



# The URBAN EDGE

Your Exclusive Update On Your Generosity At Work | Winter 2024

## A BLESSING FOR YOU AND TAUREAN

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# A BLESSING FOR YOU AND TAUREAN

*Your support means young leaders like Taurean can face their challenges and make it out the other side.*



Taurean's success and blessings in life come from being a leader to his peers.

If you look at the most recent recipient of our Youth Leadership Award—Taurean Goodwin—you'll see a humble young man with a life of simple blessings.

Being a leader isn't about personal acclaim for him. **As he says, "It feels good to be a leader because I realize that I can change and other people can change for the better.** Even though sometimes it may be hard, people can still get through this stuff."

He knows this because he's worked hard to get through his own challenges. Before coming to ICYA, he remembers just staying at home without much purpose.

**But after attending the Bridge Drop-In and joining our Engage**

**Education program, things started to look up.** He's worked with our staff to stay in school, get tutoring in tough subjects, develop a growth mindset, and make a difference for others!

While his journey hasn't been easy, he believes it was well worth the effort to become a leader of other youth just like him. "It's a blessing to me that I can be a leader," he says.

**Taurean finds personal fulfillment in helping and guiding others. We hope you find the same thing when you support ICYA—that being someone who lifts up young people with love is a blessing to you.**

Let Taurean's message to you be one of those blessings: **"I want to thank donors for supporting ICYA and helping change people's lives for the better and helping the indigenous kids see a better light into life."** ✕

## YOU'RE AN IMPORTANT PART

**Autumn would like to thank you for all the support you've given her and other kids at The Bridge Drop-In.**

Autumn started coming to The Bridge Drop-In when she was just five years old.

"I can't imagine life without it," she says. There, she found the things her life was missing: family, safety, love, and growth. Plus, people who helped her develop her gifts for leadership.

**Today, she's putting the same encouragement she received back into other kids and youth.** She mentors them, walks alongside them through tough times, leads art projects, and most of all, just gives them a friend to talk to.

"I love the kids and how much we get to pour into them," she says. "The joy they have when you take them on one-on-ones, how much they trust you and how amazing it is to know that you're part of making these kids feel so loved and special, passing on God's love to them."

**The encouragement that Autumn received and the growth she made wouldn't have been possible if it weren't for caring friends like you—people who pour their hearts into our programs and staff.**



You supported Autumn on her journey to today. That means you're also supporting all the kids she connects with.

Autumn's message for you says it best: "Thank you for playing such an important part in these kids' lives. Thank you for being so giving because it makes such a big difference."





Your care for Carl and his peers means they can become strong leaders in their North End communities and families.

## A Servant Heart

*Young leaders like Carl are growing up with humble hearts for serving others.*

When Carl describes his personal journey, he does it in a few words. He's not ready to brag. He's not waiting to say "Look how great I am."

When Carl first came to ICYA as a young boy, he was an introvert who had a hard time getting comfortable. It didn't take long before he saw everyone else was just like him: **kids who wanted to have fun, grow up strong, and experience love.**

Carl looks back on his own journey humbly, seeing his own growth in small, simple ways.

When you ask his mentors, they're quick to point out the magnitude of Carl's transformation into a young leader.

Jennifer, one of his mentors, says, "He's a positive male role model to the youth. They look up to him!"

She's also seen him tear down his walls and give things over to God:

**"Carl has a servant heart. I know his desire is to help others in his community and that is evident in the way he leads."**

That's exactly what Carl says too: **"When I grow up, I want to help other people that need help. I want to help the community and just pay it forward."**

Your investment in ICYA means young leaders like Carl can achieve dreams like this. **Thank you for having a servant heart of your own** and believing young people like Carl deserve to grow, lead, and experience all the beautiful things God has in store for their lives.

***"When I grow up, I want to help other people."***

*But wait! There's even more to Carl's story!  
Turn the page to keep reading.*

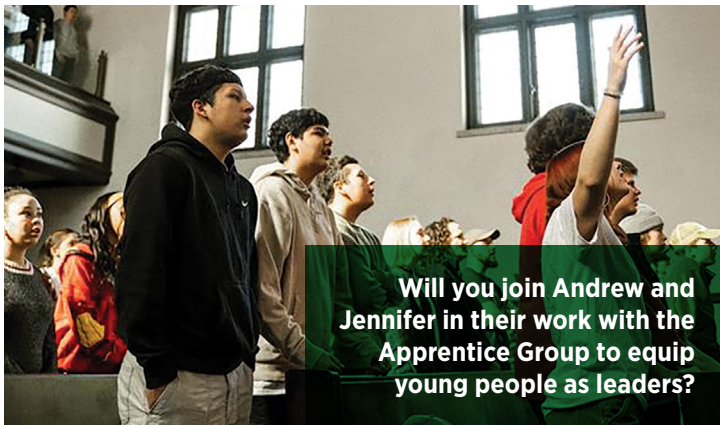
# You Can Raise Up Emerging Leaders Today

**Young people in the North End have so much potential. You can help us raise them up as strong leaders.**

Carl's story is a great example of how young people are growing into strong leaders right here in the North End.

But something helped harness his potential along the way: our Apprentice Group!

Andrew, one of The Apprentice Group's leaders, describes it best: **"The vision of the Apprentice**



**Group is to nurture personal and spiritual growth in young leaders and to equip them to lead both within ICYA's programs and within their families and neighbourhoods."**

The nod to apprenticeship is important: North End youth are learning how to be leaders through training *and* firsthand experience.

Carl is a stand-out success story, but there are youth just like him that are waiting for the same opportunity.

But we don't always have enough mentors for them. And there isn't always room in the Apprentice Group. Sometimes, we don't have the money to cover their trip to a potentially life-changing retreat.

"We believe God is raising up emerging leaders from our community to have impact that is uniquely deep and transformative," says Andrew.

Do you believe this too?

**Then you can help us with a special gift today. Your gift of \$90 will expand The Apprentice Group so that more North End youth can harness their potential and become the leaders God created them to be.**

Your generosity and kindness will mean we can give teens their first Bible, send young leaders to retreats and conferences, have more staff time to meet for one-on-one mentoring, and raise up more leaders.

The North End—and all of Winnipeg—needs more young leaders like Carl, Taurean, and Autumn. Please help us reach the young people that are waiting for us. Thank you! ✕



## Yes, I'm ready to do what I can for emerging leaders in Winnipeg's North End!

**My gift will invest in and equip young people so they can be strong Christ-like leaders in their families and communities.**

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

Thank you for showing how much you care about young men and women in our city's inner city. Your generosity is a beautiful investment in their future growth!

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