



# The URBAN EDGE

Your Exclusive Update On Your Generosity At Work | Fall 2023

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*“To me, Step Up is growth and friendship.”*

# FROM CHOPPER CLUB TO CREW LEADER

*How your generous heart has given Jonas meaningful employment*



## Meet Jonas.

He grew up in the North End, and has been a part of ICYA for over 20 years. He started in the chopper club, building bikes out back. Later, he attended Gem Lake. Throughout his life, he’s been ministered to by Jeremy.

**And now, Jonas is a part of Step Up Construction, as a crew leader and a role model for the other employees.**

“I enjoy helping and teaching people what I know when they come to Step Up,” he says.

When he first started, he struggled to show up to the job site every

day. But now, he takes his increased responsibility very seriously and is oftentimes the first one there!

In fact, this summer as the Step Up crew worked to repair the St. James Bridge, Jonas woke up at 5 am so he could pick up his team members and make sure they all arrived at the site on time.

“To me, Step Up is growth and friendship,” he says. “To grow myself and learn, but also having awesome co-workers. You can see how they’re learning and growing too.”

Jonas has finished high school and maintains steady employment

through Step Up. He’s getting better at budgeting. He got his driver’s license, and this summer, purchased his first vehicle!

**We are so grateful to generous neighbours like you for helping us pay Jonas a living wage.** Without you, we wouldn’t have been able to offer him this job.

We praise God for the way He’s been working in Jonas’ life over these last few months. And we thank God for everyone who supports this ministry so faithfully! ✕



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## STEP UP UPDATE

Jonas and his crew are busy! From finishing the Step Up construction base on Salter Street to many residential projects, including these beautiful front steps — we’re grateful for the special role you play in making this work possible!





Thank you for filling hungry tummies like Maya's this Thanksgiving.

# CARING HEARTS, FULL BELLIES

## Thanks to you, kids will be fed until February 2024!

This past Thanksgiving, we asked caring people like you to help feed hungry kids in Winnipeg's North End.

And wow, did you ever come through!

**Not only did you make sure we could provide a hearty and healthy dinner to every child in need during Thanksgiving, but you also made sure we could do so until February!**

Your care and compassion are making a big difference for children like Maya.

This summer, she came with us on a field trip. It was supposed to be a fun

day, free from stress and anxiety. But she ended up acting out in a BIG way.

When one of our leaders asked her what was wrong, she broke down in tears.

"Nobody cares about me," she said. She then shared that there was no food at home for her to eat.

Suddenly, Maya's anger and frustration made all the sense in the world. **She was acting out because she didn't have the basic necessities to make it through the day.**

It's for kids like Maya that our Meals 4 Kids program is so important. Even when her parent's fridge is empty she can count on a warm plate full of food at Inner City Youth Alive.

**And that's all thanks to the kindness and care of friends like you. Thank you! ✕**



**"All of that opened my eyes that there's more to life."**

# CHAOS TO PEACE

**How you help build relationships that heal and transform!**

Dimitrios first met our community Minister, Jeremy in Gangster Church at the Manitoba Youth Centre (MYC).

**He was at the MYC, serving a three year sentence for a violent crime.**

"I grew up in a turbulent... household," he says. "My mom was a pretty bad alcoholic."

His childhood trauma pushed him towards drugs, alcohol and negative role models.

When Dimitrios reflected on meeting Jeremy at MYC, he shares, "I remember we did a lot of arguing. Not bad arguing — just me and all my questions. All of that opened my eyes that there's more to life."

When he got out of MYC, he fell back in with his old crew — selling drugs to make quick, easy money.

Until one day, it all came crashing down. The leader of his crew got caught selling drugs and was sent to jail. Right then, Dimitrios made a decision to stay out of prison.

Even though he had a steady job, it took three full years before Dimitrios could change his ways.

"When you're used to chaos, you think peace is pretty boring," he says.

**During the pandemic, Jeremy called Dimitrios regularly.** In one of those calls, he realized that Dimitrios was in a different space.

"You were telling me about cooking different recipes and how you were raising plants," Jeremy remembers.

"We weren't allowed to do anything, so I started learning about myself," Dimitrios adds. "Finding healthy things that you can focus your energy on is very important."

**Today, Dimitrios is working on his third year of sobriety. And he's trying**



Dimitrios first met Community Minister, Jeremy in prison. Now, he's 3 years sober and encouraging others — just as Jeremy encouraged him.

**to encourage other youth coming out of jail the way that Jeremy has encouraged him:**

"Keep on," he says. "Just keep trying. That's the most important thing." ✕

*In the quietude of his car,  
Jeremy is able to pray with Paul...*

## WHEN MINISTRY TAKES THE WHEEL

*Your gift today can help fix cars and heal hearts!*

Sometimes, our ministry happens where you'd least expect it.

Like in a car.

You see, most of our friends and neighbours don't have access to reliable transportation, or money to take the bus. So, they rely on our Community Ministers to get them where they need to go.

**Often, the moments when our ministry is the most impactful is in those 15 or 30 minute car rides — where two people have no option but to sit together and talk.**

Like Jeremy does with Paul, a young man he mentors.

After he drives Paul home, they'll often sit in the car



outside of Paul's house. In the solitude of that space, he's able to open up. It's in those moments where he feels safe enough to talk about his struggles...

...like how he feels he's screwed up too much to ask God for help.

**And in the quietude of the car, Jeremy is able to pray with Paul.** To reassure him of God's love, grace, and forgiveness. To remind him that God is on his side in life.

For Paul, Jeremy's car helps meet his physical needs. But it also helps meet his emotional ones, too. And it gives Jeremy a unique opportunity to minister to Paul's heart.

Today, will you consider joining us in this special ministry of connecting with neighbours like Paul at the wheel?

**Your generous gift of \$50, \$100, or even \$200 can help our Community Ministers budget for the increased price of gas, and the likely car repairs that come along with the cold Manitoba winters.**

You won't just be fixing cars — you'll be healing hearts. And walking alongside people like Paul, as they work towards reconciliation and a life with Christ.

Your compassion couldn't come at a better time.

**With winter coming, we'd love to tell our Community Ministers that their cars — and the people they carry — are cared for, right through the winter!**

One more thing: will you join us in praying for the ministry that happens in these cars? That God would use our Community Ministers as a positive force in the lives of our North End neighbours?

Thank you! ✕



**Yes, I want to help make moments of ministry happen in cars this winter!**

Your gift of \$100 will help our Community Ministers budget for the increased price of gas, and the likely car repairs that come along with the cold Manitoba winters.

Please use the enclosed coupon and reply envelope to send in your most generous gift today. To donate by phone, call **(204) 582-8779** or give online at **icya.ca/car-ministry**

Thank you so much!

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