

The URBAN EDGE

"Where we Live"



BOUNCE

Some people just seem to bounce back after tragedy. Researchers who study human resilience often refer to it as the "bounce back factor." I have noticed how many parents find wild and creative ways to protect their children from harm and stress. I was amazed to hear about a parent meeting at the university that my son attended. I would not go to a meeting like that in a million years but I know someone who attended. The main theme of the meeting was to assure the parents that their precious little ones (albeit adult) children would be kept out of harm's way. They offered a way for parents to express concerns about their children's wellbeing and even noted safe spaces to which their adult children could retreat to find safety. Sick.

The idea that children should be sheltered from any and all hardships does nothing to help children grow. The only way to develop resilience is by facing difficulty. I am not talking about throwing our kids to the wolves. I am talking about allowing our children to wrestle

with the general malevolence that exists in the world. Life tends to generate enough difficulty to give most people a good chance to develop resilience.

I see kids in our community with unbelievable resilience. I wouldn't wish the kind of difficulty that many of our kids live with on anyone. Some of the pain comes from systemic injustice and some from the day-to-day life in the community. The fact that there can be too much pain is not lost on me and for some youth it undoubtedly is too much. Nevertheless, you see the strength of the youth that carry so much. This summer my wife met with a young woman who just radiates strength. She was carrying more than her fair share of life's burdens, but had found a way to walk with kindness, gentleness and a surprising lack of bitterness in spite of it all. Being around this young woman you feel safe and privileged to be with her. She opened up to Sandy over a meal and shared the fact that a close friend had recently died of an overdose. She talked about the family reeling from pain and how difficult it was for her. Sandy and I debriefed the discussion they had had and were both amazed at her ability to laugh and walk with a lightness in her step, despite her firsthand experience with hardship.

I learn so much about life in our community. Today I sat with another mom who walked me through the hardships of her life. She

shared about being held hostage in a violent relationship for three years and about pushing through life alone as a parent, doing her best. What stood out for me in that conversation was not the story of pain, but that this woman had power over the pain. She showed me that her pain would not ruin her life. She told me that Jesus had changed everything in her life and that without Jesus she would not have made it. She had done more than recover from her pain. She had sort of taken revenge on the pain, by incessantly pushing toward her goals and relentlessly dreaming of a better day. Isn't this what happened when Jesus lived through the pain of his crucifixion. It was intended for harm, but God used it for good. Of course this is what God specializes in. The most gut wrenching pain and suffering has the potential to be used for good. It means acknowledging that pain sucks, but also living with the confidence that pain does not have the final word. You will rise again and God will restore you and make all the ugly into something beautiful.

**Kent Dueck,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



JOIN OUR E-MAIL LIST

Go to www.icya.ca and sign-up to receive the Urban Edge and other Inner City Youth Alive updates!

YEAR-END FUNDRAISING DRIVE

OUR INVITATION TO YOU:

This Christmas season we ask that you help us continue to give the gift of hope to Winnipeg's North End. Your support is vital to our ministry to bring Christ's hope to the core. As we share in the Christmas story and the hope we received and celebrate every year, we ask that you prayerfully consider ICYA in your giving.

**OUR GENERAL OPERATING YEAR-END GOAL IS \$272,000
TO BE RAISED BY DECEMBER 31ST.**

Here's how you can partner with us:



PRAY

We believe prayer is vital to our ministry and for reaching kids and youth in the North End. Please remember to pray for our ministry this Christmas Season.



VOLUNTEER

We're always looking for committed volunteers to help run our programs and events. Contact Kathleen at volunteer@icya.ca for more information.



GIVE

Your generous gifts help to provide empowering opportunities to kids and youth in our community.

» FOUR WAYS TO GIVE: «

1. ONLINE:

www.icya.ca/donate

2. CALL US:

(204) 582-8779

3. MAIL US:

418 Aberdeen Ave,
Winnipeg, MB, R2W 1V7

4. PLANNED GIFTS:

Gifts through will and estates, securities, trusts and gift annuities are another way to support us. Contact us for more details: info@icya.ca.



COMMUNITY HALLOWEEN PARTY:

Halloween can often be an unsafe and unstable evening for kids and families in the North End. This year our Bridge Team wanted to provide a fun, family-friendly evening on October 31st.

The event was highly successful with an estimated 220 people, including parents and children, attending the evening. Throughout the Halloween Party kids enjoyed games, crafts, a bouncy castle, costume prizes and of course, lots of candy!



A Season of Giving



UPCOMING YEAR-END EVENTS

Please contact us if you'd like to support any of the following events:

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS GIFTS

- ❖ Help us bring a smile to the faces of many kids at our Bridge Drop-in this Christmas Season! Each year we surprise and bless the kids attending. Our staff know the special wish list each kid has for a Christmas gift. These gifts are handpicked by our team and delivered to the kids' homes a week before Christmas.
- ❖ We kindly ask for financial donations to help us with this initiative.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

- ❖ Thursday, December 20th
- ❖ We need volunteers so together we can bless our community with a Christmas dinner and connect with friends and family living in the North End. Each year this event welcomes 300+ individuals for a meal and prizes.

HELP BUILD A HAMPER

- ❖ At Christmas our staff and volunteers build hampers to give to people in the North End. We kindly ask for financial donations in-lieu of donations of goods.

