

# PURSUIING LOVE



2022

## Impact Report



Reaching out  
to the one and  
to the many.

Our youth  
engagement  
is on the  
rise

Check out how  
our programs  
have bounced  
back

Read about  
Josh & Emma's  
Journey with  
DOXA

Celebrations,  
Milestones &  
Book Launch  
inside!

Flip over for our  
limited edition  
Canvas Collection  
clothing line

# The Many and the One

I can still clearly remember John Wilkinson, our former ED, sharing over lunch with me – as I neared graduation and explored my future – the entrepreneurial, grassroots, community outreach ethos of Youth Unlimited. An ethos rooted in our vision that every young person would encounter the compassionate love of Jesus, be wholly transformed, and in turn spread that wholistic transformation wherever they went. Fifteen years later, this ethos and vision



WRITTEN BY: **Scott Moore**  
Executive Director

still deeply resonate in my heart and spirit, and I believe it is the compelling force that has sustained our entire team over the past couple of years.

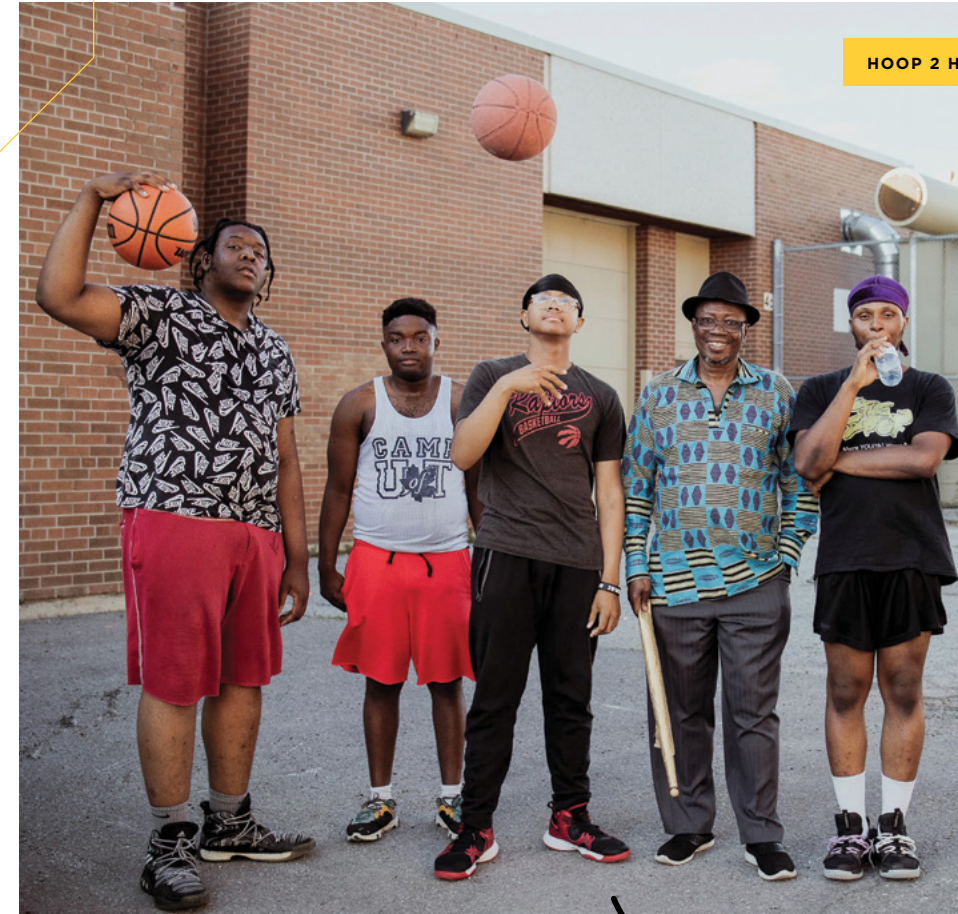
This ethos of Youth Unlimited in many respects reflects the ministry of Jesus (we would hope so, right?!). In the stories of Jesus' life on earth, we often see Jesus walking among and interacting with crowds as he moves from

town to town. These stories speak of how Jesus' heart was moved to compassion as he brought hope, healing, and the possibility of renewed life to the struggling masses.

