



Stories of Hope and Wholeness

2019

ANNUAL REPORT
Central Alberta Youth Unlimited



Youth Unlimited™

YFC CENTRAL ALBERTA

CAYU 2019

148
VOLUNTEERS

58
STAFF

Our Mission

Central Alberta Youth Unlimited exists to bring the hope of Jesus to youth, facilitating wholeness through mentoring relationships.

Our Vision

Hope and wholeness for all youth.

Our locations

Crestomere

Lacombe

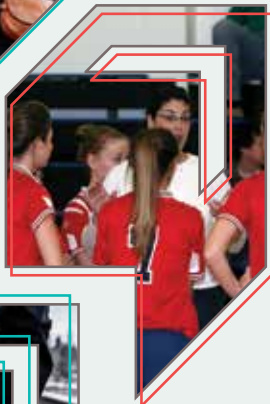
Maskwacis

Ponoka

Red Deer

Rimby

Sylvan Lake



•Edmonton

•Calgary

Maskwacis

Rimby

Crestomere

Ponoka

Lacombe

Sylvan Lake

Red Deer

Message from the Executive Director



At Central Alberta Youth Unlimited our vision is hope and wholeness for all youth. If you look around our youth culture today you may notice that there are many youth experiencing despair and brokenness. Hope and wholeness for ALL youth can seem like an unattainable goal to some but as a team we are relentless to that end. We want to meet with every single young person to share the hope of Jesus with them. As you read through our 2019 Report I want to invite you to catch a glimpse of stories, pictures, and people that are experiencing hope where there once was only despair; youth who are feeling a sense of wholeness and health, where it seemed they would always be broken. We are grateful for all that God is doing in and around Youth Unlimited. We are also very thankful for you. Each story shared here reflects your critical part in providing hope for youth. Thank you for praying and thank you for giving so generously as together, we bring the hope of Jesus to youth in Central Alberta.

