



2023 - 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS FOR TOMORROW





“

Youth Central has been an adventure of learning and experience. I am a proud volunteer who has learned to respect all types of people and be fearless when it comes to sharing ideas and opinions.

Helping the homeless, elderly, and kids with special needs brings memories that will never be taken away.

”





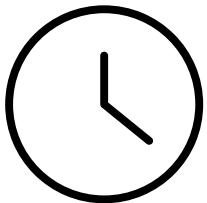
OUR IMPACT



874
YVC volunteer projects



2,300
active youth volunteers



33,102
hours volunteered
through Youth Central



95%
of youth committee
members felt heard



98%
youth in leadership
committees felt
empowered



112
charities and nonprofits
benefited from YVC
volunteers



86
adult volunteers
supported the
GRADitude Project



46
youth volunteered over
100 hours this past year

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

This year at Youth Central, we've gained incredible momentum. Building on the governance improvements from recent years, the board has focused on strengthening the foundation for growth while remaining true to our mission. We've been deliberate in our efforts to ensure that every decision supports our vision of empowering youth to thrive and lead.

The team has leaned into impact data to guide our strategies, ensuring we stay focused on what matters most. We also began the process to achieve Imagine Canada accreditation—an important step that underscores our commitment to accountability and excellence. Additionally, we completed a by-law review to make sure our governance practices remain best in class and aligned with our values. These aren't just formalities; they're critical measures to secure Youth Central's long-term success while preserving the unique spirit that makes us who we are.

We also made the decision to invest in full-time fund development resources. This forward-thinking step allows us to better share our impact, reach new supporters, and ensure our sustainability as we grow. Financially, we're in a strong position, but we're committed to balancing ambition with care, ensuring every step forward is measured and meaningful.

Looking ahead, the board is focused on preserving what makes Youth Central unique while finding new ways to meet the evolving needs of our community. As youth face increasing challenges like mental health struggles, too much screen time, and inactivity, we're doubling down on accessibility and inclusion. Our programs continue to prove that young people crave connection, purpose, and the chance to make a difference—and we're here to help them do just that.

Volunteerism and giving might be on the decline, but at Youth Central, enrollment is rising. That tells us we're meeting a real and growing need. Together, we'll continue fostering belonging, building leaders, and showing what's possible when youth step up for their communities.

None of this would be possible without the incredible dedication of our staff, the commitment of my fellow board members, the generosity of our donors, and the trust of parents who encourage their children to engage with us every day. Thank you for your belief in Youth Central's mission and for making this work so powerful. Together, we are creating something extraordinary.



JULIANNE ROHEL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair: Julianne Rohel

Vice Chair: Sarah Pervez

Treasurer: Henry Su

Secretary: Bryce Kapsha

Directors at Large:

Lana Bentley, Ranita Charania, Elisea de Somma, Michael Doerksen, Trevor Galon, Jason Kraatz, Katie Novak, Yisha Pang

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

This year has been one of meaningful growth and impact. We supported more agencies than ever before, contributing over 33,100 volunteer hours through partnerships such as the Salvation Army, where we served lunch 105 times, and Tech Buddy, where our youth volunteered 697 hours to connect with seniors through the MPC Foundation. Through this initiative, youth helped teach older adults essential technology skills - from operating a computer to accessing the internet and learning to join virtual communication platforms. We also partnered with Between Friends Camp Bonaventure, where our youth volunteered over 2800 hours to supported an inclusive summer camp that empowers participants of all abilities to enjoy fun outdoor activities together.

Across all our programs, evaluation results continue to demonstrate strong outcomes. We're proud to have engaged thousands of youth who developed leadership skills, confidence, and a sense of belonging through their involvement in our programs.

Collaborations with organizations such as CIWA and Avenue 15 have helped us reduce barriers and ensure every young person has the chance to participate and thrive. We also grew our team, welcoming a new Engagement Team and an addition to our leadership group, to strengthen our reach and responsiveness.

More and more, our community is asking for youth voice in shaping the future. This year, local youth contributed their ideas to the City of Calgary's City Building Project, ensuring that the next generation helps design the kind of city they want to live in.

While increasing demand for our programs brings new challenges, it also reaffirms how essential our work is. With your support, we'll continue expanding partnerships, raising awareness, and creating opportunities that empower youth and strengthen our community.

Healthy, engaged youth build a stronger Calgary for today and for the future.



LISA KINDREE

STAFF

Executive Director: Lisa Kindree

Engagement Director: Lisa Litz

Engagement Coordinator: Michelle Hodgins

Program Director: Ros Doi

Program Coordinators: Jen Saj, Peony Wong,

Sylvia Galica-Casuncad and Jesse Peters

Team Leaders: Alexia Hu, Ali Hussain,

Andrew Masse, Calla Ha, Cerena Bond,

Dana Desamparado, Donna Patolot, Eamon

Saldana, Enver Sübhani, Eva Xu, Fathima

Chappangathil, Gaby Nunez, Kayla Chow,

Melanie Sing, Natalia Bozek, Noa Friedman,

Qurat Ul Ain Khalid, Sophie Wu



NURTURING THE NEXT GENERATION OF VOLUNTEERS

In July 2024, Youth Central volunteers were instrumental in the success of Triwood Community Association’s largest event of the year, the Stampede Breakfast. Twenty enthusiastic youth helped serve nearly 2,000 breakfasts, host games, and manage cleanup efforts.