This 'crowd-engagement' reflects that first touchpoint we have with our young people – all 3,376 last year! Our team, compelled by their loving faith and calling, goes out and about in communities across the Greater Toronto Area to pursue and serve our young people. It is here that relationships begin,

safe spaces are created, and a spark of hope is ignited. Over the past year, we were so grateful to God for returning to 99% of our pre-pandemic outreach level. Truly, this is a gift!

We also see in Jesus' life that he had a large group of followers whom he regularly taught and who traveled with him. We see this mirrored in the 1,098 young people who were regularly attending our programming last year, which climbed back to 89% of pre-pandemic levels. Here young people

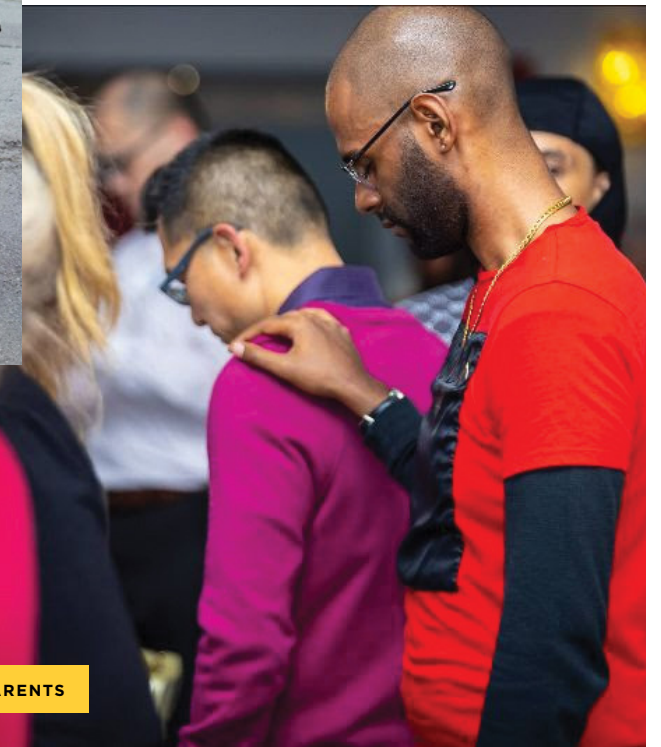


HOOP 2 HOPE



**This is who we are: a team of people spilling out into the streets of our city with a pursuing love for our young people. And together, we all pursue God, who is Love.**

—SCOTT MOORE



YOUNG PARENTS

## Youth We Served:

**3,376**

TOTAL YOUTH ENCOUNTERED

**1,098**

REGULARLY ATTENDING

**755**

ENGAGED IN LONG-TERM MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIP



HEARTBEAT BIKES

begin to 'taste and see' the one who is Love through the care of our staff and volunteers, through sharing and teaching, and through contextualized programming meeting their needs.

But wherever Jesus went, there was always the one. The one person who reached out to touch his cloak. The one he called down from a tree. The one who pleaded for healing. The one who fell before his feet in shame. The one he invited to a radical new vocation. Each one seen and known, finding belonging, and entering a transformative relationship with Jesus. This is the heartbeat of the 755 long-term meaningful relationships with youth our team was engaged in last year.

So, as you read through our Impact Report, know that this is who we are: a team of people spilling out into the streets of our city with a pursuing love for our young people. And together, we all pursue God, who is Love.



