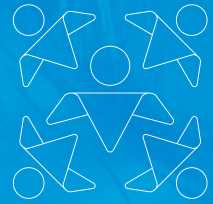


2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Calgary Youth
Justice Society



Calgary Youth
Justice Society



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**YOU
ARE
HERE**

YOU ARE HERE IS THAT MARK ON A MAP THAT WE ALL LOOK FOR AS THE STARTING POINT TO GET FROM WHERE WE ARE, TO WHERE WE WANT TO BE

Our young people are standing on that mark,
ready to take a step in the right direction.

BECAUSE OF YOU they are not alone.

BECAUSE OF YOU they will see what's possible.

BECAUSE OF YOU they will believe in themselves.

BECAUSE OF YOU they will create
a promising future.

VOLUNTEERS

COMMUNITY
PARTNERS

INVESTORS

YOU
ARE
HERE

ABOUT US

Calgary Youth Justice Society connects adult volunteers in a positive way with young people who are at risk of or have involvement with the criminal justice system. Our approach is always strength focused, seeing beyond what's wrong to nurture what's strong. Our impact is young people who feel valued and supported to be a part of our community in a meaningful way.

IN THE LEAD PROGRAM

Youth participants, despite facing obstacles and challenges in their life, are not referred to the program based on need; rather, they are nominated for the program based on possibility. By attending a weekly class, in one school semester, Young Leaders (youth participants) recognize, nurture and practice individual strengths and character competencies that are known to build resilience. Upon completion, Young Leaders that are in the school system can earn credits towards their diploma. Beyond the contribution of valuable financial resources, our corporate partners are engaging their employees as Volunteer Coaches to connect one on one with Young Leaders, providing valuable encouragement and support.



IN THE LEAD 180

In the Lead 180 is a character and leadership development program designed for youth in conflict with the criminal justice system. The objective is to build and enhance key protective factors that are known to reduce risk taking behavior and re-offending.

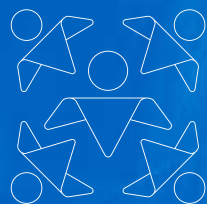


YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE PROGRAM

A community-based alternative to court that gives young people a second chance on a bad decision. Youth Justice Committee volunteers help young people move through and past a minor offence by holding them accountable without holding them back.

With support, young people from all walks of life turn their mistakes into opportunities to grow and give back to their communities.





**OUR VISION...
TO CREATE A CITY
WHERE YOUNG
PEOPLE CONTRIBUTE
TO AND FLOURISH
IN SAFE, CARING
COMMUNITIES.**

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

small actions X many people = big change

2018 marks the close of a four year strategic plan cycle for the Calgary Youth Justice Society. We are proud to share that it was a period of tremendous growth, learning, and new connections. This achievement would not have been possible without a dedicated village committed to our mission. Together, in spite of a challenging economy, we had a 49% increase in the number of youth served, and extended our reach to youth challenged with multiple barriers to reaching their potential. We are grateful for EVERYONE who did their part to help deserving young people feel hopeful about their future. We simply can't find the words to express our gratitude for each and every one of you. Every action counts, and we thank you for creating big change with us.

In this past year, referrals to the Youth Justice Committees have increased. While it would be best if the youth crime rate was zero and there wouldn't be a need for this program, it feels good to know that we are here to give young people a second chance on a bad decision. We look forward to continuing to build a strong partnership with Calgary Police Service to ensure that every eligible youth has an opportunity to participate in this program. Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Youth Justice Committees. We were happy to host a conference this year with support from the Solicitor General of Alberta, where volunteers from across Alberta had an opportunity to spend a day learning, sharing and growing together.

Carrie Zimmerman

President - Board of Directors

In the Lead continues to develop overlooked leaders in our city by helping youth to realize their strengths to build a better future for themselves and our community. An exciting new development is our new initiative, In the Lead 180 which is designed to meet the specific needs of youth with criminal justice involvement. Thanks to support from the Gilbert and Ameeta Cordell family, we fulfilled a long-time goal of developing and delivering a pilot at Calgary Young Offender Centre. Building on this initiative, we also received a grant from the Crime Prevention Investment Plan to deliver In the Lead 180 at the Youth Attendance Centre; creating a new avenue for youth in our Youth Justice Committee program to uncover their strengths.

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported our second annual Strong Not Wrong Fundraiser in November. Guests were treated to an inspiring evening, where our young people were given a chance to shine and share their experiences. We hope to see you again, or for the first time, on November 5, 2019.