Reversing Downward Trends in Volunteerism

This kind of support is more critical than ever. According to the Calgary Foundation, adult volunteerism has dropped 30% in the last five years, making Youth Central’s efforts to cultivate the next generation of volunteers essential. “As a non-profit with a tight budget, the helping hands from Youth Central are essential,” shared a Triwood representative.

Since their first collaboration, Triwood has partnered with Youth Central for summer camps, seasonal markets, and other events. Triwood emphasized the value of Youth Central’s team leaders: “Having someone there for the volunteers to rely on, especially when they’re trying something new in an unfamiliar place, makes all the difference. The reflection activities afterward remind everyone of the real impact of their hard work.”

Without Youth Central, Triwood says their events would be harder to manage, and budget constraints might mean hosting fewer community activities. Instead, thanks to Youth Central, Triwood and our other more than 110 partners continue to deliver initiatives that bring people together and build community and belonging.

“As a non-profit with a tight budget, the helping hands from Youth Central are essential.”



BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND BRIDGING BARRIERS

Jessica discovered Youth Central through her high school's youth council, a program supported by Youth Central that helped her connect with peers, give back and build a sense of belonging. "Youth Council gave me a reason to come to school and was a big part of me graduating," she shares.

Then, through Youth Central's Calgary Cinderella Project, Jessica also received a beautiful dress and accessories for her graduation—a milestone she might have missed without this support. "The volunteers and staff created such a positive atmosphere. Knowing I had a dress gave me the motivation to finish my schoolwork."

Creating Moments That Matter

For youth like Jessica, Youth Central is more than programs—it's a lifeline. The Calgary Cinderella Project gave her the confidence to attend her graduation, turning a dream into a cherished memory. "Without Youth Central, I wouldn't have been able to afford such a gorgeous dress or feel confident walking the stage. They truly help youth feel seen, supported, and celebrated."

"Knowing I had a dress gave me the motivation to finish my schoolwork."



EMPOWERING NEWCOMER YOUTH THROUGH VOLUNTEERING

If we're going to build a brighter future, we need to ensure everyone can participate in our communities. As part of Youth Central's strategic focus on removing barriers to participation, we partnered with the Calgary Immigrant Women's Association (CIWA) to offer volunteering opportunities to 35 newcomer youth.

Breaking Down Barriers to Volunteerism

Through our consultation with CIWA, we identified confidence and transportation as key challenges. Navigating a new city on transit can be daunting, and not everyone is familiar with volunteering. To address this, we provided a bus so the Pathways to Success participants could travel to their first volunteer experience together, and provided an onsite facilitator.

For many of these youth, it was their first time volunteering. The experience helped them build confidence, showcase their skills, and form meaningful connections. CIWA staff praised Youth Central for creating a positive, seamless experience: "They understood the challenges youth face and ensured the mentees felt supported."

Without Youth Central, CIWA would have struggled to find suitable volunteer opportunities for such a large group. The transportation and facilitation support expanded CIWA's capacity, leaving the youth feeling valued and eager to return. This partnership is a powerful example of how Youth Central creates accessible opportunities that empower youth to thrive.

"Youth Central helps youth feel connected, confident, and excited to volunteer again."

SUPPORTERS

Our work is possible because of our generous community:

Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission (AGLC)

Anonymous

Bridal Expo YYC Inc.

Bryce Kapsha

Burns Memorial Fund

C&E LLP Chartered Professional Accountants

Calgary Foundation

Calvert Home Mortgage Investment Corporation

ConocoPhillips Canada

Desjardins Insurance

Enbridge Inc

Equium Group

Family & Community Support Services (FCSS)

Field Law LLP

Friends & Family of Al Duerr

Gibson Energy

Grant Burns

Harry & Martha Cohen Foundation

Home Depot Canada Foundation

Hopewell Residential

Jessalyn Rohs and Michael Stensby

Jim Button Community Builder Fund at Calgary Foundation

John Bowlen Legacy Flow Through Fund 1 at Calgary Foundation

Koeller Charitable Giving Fund at Calgary Foundation

Keating Family Fund at Calgary Foundation

Kinette Club of Calgary

Matco Financial Inc.

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Rotary Club of Calgary East

Ryan Duerr

Sanjel Energy Services Inc.

Shaw Birdies for Kids presented by Altalink

SMART Technologies ULC

Stephen Cleaners

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TELUS

The Cadillac Fairview Corporation Ltd.

The ARK Foundation

The Canada Life Assurance Company

The Hunter Family Foundation

The Prosser Charitable Foundation

Volunteer Alberta

Werklund Foundation

Youth Volunteer Corps



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STATEMENTS**





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