**Three thousand three hundred youth! That is a lot of meet-ups for our staff and volunteers! Even though some of those encounters were brief or indirect, they were the beginning of a beautiful friendship and gave the youth glimpses of our Lord's hope and grace.**

—JOANNA YEE  
Rahab Ministry Director



**Seeing that our number of regularly attending youth has increased validates the efforts of our staff within our ministries. It confirms the work our staff are doing, and helps us to see the maximum impact within our programs.**

—MARK DEAN  
The Shop Director



**I love seeing that the number of youth engaged in long term meaningful relationships has gone up. This is where I feel a lot of our impact happens; in walking alongside youth through the ups and downs of life.**

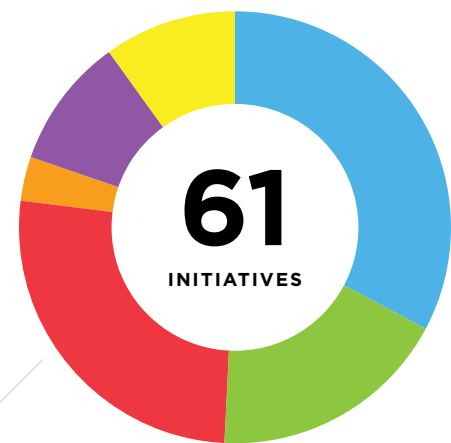
—CLEMENT LEE  
Jane-Finch Community Director



PROJECT SERVE

# The Bounce Back

After two long years, COVID restrictions eased and a number of our programs that were put on hold were finally able to re-open or return to normal programming. Here are our six program categories and a sampling of the ministries that made a rebound in 2021/2022!



- Community Outreach**  
Connecting in neighbourhoods through team and mentoring relationships
- Critical Care**  
Supporting youth experiencing systemic vulnerability
- Innovative Centres**  
Pursuing shared interests in inspiring environments
- Leadership Development**  
Growing and discovering God's purpose for life
- Marketplace Initiatives**  
Developing employment skills and entrepreneurship
- Trips, Camps & Events**  
Sharing experiences, adventure and social impact



### CRITICAL CARE

Our Light Patrol **Health Light** team of volunteer nurses was able to take to the streets of downtown Toronto once again, providing health assessments and basic medical care for youth experiencing homelessness.



### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**Seeds of Hope Camp** in Jane-Finch was thrilled to host two three-week sessions of summer camp for 79 children and youth in the community. They continued with smaller cohorts for more intentional one-on-one connection between campers, staff and volunteers.



### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

**Hoop 2 Hope** Jr. and Sr. basketball program in Jane-Finch resumed in February after almost two years of lockdown. Forty-five high school students and 25 elementary and middle school students returned to the courts on Friday and Saturday evenings for the remainder of the school year. This weekly basketball league nurtures young men in the community to be mature, responsible people of character who are affirmed and celebrated in a positive environment.



### MARKETPLACE INITIATIVES

Our team at **The Shop** is now extending their outreach efforts to youth in Newmarket beyond the walls of their auto mechanics training centre. Meeting young people for regular chats in coffee shops, virtual mentorship, connecting youth with counselors, supporting parents facing challenges with their teens, or taking youth to YU's Anchor Point 3D archery range are just a few of the encouraging opportunities to emerge for The Shop since coming out of the pandemic.

