

The URBAN EDGE

"Where we Live"

INSPIRE COURAGE

Maybe some of you got gutsy and made a New Year's resolution. It takes courage because the odds are stacked against you. Every time we set our focus on a better way for our lives a combination of opportunity and danger lurks before us. For new things to happen in our lives we have to overcome our old ways, and old ways die hard. The prospect of stepping up your game to start a new diet or getting serious about exercise could open a whole new way of living for you, but the potential to fail at these things is also there and your failures always want to define you. If you have tried before and failed, you already have your definition of self. You know it in your soul. You feel that you are a loser, so how dare you do great things? The danger in trying and failing is that you can end up just giving up on yourself altogether.

When we offer a new opportunity to someone in our ministry it can sometimes be received with some fear and trepidation. What if I fail? What if I don't live up to the expectations? What if I start out strong and then drift off into some lack-lustre mediocrity. All the wisdom of sages that say, "it is better to have tried and failed, than never to have tried at all," rings hollow when you are sitting

there. Words like these are little consolation.

Some time ago I was talking with a young woman from our community. I was listening as she poured out her story. She was talking about these "almost moments." A program that she almost got through but fell apart in the eleventh hour. She almost graduated, but a few weeks before that day things fell apart and she walked away. There were other almost moments that she shared. I was listening and asking God to give me a word while I listened. I was really present, but also praying "God, what does she need to hear from you right now?" She was really in a desperate place and wanted to get through it all. So I got the nudge to push her a little. I offered up my thought that maybe she was afraid to succeed. The phone went quiet as she thought about that. We ended our call with her saying that she would think about this some more. A few months later I bumped into her on the street. She was beaming and really happy to see me, as I was to see her. After a hearty and happy hello between us she said, "I thought about me being afraid of success and realized you were right. I was afraid." The conversation continued as she told me how she had felt that she could only

fail at life. The prospect of success was almost mortifying. It was a combination of the things she had heard growing up and that she didn't have any role models to show her that she could have a good life. We celebrated the fact that she was now working and off welfare. She was working as an educational assistant, giving back to her community and living into a completely different definition of self. She had overcome her fear of success and it really showed in her face.

The word "encourage" captures the idea. To encourage someone is by definition "to inspire someone with courage." I have had people that certainly inspired me with courage. So often I have heard a word or had someone tell me that they believed in me right when I needed to hear it. When we set out to do great things in our lives we need someone to come along and call out the greatness that they and God can see in us. Be that person today!

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!

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine as children do. It's not just in some of us; it is in everyone. And as we let our own lights shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.”

MARIANNE WILLIAMSON

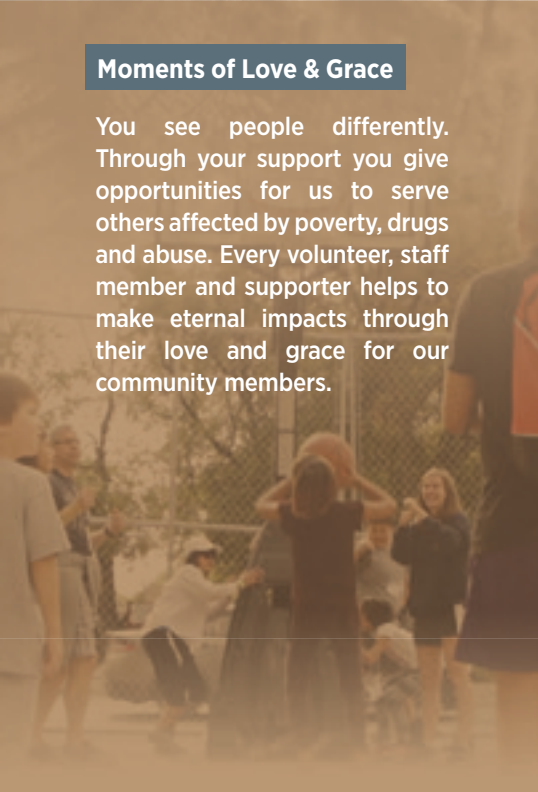


YOUR IMPACT

AS A FAITHFUL MINISTRY PARTNER your prayer and financial support has helped to make a long-lasting difference in the lives of hundreds of kids and youth this year. Attached to this newsletter is our Annual Report. Each year we try to compile numbers, but being a relational-focused ministry, gathering numbers can be difficult. We record what we can, but some numbers are hard to track, such as how we count those moments when a kid feels safe to have fun and “just be a kid” at the Bridge, or when a teenager catches their first walleye at Gem Lake, or when a young man regularly attends our Bible studies at the Manitoba Youth Center?

Moments of Love & Grace

You see people differently. Through your support you give opportunities for us to serve others affected by poverty, drugs and abuse. Every volunteer, staff member and supporter helps to make eternal impacts through their love and grace for our community members.

