



ICYDA
INNER CITY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

**ANNUAL REPORT
2016/2017**



Helping Youth Help Themselves

A Message From The Directors'



This year marks our 27th year programming for Edmonton's most vulnerable youth. The practice, breadth and technological base of our programming has kept pace with the changes in our society. Our program philosophy of narrative development through the arts and multiliteracies reinforced with a strength based approach to academic studies in Inner City High School still underpins our work. The wrap around nature of our programming has deepened, broadened and kept technologically apace with the changes in our society.

Our direction is pointed by the needs of the youth in our programs and has broadened to meet their needs. We respect the resiliency of those we serve, their strength and courage as they struggle to overcome barriers such as lack

of basic resources, homelessness, and desperation. Their strength keeps us moving forward.

We appreciate and respect the collective efforts of our staff and Board as we work together to provide arts and academic programming for Edmonton's high risk youth. Our collective response to the needs of our youth as they struggle to make positive changes in their lives is detailed in the pages that follow.

Joe

Alexina

Board of Directors

We are fortunate to have a Board of Directors that has a deep commitment to the mission, values and vision of our Association. Our staff is grateful for the boards leadership and their investment of time, expertise and resources.

PRESIDENT

Murray Goodwin, M.A., B.S.W

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STAFF REPRESENTATIVE

Alexina Dalgetty, MFA

STAFF REPRESENTATIVE

Joe Cloutier, PhD.



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OUR VISION

Our vision is to provide Edmonton's high risk youth with the supports and education necessary to break the cycle of poverty, desperation, and dependence that dominates their lives, enabling them to reach an educational level and career choice that facilitates their becoming contributing members of society.

Organizational Overview

Inner City Youth Development Association (ICYDA) has offered programming to Edmonton's youth at risk since 1986.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide Edmonton's high risk youth with preventative, educational programs that promote and facilitate independence and responsibility in those we serve, empowering them with their own desires to become active, constructive, caring members of the community.

VALUES

ICYDA Programming is based on the values of trust, respect, cooperation, and non-violence.

TRUST

ICYDA staff members are committed to entering into trusting relationships with the youth in our programs. Youth are accepted for who they are and trusted that they want to create positive change in their lives.

RESPECT

ICYDA staff members respect the self determination of young people and are committed to building relationships built on respect but at the same time realize that respect from youth, who are naturally wary and often emotionally wounded, must be earned.

COOPERATION

ICYDA staff members are committed to developing relationships built on cooperation. In this context cooperation means that youth have a voice, wherever possible, in the creation, structure, and operation of ICYDA programs.

NON VIOLENCE

ICYDA staff members are committed to developing and facilitating non violent relationships in every aspect of the agency's operations. Violence, in this sense, is not restricted to physical acts of violence but includes verbal exchanges and the structural violence of agency policies and practices.





Demographics

The 321 youth we served in our 2016/2017 program year were usually without parental support, often in crisis, and from a variety of backgrounds. The following demographics profiled our client base and change little from year to year:



10% lived in group homes

90% lacked basic resources

90% were without parental support

85-90% were of Aboriginal heritage

85% lived in unsafe or unstable housing and would fit the official definition of homelessness

33% were completely homeless when they first registered with us; sleeping in homeless shelters, bus shelters and anywhere else they could lay their head

THE NEED FOR OUR PROGRAM

Our programming has evolved and adapted in a direction that the youth have pointed us. The issues that emerge in our work with youth are problems for our society. When youth fall through the cracks, and are unable to participate in our society in constructive and meaningful ways they do so in destructive ways. The low literacy rate among inmates in our jails is well known. The lack of skills, unemployment, and poverty, create a dependent population. When desperation becomes part of this tragedy, abuse and criminal activity are often the result. The result for society is a great loss of human potential and the creation of a dependent population; thereby, incurring enormous financial and social costs for the community. ICYDA programming facilitates the transition of inner city and other high risk youth into contributing members of society.