CONTACT US

To support our Christmas programs, please reach us to volunteer or give at:
Email: info@icya.ca • Call: 204.582.8779



CALLING TO CONNECT

FUNDRAISING BANQUET

Redemption



THE 12 TH ANNUAL CALLING TO CONNECT GALA

took place on October 19th in Winnipeg. Thank you to all our guests who attended and the many that supported us through the banquet event. We're overjoyed by the amazing acts of support and generosity of our ministry partners.

The event included dinner music by the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra's Rembrandt Quartet, acoustic music by local musician Dana Doerksen, and a gifted trio of musicians led by Joel Jolly alongside Anna Madden and Brandon Post. We know our supporters are compassionate and understanding, full of empathy, and care.

For these reasons, and many others, we explored the deeper "why we do what we do" and our mission to bring hope to the core. Through various artwork, stories, videos, and pictures, ICYA staff shared stories about many remarkable kids and youth from the North End.

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR GUESTS AND SUPPORTERS!

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

PLATINUM



BILL & MARGARET FAST

GOLD



SILVER



SPECIAL THANKS ALSO TO:

The Centro Caboto Centre, Decorations by Rick, Dan Neufeld Photography, Clarity Productions, Sierra Savannah Photography

Pray

FOR THE NORTH END

- » Please pray for staff to join our ministry. We're in need of new program staff to join the Bridge and Community Ministry Teams. Pray that God would lead people to join our mission.
- » Pray for the Community Christmas Party, the hamper deliveries, and gifts for children. Pray that these initiatives bless our neighbours.
- » For many people Christmas is a joyful time to celebrate with family and friends. For some it is a tough season of loneliness and depression. Please pray for our friends that struggle during this time. Pray that they see and know the love and hope of Jesus

HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?

As a supporter you are a partner and an essential piece of our ministry to Winnipeg's inner city. Every week our staff meets to pray for our community. We want to pray for you as well, for whichever praise or prayer request you have in your life.

EMAIL US YOUR REQUESTS TO (INFO@ICYA.CA) OR CALL (204) 582-8779.



STORY STUDIO

The Story Studio is a safe space in which the storyteller can express their story in whatever way best suits them. It can be by verbally sharing, through music, art, creative writing, and more.

The Story Studio was designed to be used in a number of different ways. Everyone expresses themselves in different ways and we want to honour that, and be able to capture their story well.

Keep up-to-date and watch the stories on our Story Studio YouTube Page.

Learn more at www.icya.ca/story-studio



*"Come into the Studio,
Release some stress cause you
know,
It's the only place I can.*

*Cause in the streets,
I always gotta have my hand on
my strap,
Ready to attack,
Any one of my enemies if they
wanna act up."*

**- Quote from a freestyle rap.
Author anonymous**



*"So I voiced my thoughts
and joined the Human Rights
Movement... got into trouble...
got arrested... and I fled the
country by the grace of God."*

**-Excerpt from "I Have a Dream
- God Sent Me to Prison" by
Chaplain Oscar Boloko**

Full video can be seen on our
YouTube channel



INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

UPDATE

We believe that youth hold the future of our community, so we are passionately committed to the development of local youth leadership. Local leaders from our community can empathize on a deep level with local kids as they can relate in their shared struggles. Through youth seeking and asking to lead, and support from generous donors, we have launched and grown our Indigenous Leadership Initiative. This initiative enables us to hire local Indigenous youth from the North End serving the North End.

Our ministry partners have generously supported this program and helped us hire 11 Indigenous staff. This last year, ICYA employed 20 Indigenous staff through full-time and part-time jobs in programming and administrative roles.

Thank you ministry partners for supporting local leaders!

STAFF NEEDED

We're in need of staff to join our team! If you are interested or know someone with a heart for Inner City missions and youth, we'd love to hear from you!

Full job descriptions can be found at: www.icya.ca/careers-volunteering

You can send all your inquiries and resumes to: karen@icya.ca or dory@icya.ca

Facilities Manager:

• Inner City Youth Alive is looking for a person with a heart for the poor and marginalized in society, possessing gifts of helps or service. This person would ensure that both facilities and vehicles in the city and at camp are well maintained, repaired, and ready for program use.

Community Minister:

• ICYA is seeking a Community Minister who will serve women in Winnipeg's North End Community. The Community Ministry team is unique since it is not formally connected to any specific ICYA program. This structure allows for flexibility in weekly scheduling in order to be available as needs arise within the North End community

Bridge Women's Ministry Coordinator:

• The Bridge Women's Ministry Coordinator's primary responsibility is to develop and maintain mentoring relationships with local neighborhood women through outreach and discipleship ministries with contacts made through The Bridge ministry with youth

Bridge Team Member – 2 POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

• The Bridge Drop-In Team Member's primary responsibility is to develop and maintain strong mentoring relationships with local neighborhood children and youth through the running and coordinating of Inner City Youth Alive (ICYA) outreach ministries.



CALLING ALL

HANDY MEN & WOMEN

We're in need of various building maintenance projects around our ICYA Facility. Do you have a couple hours available to come lend us a hand?

Call Kathleen at (204) 582-8779
or email: volunteer@icya.ca.

Merry
Christmas

FROM THE STAFF AT ICYA



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You can donate by credit card by phoning us at (204) 582-8779 or online at www.icya.ca/donate/



A monthly credit card donation plan is available as well.