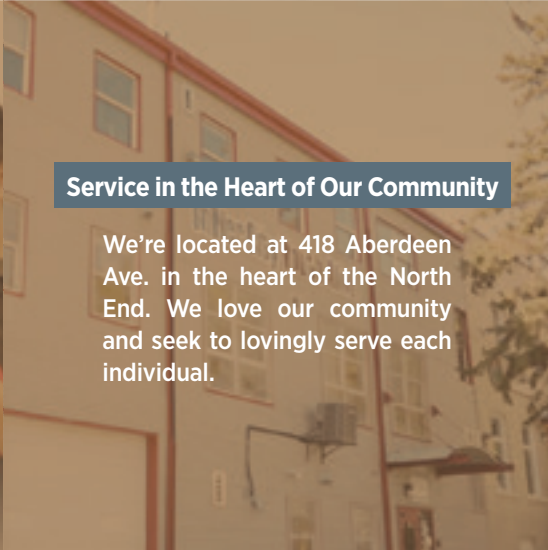


Life-long Memories

Whether it's catching their first walleye or simply enjoying the tranquility of the outdoors, Gem Lake Wilderness Camp provides life-long memories for kids and youth from the North End.

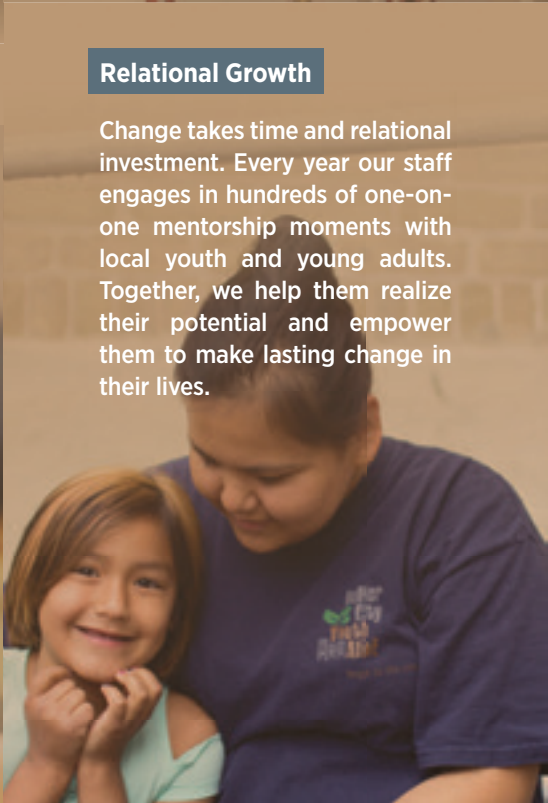
Service in the Heart of Our Community

We're located at 418 Aberdeen Ave. in the heart of the North End. We love our community and seek to lovingly serve each individual.



Relational Growth

Change takes time and relational investment. Every year our staff engages in hundreds of one-on-one mentorship moments with local youth and young adults. Together, we help them realize their potential and empower them to make lasting change in their lives.



Fun Games and Activities

You helped us to provide a safe space at the Bridge Drop-in so kids could be kids. Each Drop-in evening is filled with games, crafts and activities led by ICYA staff and volunteers.



Empowering Local Leaders

Leaders from the North End serving the North End. Your support helped to build local leaders who love and care for their community. Through their courageous journeys local leaders have lasting impacts on the kids and youth they serve.





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.

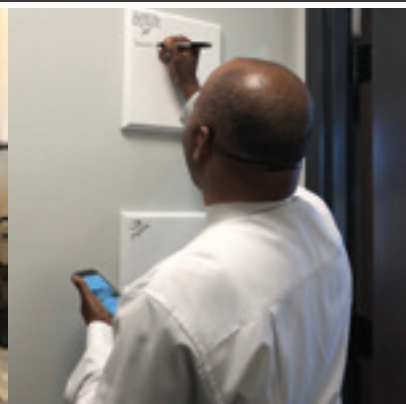
Learn more at www.icya.ca/story-studio

UNTOLD STORIES FROM THE STORY STUDIO

I'd argue that the biggest growth I've seen so far has come from things that happen when the camera isn't rolling. There are lots of people that are very interested in the Story Studio, but just too shy to record something. A few months ago one of these people came by to finally try out the studio. She was too shy to record anything on camera, but was willing to try some karaoke. It has become a great tool to get people into the studio for the first time! She was incredibly nervous, but nevertheless went into the studio by herself, closed the curtains, put on the headphones and waited for me to start the song.

For the first while I thought maybe the mic wasn't working, because I couldn't hear a thing. Eventually I realized that she was just mouthing the words of the song! I let the song play through and then went to check

on her. Although she was still really nervous, she was willing to give another song a try. That time, I could hear her whispering along to the song. Progress! I checked on her again after the second song and she immediately had the next song she'd like to sing chosen. This time, she was willing to have us record it just so she could listen to it afterwards. She was now singing and getting more and more confident as the song went on. Once again, progress! After this, she went immediately to tell Kent about what she just did and to ask him to learn that song on guitar so that one day they could record a duet in the Story Studio. It took no more than 15 minutes for her to go from being too scared to even make a sound to planning for future duets. I don't know about you, but I call that growth!





