



# The URBAN EDGE

## STEP UP

Our work in the community is a strange dance. We ask some pretty big questions of our youth and we call them up to become a better version of themselves. I remember when we proposed to the Board of ICYA that we were going to focus on building leaders here in the North End. They questioned the wisdom of this path, as a good board should. The question was obvious: "You are working with youth who often don't know where they are going to stay at night. Do you really think it is reasonable to ask youth who are just surviving to become leaders in their community?" The question went something like that. There was a young man who was more or less a picture of that tension. He was functionally homeless. One night I was driving around with him when three different homes all told him to go away. Finally I ended up hoisting that 13-year-old through the second floor window of a house that he felt would be safe for him. So, could this young man become a leader? Should we ask him to be a leader? When would he be ready to be a leader? At what level could we ask him to lead? And of course, was it even possible for him to lead in the world in which we live?

These questions are not easy to answer. There is another reflex afoot. It offers a counter narrative that is essentially a critique of the world in

which our youth walk. It tells our youth that they are in an impossibly terrible world where they are hated and where racism makes it impossible for them to rise up. Systemic oppression says that the whole world is out to get them.

Jamal Jivanji is a former gang member, an African Canadian who graduated with a law degree from Harvard. He posits the following..."If you tell youth that there is systemic oppression, you leave them with the impression that a whole system has to be deconstructed before they can step toward the life they want. It's like inviting someone for a cool swim on a hot day (hard to imagine here in Manitoba) and then placing 80 pounds of bricks in a sack around their neck. They are probably not going swimming with you. So when you are in the trenches doing work with actual people you have to decide what you want to cling to. Do you want to cling to a narrative of systemic oppression where the whole world hates you or do you want to cling to the hope you have in your heart for the wellbeing of that one youth in front of you. If you want to do the latter, then it is about finding the people that do not want the worst for your youth. Of course, if the former theory is true you will not find any people like that."

I am blown away by the number of good people out there involved in this quiet revolution who will go the second and third mile for our youth, whether it is employers, teachers, volunteers or staff. We are seeing an army of people ready to go to bat for our youth. It is the loudest unheard argument out there. We need those people! When walking beside our youth and hearing their voices sharing the kind of future they dream about, we can call on those good people that are FOR Indigenous youth to offer a job, a home or opportunity that provides the path to that good place. We would be foolish to listen to the dreams of our youth if we believed they were not possible due to a terrible world out there. It is our task to find those Manitobans that are for our youth and invite them to help make dreams come true. If you are reading this article, chances are you are one of those good people.

The young man I hoisted through that second story window has today lifted himself up with the help of all the amazing people who were for him to become a leader in a large company here in our city. Every week I hear those stories. Valentines Day I was late in buying my wife flowers and ended up in the store on my way home from ICYA. I was

caught off guard when I heard a singing voice from the back corner calling my name. I recognized a young woman that I had known for more than 20 years. I teared up as I hugged this young woman. It was so good to see her. The last time we connected she was leaving her job at ICYA. Her addiction was getting in the way of her job as a cleaner in our building. She poured out her story to me. "I am three years clean Kent! I lead a very quiet life, just me and my cat and this job that has changed my life." She had to decide never to see her family who were deep into addiction in order to live her dreams. She assured me over and over how happy she was and what a good life she was having. What she did was a testimony to an internal fortitude and a resolve to live into the life God wanted for her. She lifted a lot to get there. We didn't ask her to change the whole world and address all the injustices in it, of which there are many. The day I let her go I asked her to change just one life—her own.

**Kent Dueck**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22ND  
**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

CENTRO CABOTO CENTRE, WINNIPEG, MB

DATE CHANGE! YES, YOU READ THAT CORRECTLY. WE'VE MOVED THE GALA FROM OUR USUAL FRIDAY NIGHT TO THURSDAY NIGHT. MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW.



Attached is our 2019 Annual Report. Please take a look to see the impact that your prayer and financial support have made last year.

Numbers only give a glimpse of our work in the lives of kids and youth in our neighbourhood. To see more stories of lives impacted go to our website: [ICYA.ca/your-impact](http://ICYA.ca/your-impact)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING GIFTS OF PRAYERS, ENCOURAGEMENTS, AND DONATIONS.

# GET TO KNOW OUR TEAM:

In each issue this year we want to share about four of our staff members with you. In the past we've been encouraged to hear how many of you go through our staff team webpage and pray for each of us. Thank you for all your support!