Jerel Peters

Executive Director

Centred on Christ
Called to the Mission
Committed to Relationships
Seriously Fun



Centered on
Christ



Committed to
relationships

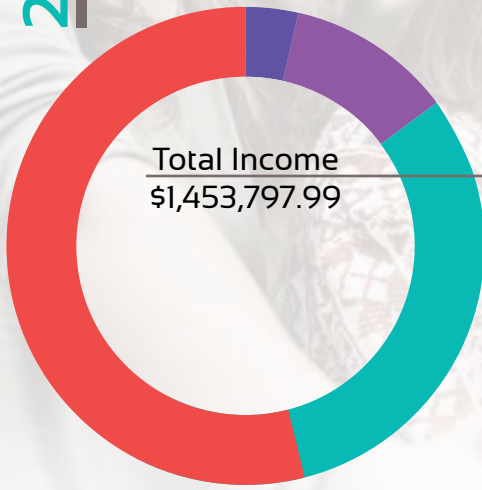


Called to the
Mission



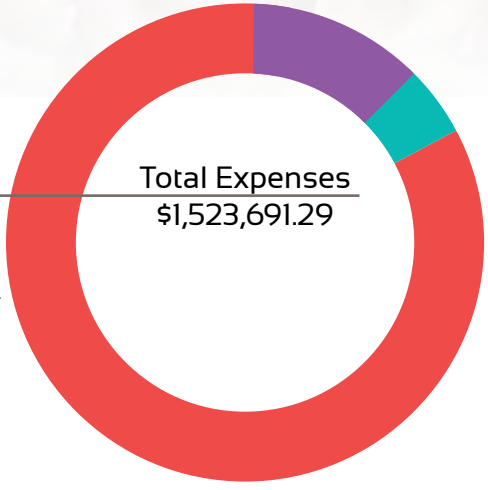
Seriously
fun

2019 Financials



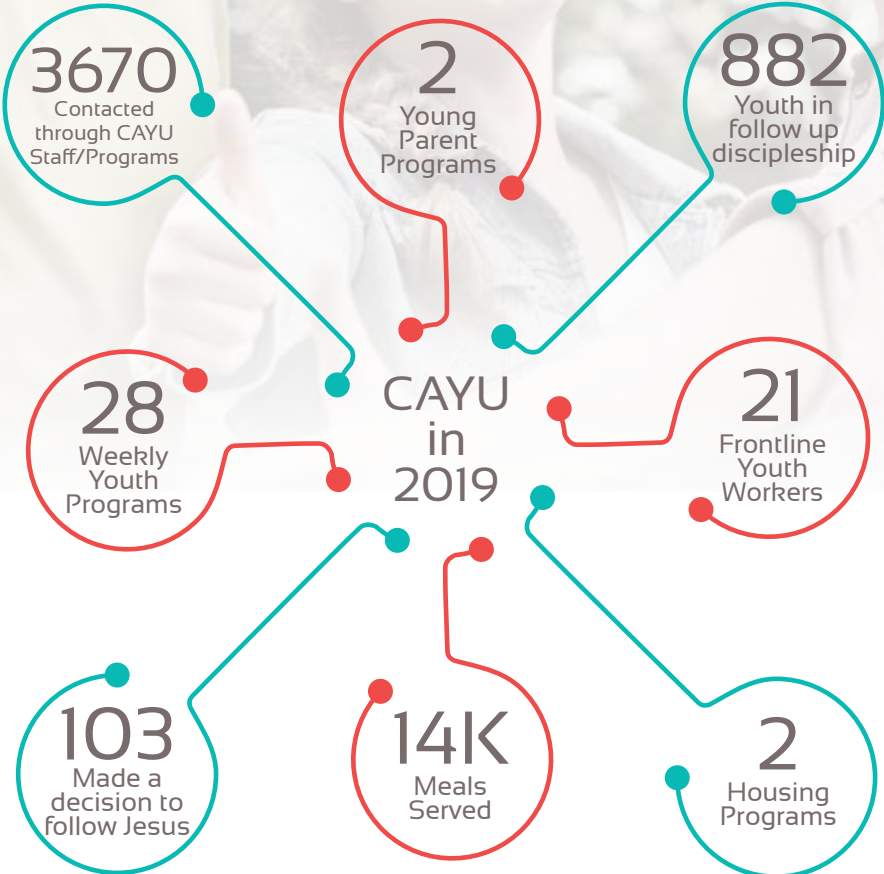
Grants	45,996.60
Fundraisers	161,947.70
Program Revenue	458,236.64
Donation Income	787,617.05

Administration	184,527.19
Programs	1,255,668.84
Fundraising & Donor Relation	83,495.26



Making an impact in local youth

A year in review



Youth and Family Counselling Services

Our counselling program enables us to reach the vulnerable youth and families in Sylvan Lake, Ponoka and Lacombe, providing healing and movement towards Hope and Wholeness.

Here are a couple of examples I have received from my clients that I have permission to share with you. Recently, a young mother told me this: "Carolyn, today I celebrated life, as a result of God ministering to me through your counselling. I feel so alive when before I felt that suicide was the only option. Thank you for intervening, giving me the strength to fight and pointing me towards Jesus, the Source of Life. God used you to save my life.... Thank you." Another mother messaged me this week, stating, "I am so grateful to you for helping my family in the way you have and continue to. I see such positive change in each of them. They have been so comfortable opening up to you during this devastating time in our family. My heart is so full of hope."

Words can not express my gratitude for your support of our counselling program, whether that is through prayer or financial partnership. This appreciation does not only come from me but from the clients I serve, whose voices are not always heard.

Carolyn Mulholland.

Youth & Family Therapist



CAYU Centres

Helping build relationship, community and connection.

Incline Industries Indoor Skate & BMX Park

This year at Incline Ind. we have seen many positive changes in the youth because we get to build mentoring relationships with them on a daily basis. Not only do we get to spend time with the youth, but we get to help them walk through the struggles and

blessings of being a youth in today's world, especially when they may not have positive influences at home.

This past summer, because of a generous donor, we were able to paint and redecorate! This has given the space a more inviting feel, and the youth feel at home. We are so blessed to cultivate that positive culture by sharing the love of Jesus through prayer, skateboarding, scripture reading, games and relationships.