The Year in Review

THE YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Inner City Youth Support Program grew out of the realization that the youth who come to our programs were lacking in basic resources. They wanted to make changes in their lives but lacked the resources, attitudes, and skills to make the necessary changes. How can you go to a program school or work, without bus tickets, regular meals, clothing, and a regular schedule? The Youth Engagement Program was established to address those needs. This past year some of the resources and counselling we provided to the 321 youth we served are detailed below:

RESOURCE	QUANTITY
Breakfasts served	2,155
Lunches served	12,993
Suppers served	1,680
Bus Passes provided	642
Bus tickets provided	7,960
Housing Referrals	46
Other Crisis referrals	60
Completed Suicide Safety Plans	23
Visits by public health nurses	20
Grocery cards provided (from \$20-\$50)	152
Grocery Bags provided	138
Pregnant and parenting program for youth. Number of classes	35

The distribution of these resources give an indication of the desperate circumstances faced by the youth and the comprehensive and preventative nature of Inner City Youth Development Association (ICYDA) programming.

THROUGHOUT THE PAST YEAR:

- Our social workers found housing for many youth facing homelessness
- Our social workers completed 23 suicide safety plans with youth seriously contemplating suicide

OUR COURT WORKER KEPT YOUTH FROM INCARCERATION BY:

- Helping youth clear 47 warrants for their arrest
- Advocating for youth through 141 contacts with court legal services
- Working collaboratively with Probation Officers and supporting youth through 86 contacts
- Supervising 268 Community Service Hours youth completed in lieu of incarceration
- Making 42 court appearances in support of youth

It is interesting to note that in a 2012 Statistics Canada report Indigenous male youth accounted for 24% of all male youth in the correctional system and female youth 34% while in the general population only 6% are Aboriginal youth (Munch, 2012). In our programs Indigenous youth, male and female, account for 85 – 90 % of our population. It is our goal to keep them out of Canada's correctional system and provide educational programming that will help accomplish that goal.

It costs our taxpayers \$75,000 to keep one offender in jail for one year in a provincial institution and \$100,000 in a federal institution. Twenty thousand dollars puts one youth through our programming for one year and has a generational impact. The economics are more than obvious. This year's graduates have the potential to make a generational impact on our community.



OVER THE YEAR YOUTH WERE ENGAGED IN THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

- Daily talking circles that promote discussion of personal and social issues
- Digital Arts: graphic arts and music creation
- Informal counselling
- Breakfast, lunch, and supper
- Popular Theatre workshops and presentations exploring personal and social issues
- Regular visits by the public health nurses resulted in youth being provided with information, vaccinations, and referrals
- Non violent resolution of conflict
- Role playing exercises offered on a regular basis
- Action plans and Career planning
- Housing and financial referrals are made on an ongoing basis
- Circles with our Cree Elder
- Aboriginal cultural activities and presentations
- Addictions circles and counselling
- Capacity Building through leadership opportunities

- Youth accessed, with the support of our youth engagement workers, emergency supports, assistance in obtaining identification documents, groceries, and transportation
- The Edmonton Oilers hockey team catered a Christmas Dinner for the youth, interacted with them throughout the afternoon and gave each youth a \$50 gift card for Christmas
- Youth were encouraged to take leadership roles and act as facilitators in group activities whenever possible
- Several youth worked with community artists and professionals to create works that helped develop their skills and built capacities that allowed them to lead arts based activities throughout the year
- Summer overnight trips to Dinosaur Provincial Park, Alberta's Badlands, Head Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, Mountain Lakes and other sites. Many youth saw the mountains and other sites for the first time

The creation and depth of our wraparound programming has enabled over 2000 of Edmonton's marginalized urban youth to have the opportunity to leave street life behind, experience a degree of success in their lives and look forward to a more hopeful future.

When discussing the results of a recent national survey of youth programming and how it aligned with ICYDA programming researchers stated "we didn't find another gem like this one" in all of our research.

THE PROGRAMMING ABOVE RESULTED IN THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES:

Our programming resulted in the following outcomes. The measure is based on a sample of 30 youth the majority of whom were in their first year of programming. The measure indicates the average percentage of improvement.

