



A COMEDY FUNDRAISER WITH A HIGHER PURPOSE

Youth Unlimited presents a family friendly evening of comedy. Performances brought to you by the talented Mike Goodman and Jonnie W, accompanied by Gery Schubert.

Get your tickets today at www.YULAUGH.ca and come join us for this laugh-filled event!



OCT 20

YU LAUGH .CA

7.30 PM - CENTRE STREET CHURCH - MAIN CAMPUS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREG HUTCHINSON



Have you ever wondered if you could start your life all over again? What would you do differently? Would you have taken a different education? Would you have traveled more? I am sure the older we get the more we wonder what we could have done differently! Tony Campolo asked the question? "When you were born, you cried and everybody else was happy. The only question that matters is this: When you die, will YOU be happy when everybody else is crying?"

Sometimes we are so busy with life; work, family and other responsibilities that we really miss out on some real meaning. We want to be that loving parent, or needed volunteer or assist those in need around us. But, too much of life gets in the way and we feel trapped doing things we feel we need to do instead of things we want to do. I have met many people in the last few months that have said to me how they want a career change that is going to leave a legacy rather than just make a living.

Most of us who have savings have seen our accounts drop is a scary figure. I have caught myself asking the question..."if I would have only known, I would have rather given it away for the purposes of good then to see the results now". We cannot change the past or go back in time. However, today the future can be different if you only give it a chance and make a stand.

As you read our stories in our Newsletter you hear the challenges of youth in our community. Today you can step up to the challenge and volunteer, join our staff team, or give your financial resources to make a difference. In doing so...you are leaving a legacy that God will bless you with. Our lives are too short to just live going through the motions of living... today make a difference and help us!



COUNT ME IN AS A PARTNER!

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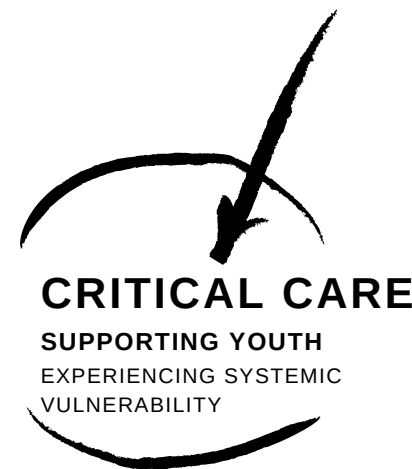
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SUMMER 2023



**Leadership
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GROWING & DISCOVERING
GOD'S PURPOSE



CAMPUS LIFE ROSS ANDRESEN



I'm Ross Andresen and I'm the newest staff member of Campus Life. I was able to join the team in the fall and I'm so excited to have this opportunity as a youth worker for these days that we live in!! This past school year was my first with Youth Unlimited and I'm grateful for the experiences I've already had. During the winter, I was able to coach junior high boy's basketball, and now I am coaching high school boy's soccer at the very same school. The other day during soccer practice, I was able to spend time and just talk with the students about their future. It was amazing because some of the boys don't have a safe person who can talk things through with them. I'm glad that through coaching their teams, I have been able to create an open and safe space for those boys.

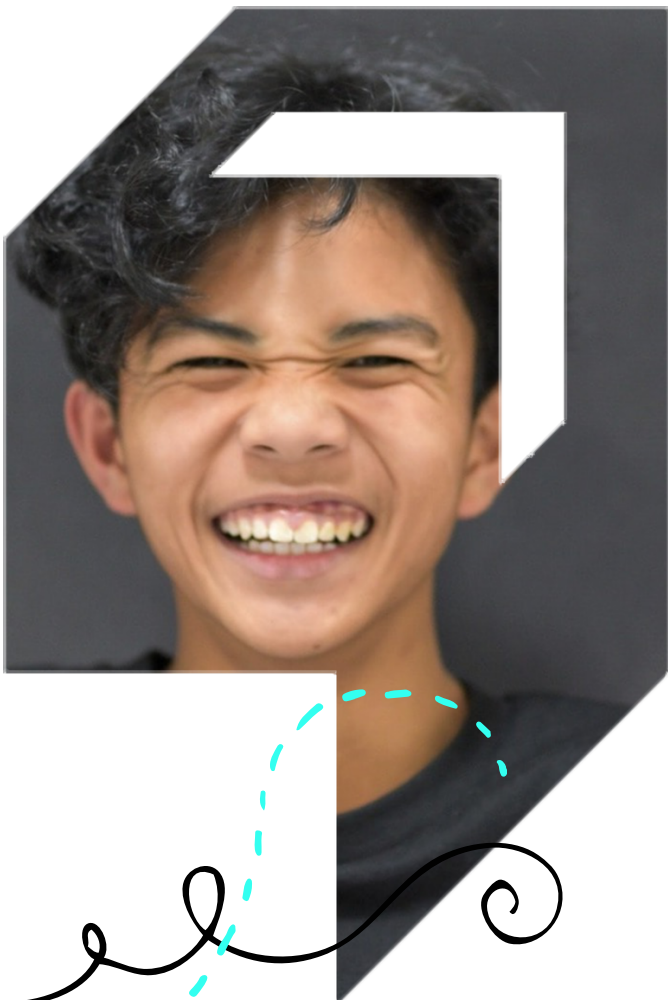
As I've been in and out of the school coaching high school soccer, sometimes I still run into the grade seven boys that were on the basketball team I coached during the winter. I love that they've been excited to see me and that they also want to connect. It's awesome being able to be around and have opportunities to be intentional with these boys and point them back to Jesus!!! I'm looking forward to what the next school year will bring!

