



The URBAN EDGE

Your Exclusive Update On Your Generosity At Work | Spring 2024



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MAIN FLOOR UPDATE

Thanks for sticking with us and getting us here

Praise God! The main floor renovations are well underway.

We asked for your help in making this space a bright, spacious, and welcoming community living room—and you delivered!

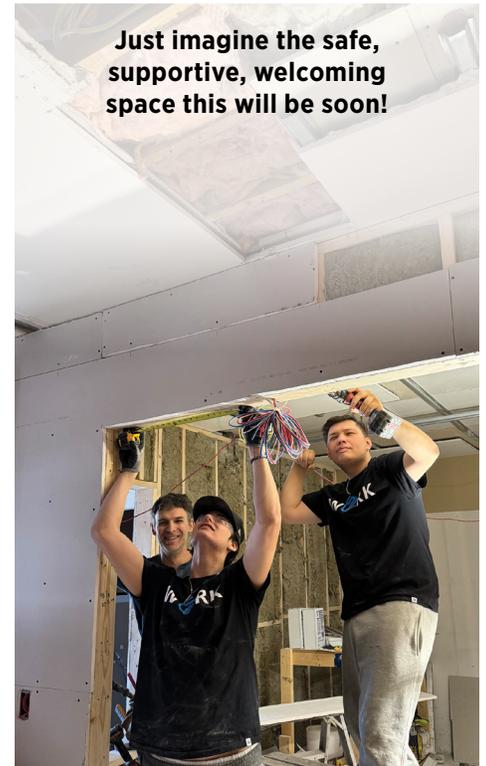
Step Up Construction workers have finished demolition and the framing. Soon, cement will be poured and in-floor heating completed too. Even framing, electrical, and plumbing inspections went well in February!

Anthony, Director of Step Up Construction, says “The crew members are learning lots about timelines and working in a commercial

style space. Thank you all for your prayers and support!”

We couldn't have said it better! And we couldn't have done it without you. **Thank you for helping make 418 Aberdeen an even more welcoming and loving place for our North End kids and youth!** ✕

“Thank you all for your prayers and support!”



Just imagine the safe, supportive, welcoming space this will be soon!



Because you show up for us, we can show up for John, and he can show up for North End youth



THE HOPE OF JESUS

You're sharing the Gospel with North End youth.

Life with and without the hope of Jesus... John has seen both.

“I grew up in a house packed to the brim, surrounded by destructive friends, habits, and lifestyles... with very little knowledge of this man that died on the cross for us.”

But because you keep showing up for us, young people like John are able to get to know that man, Jesus. They're able to find out He has bigger plans for them than they might have for themselves.

Now, John is able to combine his Gospel hope with his own experiences while he works at ICYA. He offers pre-teens their own hope for the future just like he has.

“Being a leader at ICYA to me means walking hand in hand with youth in their life journey. It also means being a healthy and consistent figure in their life while setting healthy expectations. I show them that there is hope not only in my testimony but the testimony of Christ Jesus.”

“I show them that there is hope... in the testimony of Christ Jesus.”

John's message is clear, and we echo it: there is hope in Christ!

Thank you for supporting us and leaders like John. You're ensuring every youth that comes through our doors receives Christ's message of hope. ✕

If it wasn't for you...

...Christie wouldn't be the strong woman she is today.

We'll let Christie tell you her story in her own words. It's been many years since she attended The Bridge Drop-In as a kid, but she still feels the love and hugs and guidance she received. When you support ICYA and The Bridge Drop-In, you help more kids grow up to be strong men and women just like Christie.

"My life before The Bridge was not

always easy. I grew up with drugs and alcohol and abuse all around me.

The first time I went to The Bridge I felt safe. There were no drugs, no alcohol, no violence. There was food and just an overall safe place that I couldn't wait to go back to.

The leaders would open their arms and give us the biggest hugs. They would actually listen to us and not just pretend to listen. They would make sure to make you feel special.

Life since The Bridge has been not always an easy path, but I know I wouldn't be who I am today if I never stepped foot in those doors.

The Bridge opened up so many positive opportunities for me and helped me believe there are good things out there, even when I felt



With your help, The Bridge Drop-In added fun and laughter to Christie's childhood.

sometimes 'this was it, this was life.' Going to camp at Gem Lake, canoe trips, winter camps, floor hockey tournaments, crafts and worship... that was what kept me out of trouble.

I truly believe God put [The Bridge Drop-In] in my life to show me the love and guidance I needed and helped me be the woman I am today.

If it wasn't for your donations when I was a child, I would have never had this life of amazing opportunities and people in my life. Who knows where I would be.

Donating is what is going to keep helping children like me who need that safe place and all the other opportunities The Bridge has to offer. Because The Bridge is the heart of the North End."

How does Christie know this? Because she's experienced it for herself—and she's now a donor too.

Just like you, she's committed to keeping The Bridge Drop-In "the heart of the North End." ✕



Your continued support means even more kids will be loved at The Bridge Drop-In.

"If it wasn't for your donations... who knows where I would be."

Radical Love in the North End

How you can support our staff and keep us together in Christ

You know it as well as we do: the North End is full of young leaders with passion and promise ready to serve their community and grow their skills. This is why we hire them as staff!

But not too long ago, we saw a big problem: these staff often didn't have the networks behind them to raise enough salary support for themselves.



So on top of focussing on their jobs, they had to worry about raising enough for a living wage. It just wasn't working.

Instead, you helped us introduce something that really did work: The Unity Fund. A way to ensure all staff were equally supported, regardless of their background. Instead of asking staff to find their own supporters, we pooled support and split it among staff.

“Without the Unity Fund I wouldn't be able to do this kind of work.”

But what does a model like that actually do? We'll let staff member Jenelle explain it.

“I would not be able to work here at ICYA if the Unity Fund did not exist. I don't have people around me who would be able to support me in that way.

The Unity Fund allows me to have the opportunity to work in this environment with kids in the community. I get to teach kids and teens about who God is and plant seeds in each of their lives. I love that I get to walk alongside these youth and mentor them.

Without the Unity Fund I wouldn't be able to do this kind of work.”

If you're able to give to the Unity Fund today, you'll ensure no one has to say “I don't have people around me who would be able to support me.”

You'll be the support they need. ✕

Yes, I will be the support network ICYA staff need!



Your most generous gift will be a strong foundation for all ICYA staff. With you behind them, they'll be able to focus on their work of pouring into North End youth and sharing Jesus' love.

Please use the enclosed coupon and reply envelope to send in your gift today. To donate by phone, call (204) 582-8779 or give online at icya.ca/unity-fund Thank you so much!

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