



# FALL 2016 UPDATE

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*Missa*  
Foundation Youth

“VOLUNTEERS DO NOT NECESSARILY HAVE THE **TIME**;  
THEY SIMPLY JUST HAVE THE **HEART**.”

If there is one thing that the students at Foundation can count on on a weekly basis, it is that 19 year old Gabriel Sichangwa will be there to spend time with them. He does what many of those on our leadership team do, which is sacrifice their own time to invest in the lives of young people. The difference that

sets him apart from the rest is he has no car; and he lives in the far North End of the city; and he makes a round trip of over 1 1/2 hours every time he comes down to be with the kids! No matter what we can always depend on “Gabe,” walking from the transit centre with a big smile on his face to start a game of...

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Allen Klein, the author of *The Art of Living Joyfully*, has said, "Research has shown that **people who volunteer often live longer.**" This may or not be true, I haven't read the research. In fact some volunteer experiences may leave us thinking the opposite. One thing I do know is that volunteers are often the most under-rated contributors to the good that happens in our society. People often look at charities and applaud the people who work there for their efforts in bringing about positive change. Although this is a nice sentiment, and the staff at Youth Unlimited are great people who do great work, it is our volunteers who, through their many sacrifices, have the opportunity to have the greatest impact in young lives. How can this be true?



I think the most powerful force in our world is love. I also have come to believe that the greatest expression of love is self-sacrifice. **When we are able to put aside all of our own interests, rights, and needs in order to serve others and put them first, then we can have the greatest influence other people.** There are many examples of this in our world, throughout history, people like Mother Teresa, George Mueller, war veterans, and especially Jesus. Giving until it hurts, or kills, is the ultimate expression.

Volunteers are in the best position to demonstrate sacrificial love to a particular group of people in our society who really need it, youth who are marginalized and at-risk. If you ever have the opportunity to visit one of our drop-in centres, you will be blown away by how obvious it is that there are so many youth who need to experience love. Real love. The kind that lets you know deep down you have value, and purpose. The kind that inspires you to be better, to do more, to be sacrificial for others. What a huge contrast to the iWorld we live in. For those who demonstrate self-sacrifice to those in our world who desperately need to experience it - THANK YOU. The world is a much better place because of you.

**If you would like to experience the thrill of giving in a very tangible way, please contact us. We know plenty of young people who need you.**

-GARY HIGGS

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**"HE MAKES A ROUND TRIP OF OVER 1 1/2 HOURS EVERY TIME HE COMES DOWN TO BE WITH THE KIDS."**

pick-up basketball, organize some video game tournaments in the gaming room or lead an alpha table. And it doesn't stop at the centre. He is taking his love for ministry beyond our walls as he constantly is engaging in life and faith discussions with many of the students over social media. Our saying around here is something we mean: "Gabe is the real MVP."

-ANDREW HANSEN  
YOUTH CENTRE MANAGER



# VOLUNTEERISM

YOUTH UNLIMITED HAS NEARLY

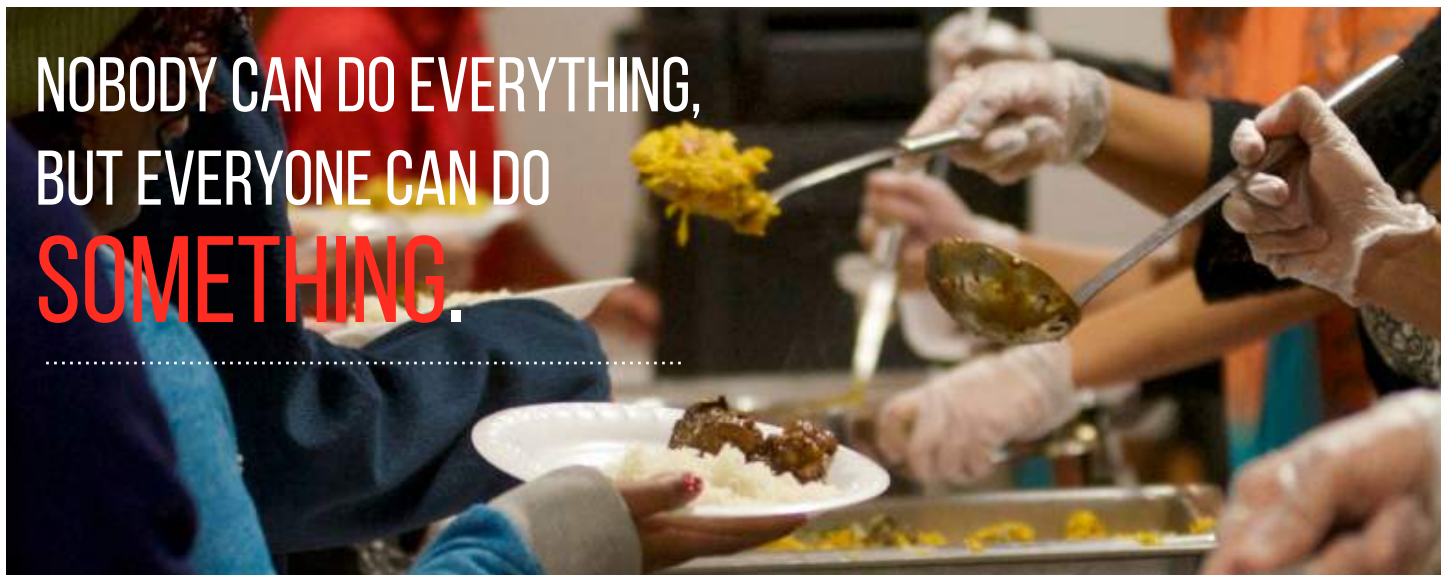
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VOLUNTEERS ACROSS CANADA!