KERAMIKO KYRA LABONTE



I'm the newest member of our Keramiko team and I am beyond excited to officially be on staff with such a wonderful and fun group of people over here at YU Calgary! When I was in highschool I was so blessed to have youth leaders who took a vested interest in my life and my walk with Jesus. Their mentorship and discipleship impacted me in so many ways and I could not think of a better way to spend my time than to pour into our youth, as I was once poured into. Even before moving to Calgary I was praying about whether or not I should apply to work at YU in the Keramiko Program. Over the past few years, while serving in other ministries, God has given me a heart for young moms and I am grateful to now be serving on such an incredible team at Keramiko!

Last week, one of our moms that I have been getting to know reached out and asked if I could meet her at the courthouse. I had never even been to the courthouse, let alone support someone going through what she has been going through, but I was honoured that she trusted me and that she invited me to come alongside her (even though I wasn't exactly sure what I was doing). Please pray for us as we plan and prepare for new outreach opportunities and as we continue to deepen the relationships we are currently building with our Keramiko families!



STREETLIGHT CARISSA LAWTON



Summer is here and with that there are some new and exciting things happening at Streetlight. I am away on maternity leave but over the warmer months, with the help of the Youth Unlimited team, we will be giving our drivers a much needed break and instead, meeting outside on foot. This gives our ministry the freedom to do more activities with the youth and allows us to have that summer feel with BBQ's and cookouts. The 2nd time they gathered this way they were able to do axe throwing with the youth which was a huge hit! They've been getting some new faces and a really good turn out of youth at these events which is so encouraging.

StreetLight's aim is to be more intentional with the youth and brainstorming ways in which we can serve them better. The team will be starting an "Ask Us Anything" box giving the youth a fun way to anonymously ask questions and gives staff opportunities to share from their hearts as they respond; The team has also taken the time to pause and pray with some of the kids. Over this next season the Youth Unlimited team and I will be prayerfully discerning how to move Streetlight forward in the new year, with intention and God's guidance. Thank you for being a part of this family, we appreciate each and every one of you!

YOUTH GUIDANCE JENN LABIUK

When I was 2, my family moved from Victoria. to Calgary and started attending Altadore Baptist Church. This is where I was raised in my faith. I was young but there was one person that the Lord was highlighting to me and whom I would watch, observe and pay explicit attention to his interactions with others and this person was Bernie Adam (from Youth Unlimited). From my perspective, back then, I was curious and in awe of him; he was a cool dude and stood out from others with his long hair and awesome style but it was more than that that set him apart. The relationships he cultivated with those around him in our church family and with the youth/teens was something I had never really seen before. He was warm, genuine and had a heart for others that was easy to witness. What stuck out most to me was the relationship he had with a youth that was definitely a youth at risk (although I was not familiar with that term back then) and Bernie loved him well and poured into his life week after week. It was beautiful to witness as he seemed different around Bernie than anyone else.

When I was 9 or 10, Bernie was brought up to the front of the church on a Sunday morning to get commissioned for a new job/ministry that he was called to and that would be where he still is today with Youth Unlimited/Youth For Christ. I had no idea what that meant or even what that was but for some reason the Lord had set that moment firm in my memories. I became a youth at risk myself due to a series of circumstances. We left Altadore when I was 15 years old as my parents followed my brother and I to a community church that we wanted to attend. I gave my life to Jesus at 16 and was baptized a few months later. I ended up moving to Victoria, BC with my mom when my parents divorced when I was 17 and pregnant with my first child. I heard the call to work with youth when my teen years got messy at 13 but I didn't know how or what it would look like.

In Victoria, I became like the prodigal son but Jesus beckoned me back to Himself. Now, all these years later starting out in ministry for YFC Victoria, giving to youth what I myself have received and what I observed all those years ago with Bernie is how I model the ministry the Lord has called me to.



WORTH AUTO LORIN FRIESEN



As a father and ministry worker, I have firsthand experience witnessing the numerous challenges that youth face in today's fast-paced and complex world. As they navigate their paths forward, the crucial need for mentors who can provide guidance, support, and impart valuable life skills cannot be overstated. Worth Auto has a profound impact on the lives of young individuals, equipping them not only with technical skills but also with a strong moral compass and a sense of God-given purpose.

Mentorship and guidance are paramount in our program. We have a dedicated team of quality mentors who serve as role models, providing guidance and support to our youth. The impact of mentorship extends beyond technical instruction, fostering a sense of belonging, self-confidence, and resilience. This enables them to overcome obstacles and realize their full potential.

Through Christian mentorship, we encourage participants to cultivate their spiritual lives, build strong moral values, and develop a compassionate and service-oriented mindset. This comprehensive approach ensures that the youth become well-rounded individuals capable of making positive impacts in their communities and leading purpose-driven lives. Our ultimate goal is for the youth to recognize God's calling on their lives and foster a growing relationship with Jesus.

When youth were asked to help share about the influence the Worth team had on their lives, they replied, "I know they will be there as supports for me" and, "I've since seen (youth) go from not knowing what they're going to do with their life, to a place where they seem to have some drive and purpose". As the Director of Worth Auto, this affirms my heart's desire to empower our young people. To help them embrace a life deeply rooted in their identity in Christ and the ability to live with clear calling and purpose.