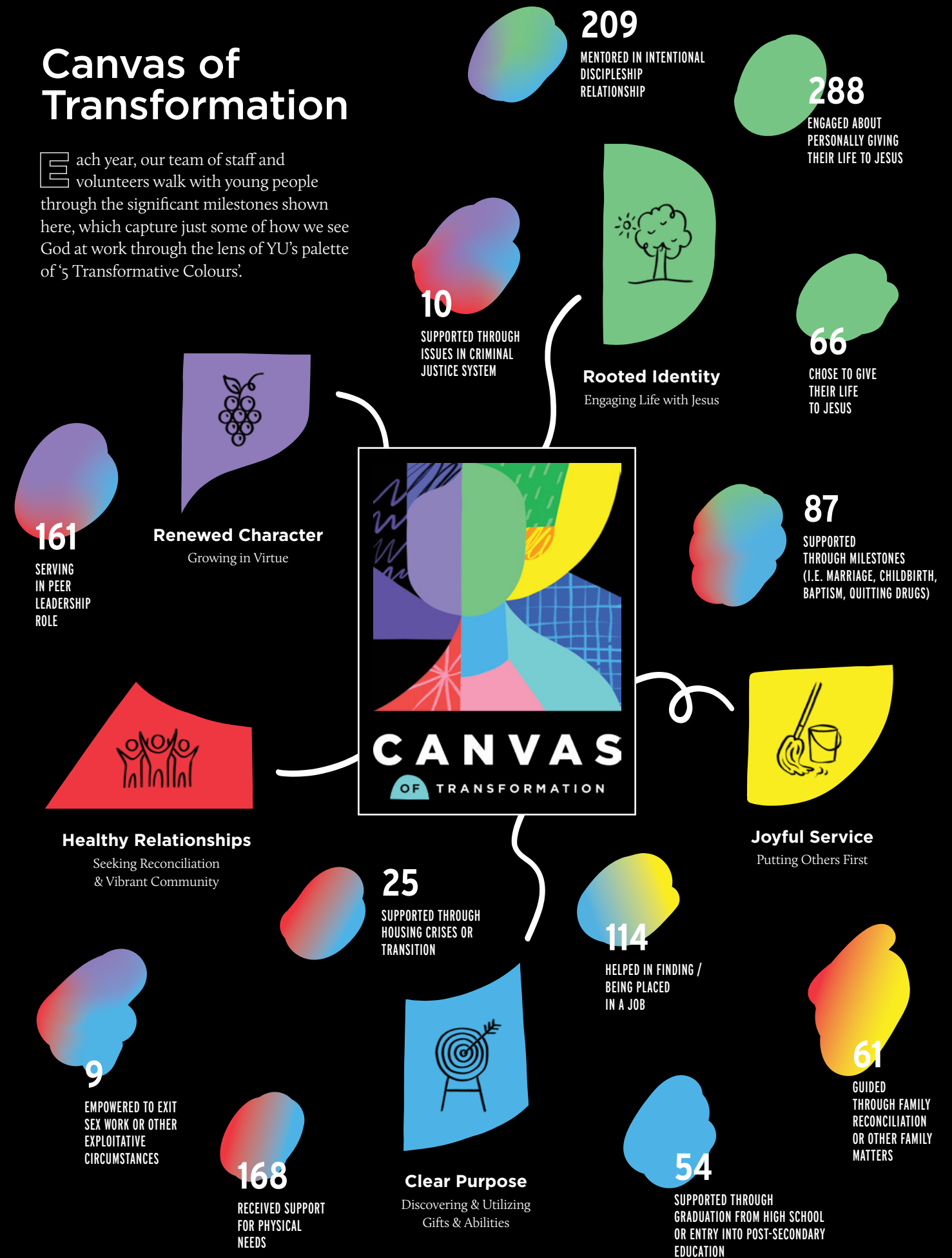


### TRIPS, CAMPS & EVENTS

**Project Serve** was back in full swing throughout the summer with 50 youth and families participating in three overnight trips and two day trips in downtown Toronto. Exceeding pre-pandemic levels of interest in these urban mission trips, Project Serve looks forward to hosting new PA Day and weekend trips throughout the coming year for youth groups, churches, and others interested in these experiences. We are encouraged by all those who are ready and excited to get back to serving and helping others in our city!

# Canvas of Transformation

Each year, our team of staff and volunteers walk with young people through the significant milestones shown here, which capture just some of how we see God at work through the lens of YU's palette of '5 Transformative Colours'.