We are excited for an even greater impact in the future and would appreciate prayer for wisdom and clarity on how God would have us steward this space. Blessings.

Devon Mitchell

Incline Industries / Youth Engagement Sylvan

Stepping Stones

Committed to walking pregnant & parenting young women toward hope & wholeness.

Anytime we apply for a grant we are sure to be asked this one question, "How will you know if you have been successful?" This is a hard (but good) question. Is the program making a difference in the lives of these moms and their families? Are they encountering Jesus? Is this program a good investment?

If I am honest, in the past there have been times I've wondered about this as well. How will we know if we are successful? Then a revelation came to me; This program has never been about our success....only ever about His glory and sharing the great love of Jesus.

When women gather at Stepping Stones they laugh, share, cry and let each other in to their broken spaces. All around us we see God's faithfulness. One Stepping Stones mother shared her story:

"My life was always hard... full of heartbreak, lots of sadness, loss and hopelessness. When I first joined SS I was so lost. I didn't know how to be a good or happy person or a friend because I was so guarded! SS has shown me that there are women in the world

that will love you through all that pain, pray with you and hold your hand through the struggles. I am now able to be open about my relationship with God and myself. I'm so blessed that I've been a part of this amazing group."

We are excited for what God has been doing this year in the lives of the Stepping Stones women. Thank you for the ongoing prayers and support.

"Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name goes all the glory for your unfailing love and faithfulness." Psalm 115:1

Nadine Davies

Family Engagement Director

Life360 Update

360 degrees of life, what we take in and how we live it out.

Life360 took place in all of CAYU's communities this year.

"Life360 has helped me know that I can be myself and have amazing friendships with great people. [It] also taught me to try new things that aren't always comfortable." - Life360 student

It has been a really amazing year. Our curriculum is designed very strategically so that our leaders can create meaningful connections with our students while teaching the Gospel and connecting it to their lives. Our evenings have included Bible study, leader stories, panel discussions, creative nights, and more. Typically our richest connecting points are in our small groups where students have the space to process what we are learning with leaders and friends.

What we can never plan for though is how God works every week in the lives of everyone that comes, leaders and students alike. We have seen truth be spoken, students accept Christ, and faith grow deeper. I am so excited to see where God takes this ministry in the next year!

Katelyn Berzanski

Youth Engagement Ponoka

YU Adventures

Explore. Experience. Engage.

Our YU Adventure trips have been running since the start of CAYU. Not only are they fun (long bus rides and all!), but they encourage students to explore, experience and engage in God's world. Last year, we took a total of 34 students on our two trips to Vancouver and Mexico!

Last year on the Vancouver trip, our students got to hear the stories and pray for some of the clients in the shelters they were serving in. For one student it helped her realize how she can impact people around her and that her voice and her story can help others. Her story, and what Jesus will continue to do in her life matters.

There's nothing like a week-long trip to get teens out of their comfort zone and diving deeper into their relationship with their Heavenly Father!

Paig Prosee & Sarah Labucik

Vancouver Trip Leaders, 2019

"It was an amazing experience to build a house for a family that really needed it, and seeing how happy they were to be blessed with this house."

- Mexico, February 2019

"We prayed for a man at [one of the shelters] and then God answered it! It was so cool!"

- Vancouver, March 2019

"Today I had a blast building a roof - or as our American friends call it, a ruff. I'm so amazed to have the opportunity to come and help this family and build them a house while hanging out with the cool people on our team. Oh! And did I mention that I gave my life to Jesus today!! It has been an awesome day."

- Mexico, February 2019

Timber Coffee Co.

Timber Coffee Co. is a ministry space through Central Alberta Youth Unlimited, focusing on building community in Sylvan Lake with special attention towards the students and youth.

Timber Coffee Co. creates opportunities to serve the local community in tangible ways through the love of Jesus. As a faith based non-profit coffee shop and eatery, under Central Alberta Youth Unlimited, we have chosen food service as our connection to the community of Sylvan Lake. We are a place where the love of Jesus is shared and where people of all generations are encouraged to connect with one another and the youth in the community over a coffee, meal, or with conversation.