SHELBY'S STORY

Shelby was a volunteer through Steinbach Bible College's (SBC) MissionX program. We've had the tremendous privilege of working with SBC as they equipped leaders to serve in the inner city.

"My service learning at ICYA in Winnipeg was special. The Bridge Drop-in is a place where children, youth and adults go and where relationships are built. The children coming attend regularly, but each week is something different. What really struck me is how the staff and volunteers care so much for these children who attend.

They are all about community, and it reminded me of being home in Grand Rapids where community and relationships are everything. The children have great trust and respect for the regular staff and volunteers. The most valuable thing I noticed in my Service Learning was seeing how ICYA builds relationships within the community. They demonstrate the love of God to each person and do so much outreach. They host dinners to which they invite families in the neighbourhood. At Christmas time we delivered presents and sang carols at the children's homes."

- Shelby Beardy

STAFF WANTED

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 them! Full job descriptions can be found at: www.icya.ca/careers

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

MEALS 4 KIDS COORDINATOR

Inner City Youth Alive is looking for a person possessing gifts of helps or service with a heart for the poor and marginalized in society. The "Meals 4 Kids" Coordinator will oversee all food and nutrition needs of ICYA's programs. Leadership will be given to the development and implementation of healthy eating practices for the youth we serve.

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 TEAM MEMBER

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.

JOIN OUR GEM LAKE CAMP TEAM

- Camp Counselor (July - August)
- Assistant Program Coordinator (May - August)
- Camp - City Liaison (June - August)

Gem Lake Wilderness Camp is set a world away from the pressures and conflicts of the inner city in the beautiful Nopiming Provincial Park, located 250 km North of Winnipeg. The camp staff have the tremendous opportunity to walk alongside our campers as they experience God and the great outdoors in a fun, safe and active environment.



HELP SEND AN INNER CITY KID TO CAMP

Every summer we run eight camps at Gem Lake Wilderness Camp located 250+km northeast of Winnipeg in Nopiming Provincial Park.

These camps are free for any inner city kid and youth. We regularly hear from former campers how transformational a week at camp was in growing up. It creates life-long memories that change the trajectory of many

kids and youth. After a couple of nights at Gem Lake, youth often comment on how peaceful and quiet the space is. In God's backcountry classroom the youth experience the beauty of creation around them. We see some of the tough gang involved youth just melt into the love of God as the week progresses.

JOIN US AND GIVE THE GIFT OF HOPE THIS SUMMER!

The difference one summer can make to an underprivileged child is enormous. Your gift will help to send a child to camp for one week.

Send your donation marked '*Gem Lake Camp*' in the enclosed return envelope, or visit icya.ca/donate, or call **(204) 582-8779**.





AS WE ENTER A NEW SEASON WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US REGULARLY IN PRAYING FOR THE NORTH END.

In 2019 we plan to send out regular prayer and praise updates of our ministry. If you're interested in joining this new E-MAIL list, please contact us at pray@icya.ca or go to www.icya.ca/pray

- Pray for the many families affected by the house fires during Winnipeg's cold weather. Pray for safe temporary housing and new long-term home opportunities.
- Please pray for the safety of our kids and youth. Pray for protection for those that get tied up in spring gang activity, and pray for wisdom for our staff and volunteers as we walk side-by-side in these issues.
- Pray for Nick, a young man from our community (name changed for privacy). His Mom passed away unexpectedly in January. He lived with his mom and relied on her for much of his needs in life. Nick continues to struggle with an addiction to Crystal Meth and he has FASD (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder). Since his mom died he has been living in a drug house where many people take advantage of his vulnerabilities (he easily trusts people and has a hard time thinking about choices and consequences – part of the FASD dynamic). He needs help for his addiction which he carries a lot of shame and embarrassment about. Please pray for freedom for Nick to admit his addiction and be willing to receive help. Pray that he knows God cares and loves him in the midst of the brokenness of his life. Pray for ICYA staff for wisdom on how best to support Nick.
- Pray for renewal in our community, that in this new season we will continue to see Christ's "Hope in the Core."
- Please pray for those affected by the meth epidemic. The effects of this drug are evident across Winnipeg. Pray for healing and restoration of those suffering from its effects.

We also want to hear your prayer requests! Let's journey together!



The Story Studio was recently featured on CBC! Our friend, Katherine Thomas, shared her story with the CBC about surviving residential schools and her hopes and dreams for her family. Watch it on **CBC Video**: *"Winnipeg's Story Studio draws on power of storytelling to encourage reconciliation, bridge building"*



418 Aberdeen Ave.
Winnipeg, MB R2W 1V7

ph: (204) 582-8779
f: (204) 582-4729
e: info@icya.ca
www.icya.ca



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.