OUTCOME	MEASURE
Youth respond to crisis in increasingly more constructive ways	40%
Youth display improved conflict resolution skills	17%
Youth have increased respect for self and others	23%
Youth have increased awareness of public health issues	34%
Youth have increased ability to analyze personal and social issues	55%
Youth have increased ability to articulate personal and social issues	61%
Youth are introduced to technology that was previously unavailable to them	88%
Youth are able to complete projects using digital images and the new media for personal and in some cases social analysis	82%
In daily circles youth become actively involved in decision making	71%
Youth develop an awareness of their social situation and work to change it	34%
Youth display increased stability in their lives	44%
Youth begin to act cooperatively in Inner City programs and in relations with their peers	38%
Youth become interested in and pursue opportunities in education and career planning	68%



Programs Offered



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

Inner City Youth Engagement Program provides youth with the tools, attitudes, and resources that they need to change their lives. From popular theatre to bus tickets this program makes it possible for youth to succeed. The Youth Engagement Program provides counselling to repair damaged lives, meals to feed hungry youth, transportation when needed, housing referrals, and other preventative programming.



OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Outreach Program ran Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The program serves youth who are involved in other ICDYA programs and from the surrounding community. Sports, graphic arts, music creation and recording, digital photography and digital video are offered through workshops and open access programming. Attendance averaged at 8-15 youth. Supper is provided each night.



INNER CITY HIGH SCHOOL

Inner City High School is an independent academic and arts based senior high school accredited by Alberta Education. The success of Inner City High School in creating opportunities for Edmonton's marginalized urban youth to succeed is built on a solid foundation of experience. We have learned in over 20 years of providing educational programming for Edmonton's marginalized urban youth that we must create the conditions for pedagogy to take place through our wrap around programming before academic studies can begin. Many youth carry years of unsuccessful experiences, lack of support, lack of resources and have long since given up on school. They require encouragement, small successes, flexibility, understanding and respect.

The purpose of the Youth Engagement Program is to introduce Edmonton's marginalized urban youth to the possibilities that an education can bring, to replace hopelessness with hope, and to enable youth to develop basic skills, habits, and attitudes that will make academic success possible. Inner City High School provides opportunities for Edmonton's high risk youth to earn a high school diploma pursue post-secondary education and/or full time employment and; as a result, prevent their return to a life on the street.

We offer a flexible but structured environment with small classes that average between 4 and 8 students with a teacher and a teacher aid, small group and one-on-one support. Without this support many youth who are now completing an education program would be statistics in our social service and/or justice system. In the words of well-known educator Ira Shor, "this [Inner City High School] is a municipal gem."

We have an active partnership with the Journeys Cultural Exchange Program which pairs university students with youth from our programs in an ongoing cultural exchange and analysis of their cultural realities.

This past year we served 321 youth many of whom, as the outcome data shows, added a degree of stability to their lives, developed plans and hope for the future. Five students graduated with academic high school diplomas which make it possible for them to pursue post-secondary education.



EDUCATION AND THE VIRTUAL WORLD

This past year several youth working through avatars participated in a project in the virtual world of Second Life. The project transported the youth through time to experience on three private virtual islands the past, present and future.

ISLAND ONE | NEGAN TAPEH



This island represents pre contact Alberta (approximately mid 1700s) where youth, after some time on the island, enter a wormhole to experience the impact of colonization, residential schools and the "Sixties Scoop" on Canada's Indigenous population.

ISLAND TWO | BOYLE STREET



This island represents the present. The challenge for the youth is to overcome the barriers they face in the inner city, realize that education is the key and make their way to the future on the Island of Urban Hope.

ISLAND THREE | URBAN HOPE



Island three offers a hopeful future for those who overcome the barriers of the inner city. Virtual representations of Edmonton's post-secondary institutions are represented. Inside each virtual building are posters of careers associated with each institution. When the youth on a career search run the mouse over the poster a note appears listing the educational requirements of the particular career, the level of education, the activities of an average day and the average wage.