# New Pursuits

## Innovation through Collaboration

Youth Unlimited is eager to discover leaders with a creative, entrepreneurial spirit who want to launch new programs and initiatives across our city. Our **Frontiers** team is often where these youth ministry innovators get their start with YU. Frontiers is home to a diverse group of ministries spread across the GTA, each composed of one or two staff members. Frontiers also acts as a ministry incubator, a place where ministries that are new to YU find support and structure as they grow



**Mark Evans**  
Frontiers  
Team Lead

into self-sustaining programs. Over the last year, Frontiers piloted a **new incubation initiative** and five members of the Frontiers team met regularly as a learning group to workshop their new ministries and percolating ideas with one another. They spent time learning about incubation, and the tools, resources and philosophies around how to explore and launch new ideas. In the year ahead, we will be building out a larger multi-day intensive workshop that will help these ministry leaders take the incubation theories they have been learning about together and put them into practice. We hope to expand this incubation program across the organization, so that YU staff and teams can workshop their ideas in a collaborative environment and develop a common language for how to start and grow new initiatives within our ministries.



ANCHOR POINT 3D ARCHERY

## Coming Full Circle

This year, we launched our third **WrapAround care team**. Working alongside one of our church partners, we supported a single-parent family with a wholistic circle of care and support, engaging YU staff, pastors



**Ann Stocker**  
Critical Care  
Consultant

and volunteers chosen by the family. This team continues to support the family as they focus on securing affordable housing and employment. We have also supported several young women through Rahab with our WrapAround care teams.

## New Partnership with Prison Fellowship Canada

Prison Fellowship Canada (PFC) and Youth Unlimited are excited to announce a new partnership to further expand PFC's Bridgecare program and leverage YU programs. PFC's Bridgecare program equips and mobilizes volunteer teams to walk alongside former prisoners with the goal of seeing them connected long-term to a local church for spiritual mentorship and support. The focus of this partnership will be on combining both PFC's Bridgecare program and YU programs for post-incarcerated 18-25 year-old youth in the Toronto area.

The impact of imprisonment is multi-faceted. As per PFC, an individual who has been institutionalized can experience social, economic, relational, emotional and spiritual implications. So it may come as no surprise that recent Corrections Services Canada data indicates that 55% of released prisoners reoffend before their full sentence is finished. Research shows that the first 72 hours after release is critical for a healthy reintegration story. My role as the coordinator in this partnership is to increase volunteer recruitment into



**Dani Hoover**  
In partnership with  
PFC's Bridgecare

PFC's Bridgecare training. Tapping into YU networks and supports, we are looking to create referral opportunities for PFC's Bridgecare youth clients in the GTA that could involve job placement, sports participation, and subsidized counseling, among other resources. Another avenue we will explore is to create optional YU program opportunities to extend relational support to post-Bridgecare participants.

This partnership is being met from both sides with excitement! I feel honoured to have this opportunity to partner with PFC to serve youth exiting prison. I have had a passion for the incarcerated since I learned about Restorative Justice and Reintegration in university. So when I heard about this position I felt an urge in my heart that I knew was only from God. We ask for your prayers for God's guidance, wisdom and discernment as we navigate this partnership and move forward together to minister to the youth participating in PFC's Bridgecare program.

## Something to Celebrate

As the pandemic peaked in our city, the municipal government piloted a hotel program for youth experiencing homelessness to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus in downtown Toronto shelters. Since then, our Light Patrol team has fostered an incredible sense of community with young people in one of these hotels through a weekly outreach program.

Names changed to protect the identity of the individuals in this article.

"They know me!" he shouted as he opened up his gift - a brand new Raptors sweater. Alex had been coming to our program for a while and we had gotten to know him quite well. He loves ginger ale and a good piece of chocolate, but Fred VanVleet's dribbling skill? Nothing compares.

The same can be said of Tony and Liam, but with soccer. For Katrina, it's dance. And Mathias? Anything piano. Man, can he ever play piano.

Young adults aren't just a number to us, as we aren't just a number to God. There are 8 billion people in this world, yet God knows each of us by name. There are many youth sitting around our table on any given night, and we know them by name, too.



