

October 2024

Dear friends and family,

It has been a full year since I started with Youth Unlimited, and as I think about the past 12 months, I am so blown away by the faithfulness of God.

In our young families program, we have a young mom, we'll call her Anna, who has faced so much in her life already, from teen pregnancy, to addiction, family trauma, and more. She came into the program looking for practical support, but ended up finding new life in Christ! She accepted Jesus and has started to pass that new faith onto her partner, her kids, and even to other women in the group. Recently at our weekly program, we had a mom share about how her son has been having health issues. Immediately, Anna walked over to her and asked if she could pray for him. As she prayed, she began quoting scripture, thanking God for all He had done in her life, and asking for healing for this little boy. **Sitting there listening to her pray, I was overwhelmed by how much God had transformed this girl's life and how He was now using her to encourage others.** It is so cool how God works in the darkest, most hopeless situations and brings light and life! It reminds me of John 1:4-5, where it says, "In him [Jesus] was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

We also had the privilege to tell 10 little preschool kids in the program who had never gone to church and never been around faith for the very first time that God made them and Jesus loves them! Seeing their tiny faces light up after hearing that has been one of the most exciting and rewarding moments in ministry so far!

For me, this fall has been a season of adjustment. I recently expanded my hours and stepped into a role with CAYU's Housing Program. I have also started the credentialing process with Youth for Christ which is a training program designed for full-time ministry staff. As a part of that process, over the next 12-18 months I will complete various assignments, attend training courses, and receive evaluation from two panels. This training will help equip me as I work with the vulnerable youth and young moms in Central Alberta. It will also help me develop my own personal understanding of who God is and how to share His love with others effectively!

As I mentioned, I have recently expanded my hours, which means I need to fundraise for those new added hours. **Would you consider financially partnering with me in the work God has given me to do with Central Alberta Youth Unlimited?** If giving towards this ministry is something the Lord is prompting you to do, I would welcome you to scan the following QR code, or visit cayu.ca/give and find my name in the drop-down menu. Thank you so much for your partnership in prayer and generosity!

With gratitude,



Lauren Hillman

Family Engagement & Housing | Red Deer & Sylvan Lake