Helping Youth Help Themselves

Recognition of Success

- One of the finalists for Edmonton's Smart City Award (1998)
- Subject of the National Film Board/Lorna Thomas Productions' video Beating The Streets (1998)
- Recognized in the City Of Edmonton's Salute To Excellence (1999)
- Recognized by the University of Alberta with an Alumni Award (2000)
- Rotary Integrity Award, Edmonton Strathcona Rotary Club, (2002)
- Presented with the Alberta Centennial Medal (2005)
- Selected as Edmonton Oilers Legacy Project (2007) (The Oilers Legacy Project includes limited support up to 2020 for the Inner City Youth Development Association.)
- Recognized for Outstanding Contribution to the Aboriginal Community (2009) Award presented by Native Counselling Services of Alberta.
- Presented with the Telus Innovation Award (2011) in recognition of our work with Edmonton's high risk youth
- Among the finalists for the Alberta Excellence in Teaching Award (2011)
- Presented with the Alberta Lieutenant Governor's True Award for work with Edmonton's high risk youth (2014)

Looking Ahead to 2017/2018

At a time when the term inner city is synonymous with poverty, crime and violence, this report has shown that there is, as one might expect, a great need for basic resources and innovative strategies. However, there is also a great resource of untapped human potential. Intelligent, marginalized, urban youth labeled high risk that often just need an opportunity to escape the cycle of poverty and desperation they are caught in. The Inner City Youth Development Association was created to provide youth with opportunities to make positive changes in their lives. We will continue in that direction and ensure that our staff are pulling together as a team with the same goals, are mission focused, treating all with respect, and with understanding. We thank our donors and the community support we receive for helping us make opportunities and success possible for Edmonton's marginalized urban youth.





Wraparound Programming and Community Support

The Inner City Youth Engagement Program provides the resources and supports that bridge to Inner City High School. The wrap around component to our programming and the resources that make it possible for youth to succeed in Inner City High School are dependent on community support for the Youth Engagement Program.

Nurturing the potential of Edmonton's high risk youth makes it possible for many youth to leave the street behind, make positive changes in their life direction and become contributing members of society. In 2016/17 the following organization and individual donors recognized the human, social and economic value in nurturing the potential of Edmonton's high risk youth.

THE CITY OF EDMONTON

Thank you to The City of Edmonton for their long standing support of the Inner City Youth Support Program.



GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA CULTURE & TOURISM

We have benefited from the support Alberta Culture's Community Initiatives Program at critical times in our history and this past year was no exception.



THE CITY OF EDMONTON

Thank you to The Butler and Melton Foundations for their support of our Elder and addictions programming.



EDMONTON OILERS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Thank you to the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation for their ongoing commitment to Edmonton's high risk youth.



THE STOLLERY FOUNDATION

The Stollery Foundation's support was instrumental in preventing incarceration for several youth.



THE GANDHI FOUNDATION

The Gandhi Foundation has consistently supported our work with Edmonton's high risk youth.



SUPERHERO FUN RUN

We thank all the supporters of our annual Superhero Fun Run. This event has raised fun and funds for our programs.





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Financial Report 2015/2016

REVENUES

Alberta Education	2,612,257
Foundations	464,330
City of Edmonton, Community Services	89,945
Fee For Service	25,915
Donations	68,238
Federal and other Provincial Grants	33,333
Other	10,445
Amortization	13,315
Total Revenue	3,284,445

EXPENSES

Expenses	Youth Support Program
Wages and Benefits	281,409
Direct Client Expenses	100,741
Facility	62,427
Trans & Ins	22,079
Professional Fees	5,345
Total Expenses	472,001

Expenses	Inner City High School
Wages and Benefits	2,206,070
Program Expenses	227,892
Facility	297,502
Professional Development	6,622
Professional Fees	14,554
Total Expenses	2,752,640

TOTAL REVENUE

3,284,445

Inner City High Expenses	2,752,640
Youth Support Expenses	472,001
Amortization	13,502
Total Expenditures	3,238,143
Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	46,302





ICYDA

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