**Paula Castrucci**  
Light Patrol  
Outreach Worker

Our Thursday night program provides a safe place for our youth to come and be themselves; to share their heart and passions; to be seen and known; to take part in a healthy community. We start our night off by eating together. One by one, we grab a seat at the table and eat a delicious home cooked meal made by one of our volunteers.

We thank God for our youth, for the beautiful Thanksgiving meal we recently shared together, the Christmas dinner we're about to enjoy, and for more than 20-plus birthdays we were able to individually celebrate with our treasured young people this year. We celebrate that. We celebrate them.



**To be loved but not known is comforting, but superficial. To be known and not loved is our greatest fear. But to be fully known and truly loved is, well, a lot like being loved by God.**

—TIMOTHY KELLER



## Beyond their 18th birthday

LIGHT PATROL'S NEW FOSTER INITIATIVE

Turning 18 should be a time of much celebration as a young person steps into adulthood. For youth in foster care, this birthday can be met with significant turmoil and upheaval, as they face the reality of "aging out" of the

foster care system. They lose many of their support systems, including foster parents or social workers, leaving them at much greater risk of experiencing homelessness as they enter adulthood.

**Circles of Care** is a homelessness prevention program currently being developed by Light Patrol that aims to address this harsh reality. Through Circles of Care, Light Patrol will see youth in foster care thrive by experiencing the love and support of a long-term community who is unconditionally "for" them, up to and beyond their 18th birthday. By connecting each



**Matt Escott**  
Light Patrol  
Homelessness  
Prevention Facilitator

youth in the program with a team of church-based mentors, Circles of Care will surround youth in foster care with a stable, consistent, and loving community that will walk with them through the changes and challenges they will face. This community will not "expire" when the youth is no longer in the child welfare system. As such, Circles of Care will work against many of the factors that lead so many youth in the child welfare system into homelessness. Our hope is that youth in foster care will be able to look to and beyond their 18th birthday with hope, excitement, and confidence, rather than fear. Circles of Care aims to launch in 2023.



RAHAB

### WHAT IS WRAPAROUND?

**WrapAround is a trauma-informed, team-based model of care directed by the youth or family. It allows for unconditional support and care for vulnerable youth and families by YU staff, volunteers and church partners. This ministry can be especially valuable in helping participants make progress towards personal goals.**

We have been so encouraged by the positive feedback we have received so far, with our participants achieving important personal goals, gaining stability in their lives, having their needs met in the areas of housing, healthcare, employment and training, and increasing their support systems, including connections to local churches.

# The DOXA Journey

Eighteen years ago, DOXA was born out of the conviction that to make a difference in the lives of young people we need to invest long term in 'one neighbourhood, one community'. DOXA is now a thriving, collaborative ministry in Scarborough aimed at forming long-term, mentoring, training and discipleship relationships with youth through church partnerships. DOXA has extended its commitment to community ministry with a 13-year relationship with Serpent River First Nation and 18 years with a community in the Dominican Republic. Among our many partnerships we have four staff partnering in local churches with the longest being over 10 years.

—CALVIN RUSSELL  
Director of DOXA

Josh and Emma are two young adults who have been a part of our DOXA ministry for many years. Here's just a glimpse of their journey with DOXA.



EMMA

We were thrilled to have Emma join our summer staff team in planning and implementing DOXA summer programs.

DOXA hires several students each summer. For many, it will be their first job, and we hope they will gain workplace skills that help them continue to get jobs and scholarships in the future. We invest deeply in each student, developing personal growth plans, connecting for weekly supervision meetings and offering several trainings throughout the summer. We track the growth of the students so they can see how God has been working in and through them, leaving them as more mature followers of Jesus.

—ALAIN VIRGIN  
Outreach Worker



STEP ONE

Emma learned of this opportunity through DOXA's Scarborough Youth Workers Network.



Our mission is to pursue relationships with like-minded youth ministry workers, and equip them to help young people centre their lives around the mission and message of Jesus.