2018 was the 20th Anniversary of The Calgary Youth Justice Society. As we reflect on this past year with pride, we at the same time look forward with anticipation. 2019 will mark the beginning of an ambitious strategic plan that will chart our course for the next 5 years. We are up for the challenge, and know that you, our village, will be beside us.

Denise Blair

Executive Director

RECOGNITION

Every year, CYJS recognizes a partnership and an individual or organization who have helped us along the way. Whether the contribution is short or long, big or small, it all makes a difference.

The **Strong Not Wrong Community Partner Award** is presented to Technology Helps, a Charity that was founded in 2016 as a non-profit by people who have worked and volunteered in the sector and bring a commitment to reducing technological poverty often felt by many non-profit organizations. Because of Technology Helps, CYJS has strengthened our IT capacity through increased efficiency, effectiveness and reduced cost. That means we can focus on what we do best - helping young people!



The **You Rock Difference-Maker Award** is presented the Gilbert and Ameeta Cordell family. Gilbert is a friend of CYJS and former board member. When Gilbert heard of our dream to bring our In the Lead program into Calgary Young Offender Centre, he jumped in with both feet. His family provided the financial support and encouragement we needed to develop, deliver and evaluate a pilot. That support went beyond serving individual youth in custody; we also used the newly developed knowledge and resources to receive a grant from Crime Prevention Investment Plan for one year to offer the program, In the Lead 180, to youth referred from Youth Justice Committees and Gateway (Calgary Police Service). We hope to continue this program at CYOC, and we can't wait to see where this seed will germinate in the future.



HOPE TODAY LEADS TO A BETTER TOMORROW.

CYJS helps young people who are struggling through their teen years, to see their potential, connect with their community, and feel hopeful about their future.

Some of the greatest transformations begin with the basics - knowing your strengths and trusting in your abilities and unique qualities. Here's what youth participants from In the Lead had to say!

99% ...of **Young Leaders** felt their self-confidence had increased because of the involvement with In the Lead.

"I believe that In The Lead helps young people grow and become more self-confident, in a time when it can be really hard to believe in yourself." - Youth Participant

99% ...of **Young Leaders** felt they had found new ways to use their strengths to overcome challenges because of their involvement with In the Lead.

"In The Lead is making young people more positive, more optimistic, and more confident because it helps us recognize our strengths and improve ourselves to be the best we can be." - Youth Participant

99% ...of **Young Leaders** felt they completed In The Lead with a better understanding of their values.

"In The Lead is a good opportunity for their young people to become more confident of who they truly are, by becoming aware of their strengths or values." - Youth Participant

YOUNG PEOPLE ON
THEIR WAY TO A
BRIGHTER FUTURE:
407

LETTER TO MYSELF (FROM MY FUTURE SELF)

We ask In the Lead youth participants to fast forward to a point in the future when life is good, and imagine: where they are, what they are doing, what it feels like...and then from that place and time, write a letter to their current day self, offering advice and encouragement. Here is one example of how our young people are creating the life they envision.

Hey. It's me. I am writing to you from my beautiful mountain cabin. The one I built with my own two hands because, make no mistake, I am That Bitch™. My beautiful wife is seated next to me, and our 3 cats are all cozied up in any available pocket of warmth between the two of us. Enclosed is a letter just for you, written sometime in early December, 2069. With all of the wisdom I have gathered in my 69 years the one thing I can tell you about your life right now, is that everything will be okay.