Lori began volunteering at ICYA in 2002 and in 2004 was hired as a Drop-In Coordinator. For 18 years she has been serving kids and youth in the North End. Today she provides leadership to the Bridge Team. Lori has a passion for kayaking which she shares with many of the Bridge participants each summer. Lori and her husband Dan, and daughter Finley, love integrating their family with the families alongside whom she works.



Melvina joined ICYA in 2019 as a Community Minister. She has a dream to see transformation in the lives of young women and single mothers in our neighbourhood. She's busy caring for and walking alongside moms, providing support and love whenever needed. Beyond all this she loves her husband Dakotah and six kids: Malikhi, Nevaeh, Makayah, Nakhiah, Nakotah, and Makenah.



Matt has been serving as our Gem Lake Coordinator since 2011. In addition to his hard work at Gem Lake, he regularly volunteers at the Children's Drop-in night. Matt works hard to connect with youth and give them opportunities to explore God's beautiful creation. Matt and his wife Carleen and two children, Jack and Elizabeth, are very involved with the ministry year-round.



Karen joined our team in 2018 as the Director of Programming. She brings with her many years of experience in church ministry. Karen and her husband Howard have worked primarily among Indigenous people across Canada. She has two children, both working in ministry - Joel at the Meeting Place and Tobi right here at ICYA. Karen shares a strong desire to see youth rise up and become strong leaders in their communities.



# Connecting WITH OUR SUPPORTERS

This month marks the one-year mark since I started working at Inner City. I was attracted to working here because even from a distance it was easy to see that the commitment to the North End was long-term and highly relational. After years of working on issues related to poverty I was convinced that the solutions that work tend to focus on relationships.

## DEEPER RELATIONSHIPS LEAD TO STRONGER COMMUNITIES.

In the past year I was able to see up close one of the defining characteristics of these relationships.

I found the staff to be genuinely in touch with the truth that we walk as wounded healers - people who know that they too are broken and are continually being healed by the Love of God.

That's the kind of understanding that leads to honest and open relationships, because it acknowledges that by ourselves we can't fix the messes in which we find ourselves. We need Love for that. And we need God to teach us how to Love.

## John Janzen • DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT



*John Janzen is our Director of Development, or more casually known as the one who connects with our ministry partners, foundations and wide network of supporters. He loves to share how God is working through ICYA and how you can partner with us.*

*Reach him to book a lunch, coffee or just to chat more about our ministry and how we can work together at (204) 891-5401 or [jj@icya.ca](mailto:jj@icya.ca)*

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# CAMP STAFF NEEDED

DO YOU LOVE BEING OUTSIDE AND SHARING GOD'S CREATION AND HIS LOVE WITH OTHERS?

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF INNER CITY YOUTH THIS SUMMER.

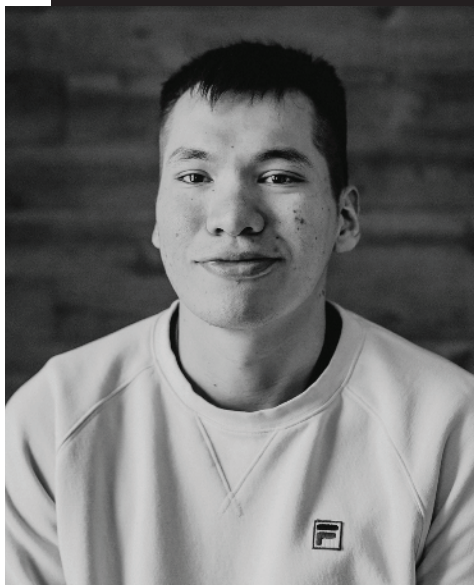
We're looking for staff to join our camp team for Summer 2020 in the following positions:

- » Camp-City Liaison (June - August)
- » Cabin Leaders (July - August)

Learn more at [ICYA.ca](http://ICYA.ca)



# INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE PROFILE



Get to know more about Ronald as we sit down to hear about his vision for ministry to young men in the North End. Ronald is one of our Bridge Team Members and he regularly connects with young men in the community.

**QUESTION:** We all know there is no silver bullet to ending poverty. What are some ways that you see for taking big steps to help people?

**RONALD:** Empowering people. The old mantra “Give a man a fish and he eats for a day. Teach a man to fish and he eats for a life time” is really true! I’ve seen the effects when people teach and empower young men and women in our community to be challenged and go further.