—JEFF SMYTH  
High School Coordinator

START



JOSH

Josh attended a local Scarborough church in partnership with DOXA. He connected with Sarah Burton, one of our DOXA leaders, and his youth pastor when he was in high school.



STEP ONE

Throughout high school, Josh attended DOXA Gatherings with his youth group.



By hosting consistent, larger gatherings with multiple churches, we have seen youth develop relationships with their peers centered on their love for Jesus. They build and encourage one another during their years of adolescence and along their faith journey.

—SUE BANIK  
Junior High Coordinator



STEP TWO

Josh took part in a six-month program that prepared him for a DOXA Journeys service trip to Serpent River First Nation. Josh felt God working in his life as he helped run camps and community programs. Since then, all of Josh's siblings have joined him on these annual summer trips and consider them a meaningful part of their life's journey.



The partnership between DOXA and Serpent River First Nation provides participants with the opportunity to follow Jesus' example of love, service, and sharing the Good News. The relationships built through this ministry are so meaningful that many youth and young adults in Scarborough choose to join the team year after year.

—PATRICIA WILLEMSMA  
Outreach Worker



STEP THREE

Josh and Emma have now worked on DOXA's summer staff team for many years. Each summer, DOXA hosts REMIX Urban Ministry Week to equip, train and inspire youth from across the city to engage with Jesus in their lives and serve those in their community. As part of their role, Josh and Emma have taken part in REMIX, first as participants and now as staff supporting the experience.



STEP TWO

Through serving on DOXA's summer staff team, Emma learned more about DOXA Journeys and went on a service trip to the Dominican Republic with a team of youth and young adults. There, they helped serve in an impoverished community doing construction projects to improve living conditions, as well as providing meal programs and supporting the English programs in local schools.



STEP FOUR

Recently, Emma served as an intern with DOXA, focusing on DOXA Journeys, a six-month hands-on program designed to equip students with the right tools to meaningfully impact their own lives, communities, and the world around them. During her internship, Emma also gained ministry experience with other programs across Youth Unlimited.



Through programs, service trips, summer jobs and internship opportunities, our DOXA staff have watched Josh and Emma make incredible strides in their leadership development, grow in their desire to impact the lives of young people in the programs in which they serve, and transform in their relationship with Jesus.

—SARAH BURTON  
DOXA Journeys Coordinator

# Moments & Milestones

As with most every year, this one has had its ups and downs with both significant milestones accomplished and some significant 'endings' to areas of our ministry. Here are just a few to share with you from across our teams this year.

## 25 Years of Young Parents

On November 4th, our Young Parents team marked 25 years of supporting hundreds of pregnant and parenting youth. An evening entitled *Celebrate Connection* brought together volunteers, staff, alumni, program participants and supporters for a beautiful time of remembrance, reflection and celebration. Certainly, young parents have been changed by this program's support as they've encountered safety in relationship, supports to

equip and strengthen them, a cheerleading squad, and a place to be themselves where others "get it". The leaders and volunteers of this program have also been changed as they've journeyed with young parents through the tough times, carried the load with them, and have been inspired by their strength and hopes for the future. As we reflect on the past 25 years, we see that God brings us into each other's lives for His purposes and our good.



YOUNG PARENTS

## 9 Seasons of Lakeshore Soccer League

For nine years, our South-Central Etobicoke team has been running the Lakeshore Soccer League. As we think back to the start of the summer, we were very uncertain about whether we would even be able to play, because we lost access to our original field. God was so faithful to us, providing a field in the heart of the Lakeshore

within walking distance for our families. Our team was so encouraged by our youth who volunteered all summer to help run this league, the parents who supported their kids to come each week, and the participants who played, had fun, and built confidence through soccer, and so much more.