# 64%

OF VOLUNTEERS REPORT AN IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR COMMUNICATION, ORGANIZATION, FUNDRAISING AND OTHER SKILLS

# NOBODY CAN DO EVERYTHING, BUT EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING.



**M**y husband and I have been involved with YFC/YU for several years now, and it is always exciting to see and hear how God is moving in the lives of young people.

About a year and a half ago I was given an opportunity to become involved in a more active role with the Friday lunch club.

What a joy it has been to serve these students in such a basic way. Some came only once or twice (maybe it was the cooking) and many come week after week.

They bring lots of laughter and big appetites...and are always quick to voice their appreciation.

**Usually we volunteer because we want to bless others...and that's why I got involved. But the blessings that have been poured out on me in return have been exceedingly abundant.** It is such a privilege to be a small part of something that God has His hand on.

I look forward to many new adventures in the coming months.

-**KAREN KOMANT**  
VOLUNTEER

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**"EVERYBODY CAN BE GREAT. BECAUSE ANYBODY CAN SERVE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAVE A COLLEGE DEGREE TO SERVE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE YOUR SUBJECT AND YOUR VERB AGREE TO SERVE.... YOU DON'T HAVE TO KNOW THE SECOND THEORY OF THERMODYNAMICS IN PHYSICS TO SERVE. YOU ONLY NEED A HEART FULL OF GRACE. A SOUL GENERATED BY LOVE."** ~MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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## **PAYING IT FORWARD**

**T**his past summer, kids at **The Cellar** hosted a silent auction night of artwork done by many Edmonton artists (both youth and adult). The kids were able to raise over \$2200 for the missions team of Northgate Baptist Church to travel Tijuana, MX in August. THANK YOU to all who came out and supported the kids! You have



played a huge part in helping kids see the value of working hard to serve others. After counting the money, one of the girls looked at me and said **"Well, what next?! What can we do next?"** These kids are eager for opportunities to serve and it's an honour to be able to provide that for them. Thank you!

-**AISLINN MACHUSHYK**  
YOUTH WORKER



In the spirit of appreciating our volunteers, I would like to take a second and share with you about one particular volunteer

who is always going above and beyond to help us. Her name is Jessica and she's been with **Stepping Stones** for a couple years now. Jessica is someone who has gone above and beyond the call of a volunteer to do whatever she can to help us at Stepping Stones. whether it is coming early to help us set up for an event, spending time collecting silent auction items or bringing in her makeup team to pamper the young moms on Mother's Day. Jessica is always ready to help. Beyond that, **Jessica has been a mentor with one of our young moms for the past 2 years.**

They have been able to connect and build a meaningful relationship. The mentorship relationship that they have is exactly what we hope for all of the young moms in our program. To have someone that they can go to and talk to about life, someone who is always going to be there for them no matter what. Jessica models that perfectly with the young mom she mentors.

Jessica has been an incredibly valuable member of the Stepping Stones team, we're so blessed to have her.

**-KAYLEIGH PIPKE**  
SUPPORT WORKER

## YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

When you volunteer your time serving youth alongside Youth Unlimited, you are doing so much more than just hanging out with kids, cooking food, coaching, cleaning, or driving...  
*you are transforming lives.*



“THERE ARE TWO WAYS OF SPREADING **LIGHT** - TO BE THE CANDLE OR THE MIRROR THAT **REFLECTS IT.**”

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