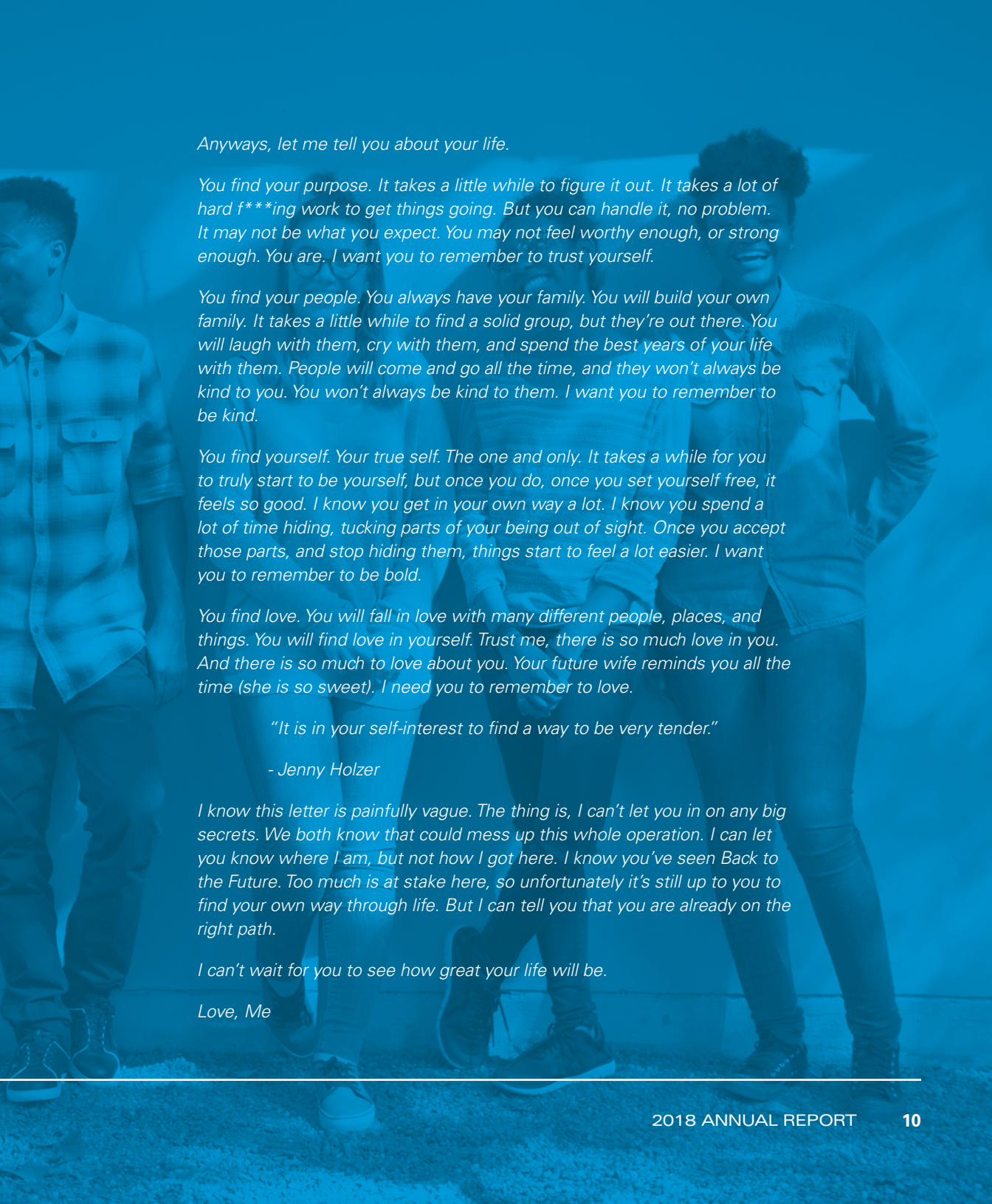
Everything will be okay. I promise you that above all else.

I want you to remember that when things feel like they are getting to be too much. When it feels like you are all alone in a sad and dejected world. I want you to know that you are never as alone as you feel. I want you to know that you need to stick around. You are tougher than you think. Keep going.

I cannot promise that things will always be easy. I cannot promise that things will always be painless. But you have so much strength within you, and you have so much room to grow, and you will grow. You will grow immensely, more than you ever thought possible. I promise you will grow, and things will get easier and less painful with time. You will not always recognize the growth, but it's there anyways. Sometimes that growth looks like complete and total destruction. That's normal.

"For a seed to achieve its greatest expression, it must come completely undone. The shell cracks, its insides come out and everything changes. To someone who doesn't understand growth, it would look like complete destruction."

- Cynthia Occelli



Anyways, let me tell you about your life.

*You find your purpose. It takes a little while to figure it out. It takes a lot of hard f***ing work to get things going. But you can handle it, no problem. It may not be what you expect. You may not feel worthy enough, or strong enough. You are. I want you to remember to trust yourself.*

You find your people. You always have your family. You will build your own family. It takes a little while to find a solid group, but they're out there. You will laugh with them, cry with them, and spend the best years of your life with them. People will come and go all the time, and they won't always be kind to you. You won't always be kind to them. I want you to remember to be kind.

You find yourself. Your true self. The one and only. It takes a while for you to truly start to be yourself, but once you do, once you set yourself free, it feels so good. I know you get in your own way a lot. I know you spend a lot of time hiding, tucking parts of your being out of sight. Once you accept those parts, and stop hiding them, things start to feel a lot easier. I want you to remember to be bold.

You find love. You will fall in love with many different people, places, and things. You will find love in yourself. Trust me, there is so much love in you. And there is so much to love about you. Your future wife reminds you all the time (she is so sweet). I need you to remember to love.