LAKESHORE SOCCER LEAGUE

## 2 Farewells

Amidst the celebrations and milestones, we also said farewell to two long-standing ministry workers. Becky Cripps, our Director of South-Central Etobicoke stepped down from her role in October and has transitioned to a new role with Muskoka Bible Centre. Sue Hayhoe also stepped down from her

role as Volunteer Associate for our Brampton Young Moms program after 16 years. We are so thankful for their dedication and commitment to youth in their communities during their time with Youth Unlimited and look forward to hearing about all that God has called them to in this next chapter.



## 14 LAUNCH Graduates

This past year, 14 high school students from across the GTA graduated from the eighth cohort of the LAUNCH leadership program. After working with LAUNCH for over 11 years, and directing the program for the last nine, Monica Kay felt the Lord was calling her into a new role with Youth Unlimited. We are thrilled that Monica now serves our staff as the Leadership Development Facilitator in the People Development department. The leadership development of young

people in our city remains very important to us. We are in the midst of discerning the next steps for LAUNCH and seeking to hire a Youth Leadership Development Coordinator to oversee the program. This high school course will be on pause until further notice. Thank you to our YU family for directing students in your community to this program over the years.

## 6<sup>th</sup> Book Launch

In June, we launched the sixth Compassion Series book written by Tim Huff and Margie Timpson for children, families and classrooms, titled *The Jellybean Kid*. A tender family-friendly story about a young boy's difficult health journey that also includes an Insights and Comfort Guide to help process the sensitive experiences unique to

young people living with critical and chronic illnesses. Already, the books have reached readers across North America and around the world, and the feedback has been very encouraging and meaningful. Find the book, accompanying music by Mike Janzen, Jellybean Kid colouring pages and more at [compassionseries.com/jellybeankid](https://compassionseries.com/jellybeankid).





OUR TEAM

## Thank You!

We are grateful for the faithful team who has helped us pursue love in 2022.

**37**  
FULL-TIME  
STAFF

**34**  
PART-TIME  
STAFF

**73**  
SUMMER  
STAFF

**3**  
INTERNS

**368**  
VOLUNTEERS

OUR PARTNERSHIPS

**150**  
ORGANIZATIONAL  
AND CHURCH  
PARTNERSHIPS

**3,294**  
ACTIVE GIVERS

CAMP CAPSTONE



## How you can bring hope

At Youth Unlimited, we believe everyone has a part to play in seeing young people experience joy in Jesus, holistic wellbeing, healthy community, and hope for a bright future. We invite you to consider how you might get involved in changing young lives in the year ahead:



### Join our Prayer Team

Receive a short, daily invitation to pray for the work of Youth Unlimited.

**Email Kathy at:**  
[kwebb@yugta.ca](mailto:kwebb@yugta.ca) to join



### Partner with Us

We are committed to partnering with local churches and like-minded agencies to collaboratively impact and empower the young people we serve.

**Learn more at:**  
[yugta.ca/partner-with-us](http://yugta.ca/partner-with-us)



### Create Change by Volunteering

Most of our programs rely on a hardworking group of volunteers who invest their time and energy in youth transformation.

**Learn more at:**  
[yugta.ca/volunteer](http://yugta.ca/volunteer)



### Careers with a Calling

Make an impact as part of our growing team of resilient leaders.

**Learn more at:**  
[yugta.ca/careers](http://yugta.ca/careers)



### Donate

Impacting hundreds of young lives with the life-changing love of Jesus requires the faithful and generous financial partnership of people like you.

**Give today at:**  
[yugta.ca/donate](http://yugta.ca/donate)



## Canvas Collection Clothing Line

Inspired by our *Canvas of Transformation*, we've released a small collection of clothing for our supporters to purchase. Visit [canvascollection.yugta.ca](http://canvascollection.yugta.ca) from December 12-January 15 to check out our limited edition Youth Unlimited apparel.

## FINANCIALS

Alongside this Impact Report focusing on our field work, we also share our audited financial statements and analysis as part of stewarding every gift we receive with integrity and a desire to maximize the impact of you, our partners. **Read more at:** [yugta.ca/financial-statements](http://yugta.ca/financial-statements)