many other organizations to better meet the needs of the community.

I believe that 2011 will prove to be another challenging year for the non-profit sector. But, I have complete confidence that together with our funders, community partners, Board of Directors, Executive Director, staff, and volunteers, Youth Central is well positioned to continue making Calgary a great place to be.

Sincerely,
Rob Gray, Board Chair

Board of Directors

Board Chair: Rob Gray

Vice Chair: Suzy Moutinho

Secretary: Dean Allatt

Treasurer: Greg Quinn

**Directors: Mike Brown,
Edward Choi, Zaheed Damani,
Steve Leidl, Jeff Lowe,
Kate Pedlow, Lynn Rafter,
Kari Roberts and Katie Rogers**

**Honourary Board Members:
John Currie and Doug Lauchlan**

Calgary Youth Foundation

Involving youth in a hands-on approach to philanthropy, the Calgary Youth Foundation provides youth with an opportunity to create positive change in their community.



The Business Accreditation Program,
YouthScape
and the Accessibility, Diversity and Inclusion Initiative
have come to conclusion this year.

We'd like to thank all partners and funders
involved in these programs.

"I love volunteering with the Calgary Youth Foundation because I get to see all the amazing things that youth in Calgary are doing right now. It motivates me and wows me to see so much energy and initiative youth in Calgary are taking. It's even more awesome that we get to help these youth make their projects possible."

--Patti, age 17

ConocoPhillips Youth of Distinction Awards

The ConocoPhillips Youth of Distinction Awards (YODA) recognize deserving youth, 13-18 years of age, for the remarkable ways in which they have chosen to live. The awards are not academic rather they focus on leadership, friendship, overcoming personal challenge, and community service.

"My favorite part of YODA was the ceremony. Meeting the youth we selected after hours of reviewing applications and seeing their expressions was the most heartwarming and memorable part of it all."

--Zeeyaan, age 15

Mayor's Youth Council

Along with advising the municipal government on issues important to youth, the Mayor's Youth Council offers youth input to a variety of citywide organizations. The Mayor's Youth Council consists of youth ages 13-18 who choose topics relevant to youth and report their findings to The City of Calgary.

"The opportunities I have had with the Mayor's Youth Council have been preparing me for my future as I face a new challenge every day. While volunteering, the people I work with are also the people I most admire: they're selfless, persistent and innovative. Because of my involvement, I've gained perspective both of the world and of how I fit into it.

--Shannon, age 16



Youth Are Awesome

Youth Are Awesome (www.youthareawesome.com) is a blog-based site where youth seek out and write the content, whether it's a cool website they've found, youth events happening around Calgary or an awesome volunteering opportunity.

"I have had the fortunate chance to blog about the amazing concerts and theatre performances I attend. I have even had the opportunity to interview some of the amazing performers! What's also great is that members within the arts communities sometimes recognize my blogs and write back emails of thanks and feedback! YAA is a great way to express the awesome culture in Calgary from a youth perspective. I've learned that Calgary is a truly great and vibrant city for youth!"

--Lisa, age 18



"Being part of YAA has enabled me to be a more cognizant member of the community. Not only am I able to do more, I am responsible to express what matters about these experiences. I'm accountable for what I do in the community, and so, I pay more attention. I'm more critical, more involved. Furthermore, I am able to tell the community what matters to me, and what they can do. And, of course, it's fun!"

--Anna, age 17

Youth Can Vote

Youth Can Vote is web-based initiative that provides non-partisan, election related resources to students interested in learning about and participating in the municipal election process.

"Our students were so excited to meet the candidates and ask questions at our forum. Now, they want to encourage those over 18 to be informed and exercise their democratic rights. They are really excited about extending the learning from their forum last week."

--Neil Stephenson, Calgary Science School

Youth Earth Ambassadors

Youth Earth Ambassadors is a program created and run by a youth leadership committee with the aim to create a network within Calgary that directly links schools and community agencies to foster collaboration and environmental change.



"Youth Earth Ambassadors has been committed to the value of investing in youth for a greener future... [and] engaged in improving the environment of today's society, but principally our future generations."

--Walter, age 18

Youth Volunteer Corps

The Youth Volunteer Corps (YVC) program began in 1993 and is Youth Central's largest program. The purpose of YVC is to provide meaningful team-based volunteer opportunities to young people between the ages of 12 and 18, in partnership with over 150 community agencies and events. The YVC Steering Committee, made up of 25 youth volunteers, plans Empty Bowls, a project that strives to raise awareness around the issue of youth hunger and homelessness while raising funds for a deserving youth serving agency in Calgary.

"I would like to be a productive member of the community, and being a part of YVC is an effective way to accomplish that. As well, I look forward to knowing that I made a positive impact on the community and on the people in it."

--Andrew, age 17



"Youth Central is Heritage Park's connection to youth volunteerism here in Calgary. We have an excellent ongoing relationship with Youth Central and count on them for our special events. These volunteers have enhanced so many of our special events including Ghouls Night Out this year. I highly recommend this organization to bring youth into your volunteer community."

--Bonnie Pritchard, Heritage Park Historical Village



Youth Volunteer Corps

In Schools

Youth Volunteer Corps in Schools provides students with the opportunity to improve, through volunteerism, their local community and school.

"I like the fact that I help others in the community through YVC projects. I always enjoy the projects I work on and enjoy spending time with other volunteers like me."

--Huma, age 15



Youth Week Calgary

Throughout Youth Week, Calgary communities, agencies and businesses come together to host events, projects and offer free services during a week-long celebration of youth.



"Youth Week has made me more appreciative of all the great opportunities in Calgary. I've really enjoyed working in the committee to find creative ways to connect youth with services in the city."

--Meng, age 17

Additional Projects

Other initiatives include work with the **Calgary Young Offender Centre**, **RADAR** and **ENVIROS**, where at-risk youth take part in the **Bounce Back** program, expressing themselves through hip hop, rap and other music. We also work with **Discovering Choices** schools in the city, where the youth council makes a difference through **volunteering** in their school and community. As well, **Youth Volunteer Corps South** is an initiative in south Calgary that offers youth volunteer opportunities and activities promoting community change and positive relationships.



Community Support

Without whom none of this would be possible...

\$50,000+



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of Alberta**



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The Calgary Foundation The City of Calgary Government of Canada

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Jennifer Hilliker
Program Coordinator



Heather Pearson
Program Coordinator



Mary Zolkiewski
Program Coordinator



These days, when all we seem to hear about our youth is all that is wrong with them, it was so nice to have these young people come and lend a hand. As we were short-handed this time for our set up, their help was greatly appreciated."

**--Sandra Prior and Irene Dean,
Inn from the Cold**

Thank you for your support!



www.youthcentral.com

2009/2010

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