



The **URBAN EDGE**

Your Exclusive Update On Your Generosity At Work | Spring 2022

**“I couldn’t get
Harvey’s voice out
of my head...”**

*How YOUR GENEROSITY helps
Community Ministers build
life-changing relationships
with inner city youth*

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Even when the world seems dark, kind and caring people like you continue to step up for the most vulnerable youth and young adults in our city. THANK YOU!

[READ MORE](#)

“I COULDN’T GET HARVEY’S VOICE OUT OF MY HEAD...”

How your generosity helps Community Ministers build positive, life-changing relationships with inner city youth

When you support ICYA, your generosity helps Community Ministers like Harvey, Andrew, Jeremy and Melvina build relationships with youth in the North End. Youth who may not have many positive influences in their lives.

Youth like Ryan.

A while ago, Ryan was ambushed by members of his old gang. He was beat up pretty badly and if he hadn’t escaped it could’ve been a lot worse.

The instigator of the attack was sent to jail for 9 months. When he got out, Ryan got a message from a friend telling him where his attacker was... and that he was without weapons.

Ryan immediately began struggling with feelings of anger and revenge. But before acting on those feelings,

he called to check in with Harvey who encouraged him to reconsider. To let those feelings go.

It was a really hard decision for Ryan, who’s been involved with gangs his whole life. He rounded up his friends, grabbed his attacker and began beating him up. But after

A few weeks after Ryan confronted his attacker, he was offered a senior position in his old gang. Ryan turned it down. “That life isn’t for me anymore.”

throwing the first punch, Ryan felt sick to his stomach.

“Guys, stop. Let him go,” he said to his friends. They thought he was crazy... but Ryan couldn’t have been more serious.

After the incident, Ryan had a long talk with Harvey about how revenge is nothing more than an empty promise... and how Jesus gives us a *new way* out of death and violence.

This is the impact your love has every time you support Community Ministers like Harvey, Andrew, Jeremy and Melvina. Your generosity allows them to be out on the streets every day, building positive, life-changing relationships with inner city youth like Ryan. Thank you! ✕



Meet, Tirzah! 🙌

How your compassion helps her reach out to vulnerable kids in the North End

Hi! My name is Tirzah, and I run the Bridge Drop-in on Thursday nights for kids aged five to nine. I joined the ICYA team in January, so I’m pretty new to this role.

Every week, I get to have some one-on-one hang outs with kids from the community. I have a list of *60 names* to choose from. Every week, I struggle with who to pick.

So, I’ve started asking God for guidance—to show me which kid

needs my attention. It’s been three or four weeks now that the timing has been perfect. I’ve shown up to find that the kid God put on my heart has just been through something BIG.

For example, the other day I went to visit a group of siblings, aged 6, 8 and 9. When I got to their house, I found out their mom had walked out on them the day before.

I sat with them and let them express their emotions: sadness.

Anger. Frustration. Fear. But we also talked about how in the Bible, Jesus encourages us to pray for everyone—even the people we’re mad at. At the end of our time together, the kids asked if we could pray for their mom. And we did!

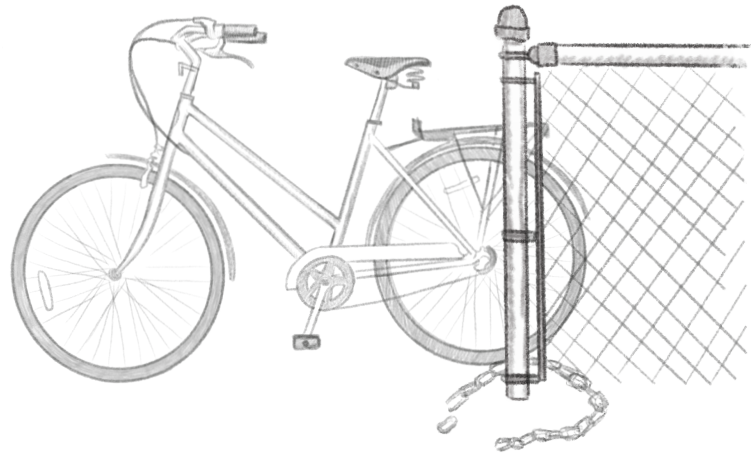
As someone who also cares deeply about the kids in the North End, would you consider keeping this ministry in your prayers?