**Q:** How does trauma play into these methods? Many people carry deep hurt and wounds from past experiences.

**R:** It takes a very healthy community to come alongside those individuals and to love them well. This often takes time, grace and lots of love. I once heard a quote along these lines. “What hurt you isn’t your choice, but healing is...be better than what broke you. Heal instead of becoming bitter, so you act from your heart and not from your pain.”

**Q:** We spoke about empowerment, but how do we challenge young leaders in the midst of these trials?

**R:** I’m going to keep rolling with quotes. One of my favorites is from John F. Kennedy - “Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men.” Many young Indigenous people haven’t been given opportunities to be leaders. It’s good for us to be challenged. This is what the Apostles did. They went into a region, taught the local people and empowered them to lead. The epistle letters are full of encouragement and rebuke. They were not above accountability. That’s what we need to do in the North End for young leaders. Encourage new leaders, rebuke when necessary and care for them with accountability.

**Q:** There’s got to be an interplay between calling each other out and encouraging one another. How has this played out in your life?

**R:** I was the first of my seven siblings to graduate high school. Once I graduated it created a healthy competition between us. The success created ripple effects and became contagious. My brothers challenged each other to finish school. Brothers are great at urging each other on.

**Q:** How does that apply to your ministry now?

**R:** I really encourage youth from the community to get involved in sports. Many of the guys I meet with keep going back to school and get good grades just so they can stay on their basketball team. It’s a contagious success. Now the leaders in the community are calling out their neighbours to do better.

**Q:** What’s your dream for the North End?

**R:** I want to see people come to know Jesus and be empowered. I want to see our community rise beyond the struggle with drugs and poverty. I want it to be known for good things, not just the bad. I’d love to see young men and women get meaningful employment, so they feel empowered to move onto big dreams and big goals.

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

ICYA is a volunteer driven organization. Many of our programs can only run when dedicated volunteers give their time and efforts to kids and youth in the North End. Kids remember our volunteers and the impact they make on their lives.

Go to [ICYA.ca/volunteer](http://ICYA.ca/volunteer) to see a full list of opportunities!  
Or e-mail [volunteer@icya.ca](mailto:volunteer@icya.ca) or call (204) 582-8779.

# Pray FOR THE NORTH END

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

In 2020 we plan to continue sending 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](mailto:pray@icya.ca) or go to [www.icya.ca/pray](http://www.icya.ca/pray)



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@InnerCityYouthAlive

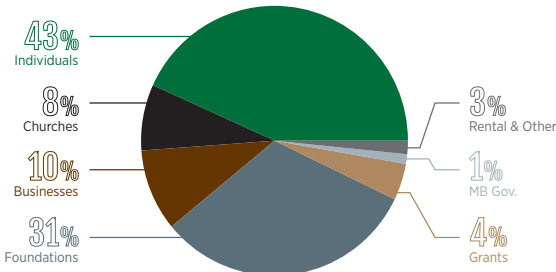
## OUR MISSION

To bring hope and a future through Christ to youth and their families in the inner city.

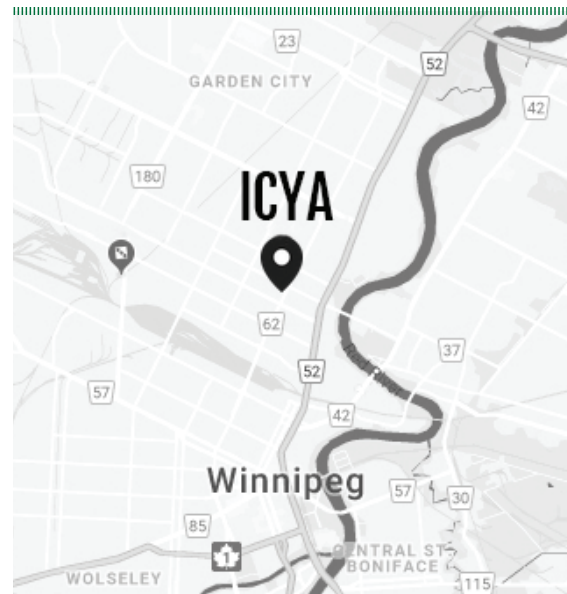
## OUR PROGRAMS



## REVENUE



## ICYA RECEIVES GRANTS FROM:



You can donate online at [www.icya.ca/donate](http://www.icya.ca/donate) or call 204.582.8779



A monthly credit card donation plan is available as well.

