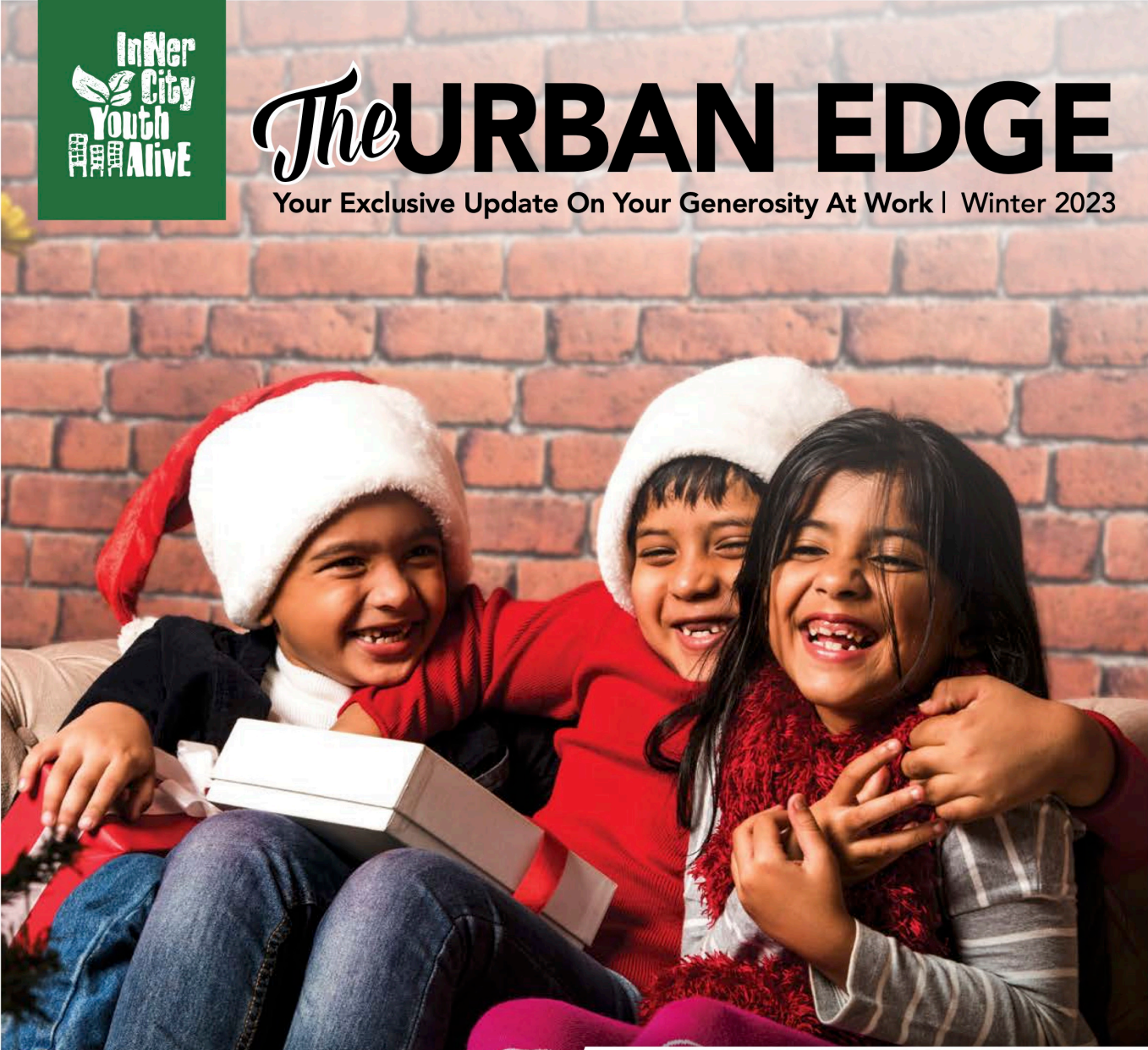




The URBAN EDGE

Your Exclusive Update On Your Generosity At Work | Winter 2023



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This Christmas, caring people like you gave so many gifts of love and care to children and families in Winnipeg's North End.

Sports equipment, home-made meals, baby bundles, school supplies, and more!

But you also gave another gift — one you may not have realized at the time...

CONTINUED INSIDE



**MORE THAN YOU KNOW,
CONTINUED**

...You gave a change of perspective. And that's a gift that lasts a lifetime.

"Your perspective is so limited in the North End," says Sheena, our Engage Education Coordinator. "There's a narrative in your head that tells you, 'This is how life is going to be.'"

That narrative is simple: life will be dark and negative, so don't aim too high.

But your generosity tells these families otherwise.