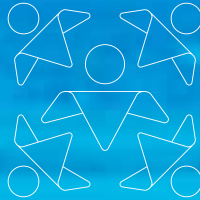
"It is in your self-interest to find a way to be very tender."

- Jenny Holzer

I know this letter is painfully vague. The thing is, I can't let you in on any big secrets. We both know that could mess up this whole operation. I can let you know where I am, but not how I got here. I know you've seen Back to the Future. Too much is at stake here, so unfortunately it's still up to you to find your own way through life. But I can tell you that you are already on the right path.

I can't wait for you to see how great your life will be.

Love, Me



Many know that Calgary Youth Justice Society depends on volunteers to make a difference with our youth. But do you know that all of our youth volunteer too? They report that it's one of the most rewarding experiences of their involvement with our programs.

**YOUTH VOLUNTEERED,
SOME FOR THE FIRST
TIME, TO HELP
THOSE IN NEED:
3630 HOURS**

"The students always have such positive things to say about their volunteer experiences. It is so amazing to hear them talk about giving back and supporting their community." - *Discovering Choices Support Worker*

OUR YOUTH GIVING BACK AT COMMUNITY KITCHEN!

Our Partnership with CYJS has been incredible from day one. These young adults and their coaches have made a huge impact in our Community and at Community Kitchen. **In 2018 they helped prepare and build 2507 boxes for our Good Food Box Program.** We at Community Kitchen couldn't run this program without the help of our great partners like you, and for that I am so grateful. I would like to thank all of you, on behalf of the team from Community Kitchen.

Many Thanks,
Sundae Nordin
Chief Executive Officer





VOLUNTEERS WHO
MADE MEANINGFUL
CONNECTIONS WITH
YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR
COMMUNITY:

250

HOURS INVESTED:

**7,886
HOURS**

CHANGING LIVES ONE VOLUNTEER AT A TIME!

Volunteers with Calgary Youth Justice Society are changing the lives of young people in our communities every day, and in the process they are changed too.

"You get a lot of fulfillment from doing this because you see these kids at the beginning, and you see them all the way through to the end, and most of those are positive results. You really feel like you're making a change in the community one kid at a time, one child at a time. And you hope that they will go on to lead other kids by way of their example and what they've learned. You see a change, it can be little or it can be a 180 for some of these kids; it can be one little thing that really resonates with them, and changes them, turns them right around. It is surprisingly fulfilling to be doing this work and super rewarding to see these kids in our closing meetings and have them tell you their favorite part of the program and that they're happy they went through it. I think those are the points that I feel the most proud."

- Youth Justice Committee Volunteer

"In the Lead has helped me to become a better leader, a better father, a better husband... and an all-around better person."

- In the Lead Corporate Volunteer Coach

COMMUNITY PARTNERS WHO HELP US TO DO WHAT WE DO:

58

THANK YOU!

Here's what one of our partners, the Alex, had to say:

"In the Lead gives youth the opportunity to learn about themselves, and gives them a platform to discuss their story and to listen empathically to others' stories. The program ignites fierce conversations and allows for self-awareness and self-growth. In the Lead is also a beautiful confidence booster. Every time the youth read their nomination letters, they are reminded of or made aware of just how awesome they are. You don't always get the opportunity to reflect on your own strengths and this program gives that. There is usually some apprehension in the beginning especially around having a coach/mentor that isn't a professional. Sometimes it doesn't work out with the coach, but other times these young leaders make some really amazing connections. We have a lot of young leaders from previous semesters who still connect with their coaches regularly and consider them to be one of their biggest supports. At The Alex we work really hard to help youth connect with or maintain their natural supports. It's so important for youth to have these people in their lives because professionals aren't always going to be around. It's quite beautiful to see these young leaders develop relationships with their coaches. We are so happy to have this partnership with Calgary Youth Justice Society. We will have In the Lead in our lives for as long as we can."

- The Alex



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OUR TEAM

Calgary Youth Justice Society has an amazing and team of dedicated staff and volunteers who are truly passionate about our cause.

AT YOUR SERVICE ARE:

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Christina Read	Program Coordinator, In the Lead
Katey Larson	Program Coordinator, In the Lead
Heather Johnson	In the Lead Facilitator
Shelley Hayes	In the Lead Facilitator



Calgary Youth
Justice Society

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The Calgary Youth Justice Society is a registered charity.
Donations are gratefully accepted. Thank you for your consideration.

Charity Number: 870837044RR0001

AGENCY VOLUNTEERS

Mike Yanko	CYJC Training Team
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