We use the gift of our space and the proceeds from our sales to facilitate community initiatives such as a teen leadership program, youth programming, free community meals, and events that intentionally nurture intergenerational relationships. From a group of strangers becoming friends over a game of cribbage, or a senior man giving the extra from his gift card to a teen at lunch - Timber provides a place for Jesus interactions. There is a freedom in this place allowing God to be a way maker, miracle worker, promise keeper, and a light in the darkness throughout Central Alberta.

Erin Dirksen

Timber Coffee Co. Manager

Youth Housing

Supported Independent Housing for vulnerable youth.

We had a going away party for one of our House Mentors. Several of our previous youth tenants gathered, along with new friends. Every chair around the table was full, pizza boxes empty, and the room was full of non-stop conversation.

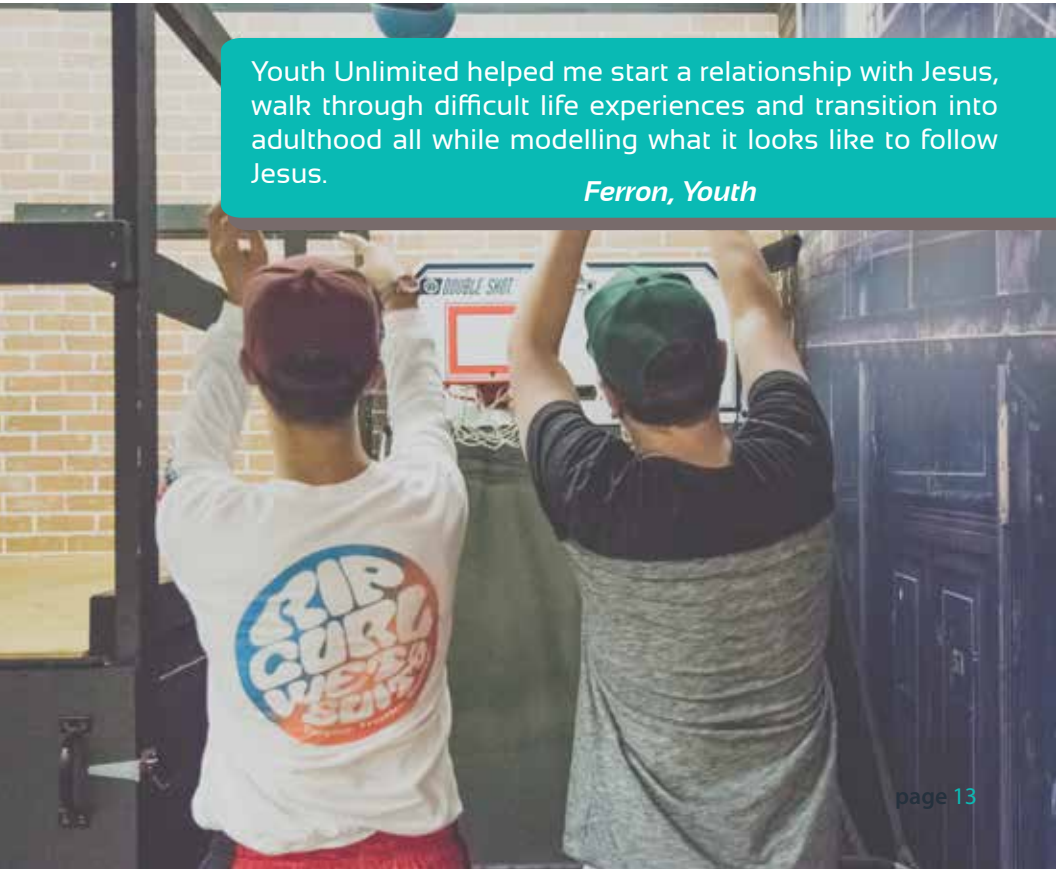
A question was put to the group of guys, what has God done for you lately?