That God will orchestrate more hangouts like this one, and that He’ll provide me—and all my other team members—with the strength to continue on boldly.

Thank you! ✕

If you’re interested in helping us reach MORE kids in need, email us at volunteer@icya.ca

THE VIRTUE DILEMMA



These days, it's pretty common to hear someone say, "Words are important." But we don't take that far enough. Words are important. But you know what's even *more* important than words? Sentences. And paragraphs are even more important than that! Because paragraphs can lead you into conversations. And if you hang in there, those conversations might become relationships.

For example: it's a pretty common stereotype that there's a lack of virtue in the North End. There's robbery, drugs, violence, addiction... just to name a few.

But while those things do exist in our inner city, they come hand-in-hand with hard work. Determination. Courage. Will power. Strength.

...Some pretty virtuous attributes, if you ask us.

The other day, one of our Community Ministers told a story about some friends of his from the North End. When they were younger, their aunt would pick them up from school and take them to an activity—much like we might with our own children. But instead of taking them to a piano lesson or a volleyball game, this aunt would take her nieces and nephews to the suburbs and instruct them to steal as many bikes as they could.

... Not exactly the kind of "virtue" we're aiming for.

And yet through it, these kids learned how to work hard. How to persevere. How to put in the effort to get a job done. (It also probably took no small amount of courage!)

It's a gray area, right?

It's easy to see the flaws in the aunt's logic... but if we take an honest look around, there's similar examples in every "level" of society. There's a very successful company that puts all its resources into

marketing junk that no one needs... junk that quickly ends up in a landfill.

So, is there a lack of virtue in the North End? No, definitely not. Is that virtue sometimes misguided? Yes, for sure. Just like in other people and places.

When it comes to virtue, no one group has it all figured out. "Right" and "Wrong" are complicated things. And that's exactly why the heart of our work at ICYA is conversation. Conversations that *hopefully* turn into relationships. Ones that lead to healing. ✕



URGENT: ENGAGE EDUCATION GRANTS COMING TO AN END

...Your love can help save this vital program

For our Engage Education program, time is running out. **But if your compassion steps in today, it doesn't have to.**

Let us tell you why that matters: with your love in hand, Engage Education Coordinators, Sheena and Jenny are walking alongside inner city youth—trying to keep the high rates of absenteeism in North End schools to a minimum.

... 880 interactions later and they've found *there's no easy fix.*

For a child in the North End whose dad is addicted to alcohol, whose mom got sent to jail, who has to look after their four younger siblings, who rarely has enough food in the fridge... school is the least of their worries.

And so, simply knocking on the door to wake them up, pack their bag and walk them there doesn't work.

We know. We've tried.

Often, no one answers the door. Other times, the child refuses to leave.

So, we've come up with a different strategy. One of persistence. Relationship building. Trust.

It starts at The Bridge Drop-in. There, we get to know the kids—really know them. Then, we take some time to reflect and plan a response to make sure each child gets the education they deserve.

Sometimes, this looks like sitting with youth and helping them with their homework. Other times, it looks like buying food for a family who doesn't have any at home.



It really is all about relationship. If we can build healthy relationships with families, we can support kids in school—in the unique ways they need.

But that type of relationship building takes *time*. **Time that we may not have.**

Our Engage Education program was built on grants. Grants that are about to come to an end. **Right now, we need the help of generous people like you to keep this program going, so we can continue supporting inner city kids in school.**

We've made so much progress with so many families... it would break our hearts to have to abandon them.

But with your love, we won't have to. Your gift today—of whatever amount feels right for you—will help us stay by their sides.

These are the moments where your generosity can make a BIG difference. Where your generosity can quite literally save a program... helping all the kids that rely on it.

So please, if you're able... give generously to Engage Education today. ❤️



Yes, I want to bring hope and a future through Christ to youth and their families in the inner city!

- Helping support inner city youth to stay in school is something I feel passionately about and it's why I'm choosing to support the life-changing programs and services at Inner City Youth Alive.

I will use the enclosed coupon and reply envelope to send in my most generous gift today!

To donate by phone, call (204) 582-8779, or give online at icya.ca/education

418 Aberdeen Ave.
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2W 1V7
icya.ca | info@icya.ca
(204) 582-8779

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