Because of you, children and teenagers are able to access incredible activities and opportunities. Through them, they're connected to positive role models — people like Sheena — who are committed to helping them see themselves, and the world, differently.

"Sometimes it just takes one person to say, 'It doesn't have to be like this. Your life can be full of light!'"

Light. Positivity. Hope for the future. Those are the gifts you gave this holiday season. And those are the gifts that will inspire generations of change-makers for years to come! ✕

"IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN SAD AND HUNGRY..."

How your compassion is comforting our community

"Is there any way you can help me buy a few groceries?"

It's a question we've heard many times over the last few months. **And thanks to big-hearted people like you, we've been able to answer. ♥**

On the one year anniversary of her son's death, Monique called us in a panic. Her friends and family were coming over and she was out of food. Her next paycheque was *days* away.

Her pay doesn't go as far as it used to. In fact, she rarely has any money left at the end of each month, even though she's careful with it.

It's because of your generosity that we were able to prepare a hamper *full* of food and deliver it to Monique before her guests arrived.

We wish you could have seen how grateful she was. She said, *"I don't know what I would have done without this... we would*

have sat around being sad and hungry."

Sometimes, it's the little things that make all the difference. Thank you for comforting Monique — and others like her — with your compassion on hard days! ✕

This Christmas, our caring community of supporters raised money to provide emergency food hampers and grocery gift cards for families in the North End! Because of generous people like you, many of them have faith in a God who provides. Thank you for sharing your love this holiday season!



Because of you, Monique was able to feed her family on a difficult day.

Inside our headquarters
at 418 Aberdeen



OUR BIG DREAM FOR 2023...

...and how you can help bring it to life!

“It feels like I’m coming to a prison,” said one of our kids upon entering our headquarters at 418 Aberdeen.

...Definitely *not* what you want to hear when trying to cultivate a safe space for a community all too familiar with the justice system.

That’s why this year, with the help of caring people like you, our goal is to give our main floor a major makeover.

But this makeover is way more than just aesthetic. You see, our community members — people

of all ages — regularly drop into our building looking for support, prayers, or just someone to talk to.

And when they do, we want them to feel welcome. Safe. Cared for. Kind of like sitting down in a comfortable, cozy living room.

But that’s not all. By renovating and renting our main floor offices to social workers and parole officers, we can offer essential services to our neighbours *in their own community*; in a space they’re already familiar with,

greatly increasing attendance!

For now, these plans are just a dream. But we couldn’t wait to tell you!

If you’d like to help out with this project, stay tuned — we’ll have updates for you soon. In fact, we’ve already reached out to an architect to lay out the floor plan...

We’re only able to dream this big because of the faithful generosity and prayers from supporters like you. Thank you! ✕



One-on-one time is more important than ever... but it's becoming an expense we can't afford.

CAN YOU HELP?

This Christmas, kind people like you gave over \$1,200 to help our Community Ministry team take teens from the North End for coffee and lunch.

And we are so unbelievably grateful. Because with inflation, that's no longer a small expense.

Because of generosity like yours, we're able to give each member of our Community Ministry team a monthly one-on-one mentorship budget of \$75. This

allows them to be regularly present in the lives of our youth — taking them for coffee or lunch, or paying for gas when they attend a volleyball game or dance recital.

It's one of the most important parts of our ministry.

But these days, it's almost impossible to take a teen out for less than \$6. Which means there's only room in the budget to take out 12 kids per month — six if our team members eat, too.

And there are *so many* more youth in our community who need that individual time. Not to mention any new ones who start attending this year.

The need for one-on-one mentorship in the North End is greater than we can afford. And we're wondering if you can help?

Our ministry team is confident they can meet this need with a budget of \$150 per team member, per month. That's an increase of \$75 per team member, per month.

That means, your donation of \$75 right now can help one member of our team spend one-on-one time with *each young person in their support circle next month.*

We've found that the best way to effect change in our community is through trustworthy, grace-filled relationships. And that's exactly what your gift today can help provide.

Please know that we're already so thankful for your contributions to our outreach ministry so far. It's because of your support that we've been able to create a beautiful mentorship program that more teens want to be a part of!

Thank you, and God bless you! ✕



Yes, I want to help teens in the North End get the 1:1 time they need with their mentors.

I will use the enclosed reply coupon and envelope to send in my generous donation of:

- **\$75** to help a Community Minister spend 1:1 time with *each young person* in their support circle **next month.**
- **\$150** to help TWO Community Ministers spend 1:1 time with *each young person* in their support circle **next month.**
- **\$225** to help THREE Community Ministers spend 1:1 time with *each young person* in their support circle **next month.**
- **Or, any amount that feels right for you!**

If you prefer, donate online at icya.ca/one-on-one OR call us at **(204) 582-8779**

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