One of our young men said: "I have been changed. This summer I went to a camp where I thought people would look at me differently...I wasn't the same as them. But that's not what happened. People talked to me and seemed to love me. I started listening to the guest speakers and even one time in one of the songs I put up my hands. That's when God changed me, when I surrendered. It wouldn't have happened if I wasn't here at YU-Turn."

This young man had the attention of every other young man in the room! What a testimony to what God is doing in both our Boys' and Girls' homes!

Penny Vre

Director of Youth Housing



Youth Unlimited helped me start a relationship with Jesus, walk through difficult life experiences and transition into adulthood all while modelling what it looks like to follow Jesus.

Ferron, Youth

CAYU Mentorship Program

Hope and Wholeness in Christ through Mentorship

I am a new mentor, and to me mentorship is building a relationship and providing guidance. I am excited to start mentoring and taking on the fun times as well as the challenging ones. I do feel nervous about not being able to answer all the questions my mentee has, but I know God will help guide me to guide him.

Hayden
Mentor



Youth Unlimited helped me find a home and a family in a new community

Megan, Youth



Our programs in 2019

- Girls Groups
- Music Lessons
- Life 360
- Stepping Stones
- Summer Camps
- YU-Turn Drop in Centre
- Timber Coffee Co
- Crosswalk Drop in Centre
- YU-Turn Youth House
- Sports Outreach
- Gym Blast
- Relaxation Room
- YU Adventures
- Mentoring
- Counselling
- Youth Engagement in Schools
- Incline Industries Indoor Skate & BMX Park



- Peter DeWit
- Brian Massie
- Donald Parker
- Michelle Wilzer
- Pat Eaton
- Gordon Gray
- Dean DenOudsten
- Duane Stretch
- Jesse Koch
- Jane Wierzba

Board of Directors



Jerel Peters - Executive Director
Avery Kerklaan - Rimbey Youth Engagement
Anais Ruzindana - Summer Student
Brittany Koleba - Ponoka Stepping Stones
Carolyn Mulholland - Youthand Family Therapist
Char Lockhart - Director of Family Engagement
Colton Dunn - Sylvan Lake Youth Engagement
Cora Fossen - Lacombe Stepping Stones
Cydney Newton - Ponoka Youth Engagement
Dan Jensen - Sylvan Lake Youth Engagement
Dee Clark - Lacombe Youth Engagement
Desmond Grabo - Housing Youth Engagement
Devon Mitchell - Sylvan Lake Youth Engagement
Donna Abma - Lacombe Stepping Stones
Erin Dunn - Sylvan Lake Youth Engagement
Eronica Hutchins - Lacombe Youth Centre
Estelle Grobel - Finance Administrator
Ferron French - Summer Student
Gregg Lockhart - Lacombe Youth Engagement
Heather Huseby - Crestomere Youth Engagement
Janet Marr - Mentorship Coordinator
Katelyn Berezanski - Ponoka Youth Engagement
Kathy Patrick - Grant Writer
Katie Peters - Ponoka Stepping Stones
Karen White - Grant Writer
Kevin Korthuis - Red Deer Youth Engagement
Leah Ebens - Ponoka Youth Engagement
Maria Vanderwal - Office Manager
Mary Eggink - Youth Therapist
Melissa Kuipers - Development Coordinator
Nadine Davies - Ponoka Stepping Stones
Nicola Bennett - Housing Youth Engagement
Paige Brose - Communications
Penny Ure - Director of Housing
Sarah Lahucik - Maskwacis Youth Engagement
Sheila Juuti - Sylvan Lake Youth Engagement
Shenoa Gislason - Personnel Director
Tyrone Campbell - Lacombe Youth Centre
Victoria Forschle - Red Deer Youth Engagement

Timber/Incline

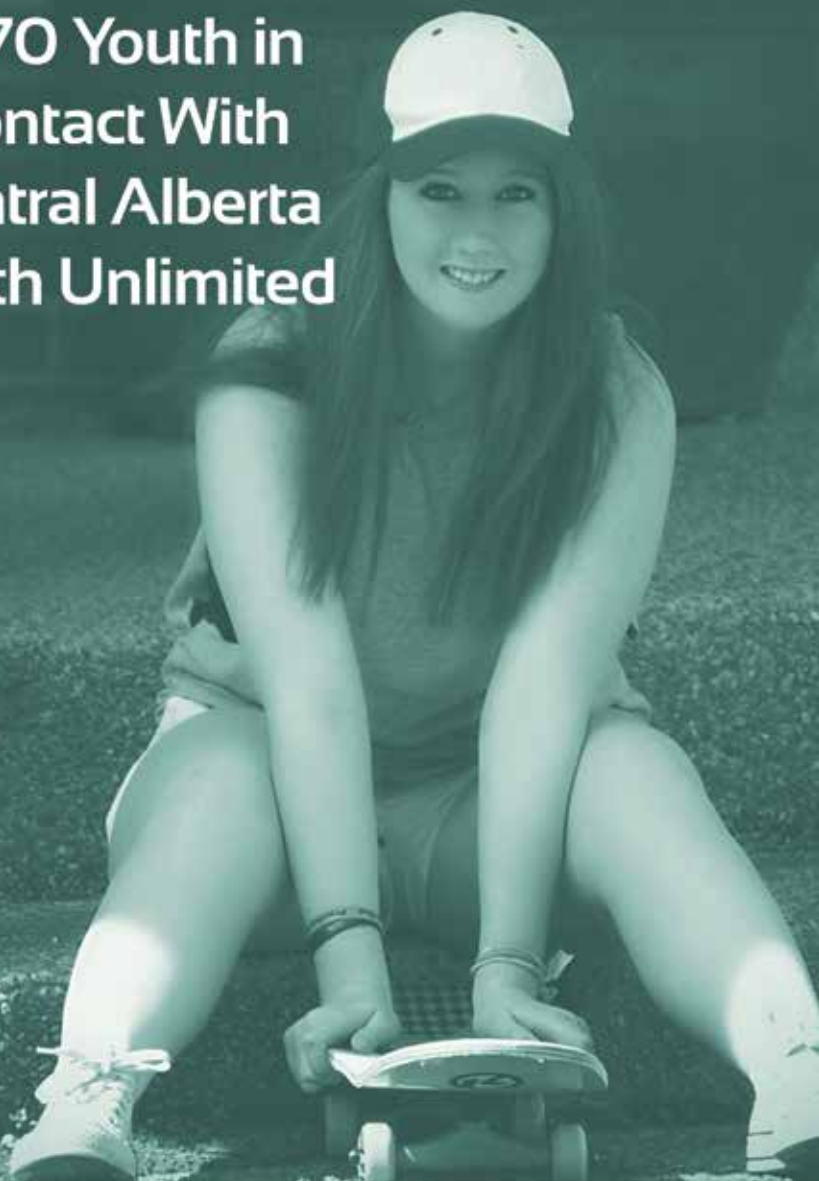
Amber Berg
Erin Dirsten
Julainna Fletcher
Brooke Howell
Megan Jensen
Joshua Schweer
Nathan Sloboda
Deshon Lennard
Jesse Randolph
Alyssa Hyink
Kaitlyn Sloboda
Justine Karg
Trysten Pringle
Anthony Heidelberg
Dan Zepick
Megan Harrison

House Mentors

Ben Schultz
Rufus Nellore
Zachary Ferguson
Joseph Furlotte
Jason & Aleesha Hradoway



3670 Youth in Contact With Central Alberta Youth Unlimited



THAT'S THOUSANDS OF YOUTH WHO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO

- Build a long lasting connection with one or more caring youth workers
- Feel safe, accepted, seen and supported by both peers and healthy adults
- Tangibly feel the love of God through caring relationships
- Discover their potential

PARTNER WITH CAYU

There are many ways you can help CAYU reach and connect with vulnerable youth within the Central Alberta area.

DONATE

We are extremely efficient with our use of funding, and a little bit can go a long way. Please consider supporting us financially.

www.cayu.ca/give

VOLUNTEER

Many of our programs depend on volunteer support. Connect with us about getting involved.

PRAY

We desperately need your prayers, so please pray for us. Contact us to sign up for our monthly prayer letter.



Central Alberta Youth Unlimited

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