

# QUARTERLY UPDATE

## FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT. JULY 2021

"Light at the end of the tunnel"  
- common idiom from 1880's

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it"  
- John 1:4

**ADAPTABILITY** - I think adaptability must be the defining word for March 2020 to June 2021. It was a very long 15 months and I believe that those who were able to be more adaptable within the circumstances we all faced are probably those who were able to deal with those same circumstances in the healthiest ways.

But now I feel we are entering a new phase of life. Another period of change or transition. It is our desire at Youth Unlimited that this new period is defined by the word HOPE. The idiom and Bible verse mentioned above have a lot in common. There is the great theme of light versus darkness. There is also that highly motivational and inspirational concept of **HOPE**.

*I hope you feel hopeful today.*

I sensed hopefulness over the weekend here in Alberta. With pandemic restrictions lifted, I was able to do some pretty cool things outdoors the last few days and witnessed the sight of many relieved, if not hopeful faces. To see the joy expressed in peoples faces as they slid down a water slide, relaxed on a beach, bit into a big juicy cheeseburger, or walked through Fort Edmonton Park to take in sights new and old.

Speaking of new sights and hope, my wife, Shannon, and I took in the Indigenous Peoples' Experience at Fort Edmonton Park. It is a wonderful museum experience that taught me so much about the history of our indigenous people in Canada. In talking with the staff there, I was given hope that there is a way forward for reconciliation in Canada between the settlers and the first nations. Despite the complexity of the issues underlining the suffering of a very thoughtful and deeply cultured people, I heard a clear message of hope expressed about reconciliation and moving forward together.

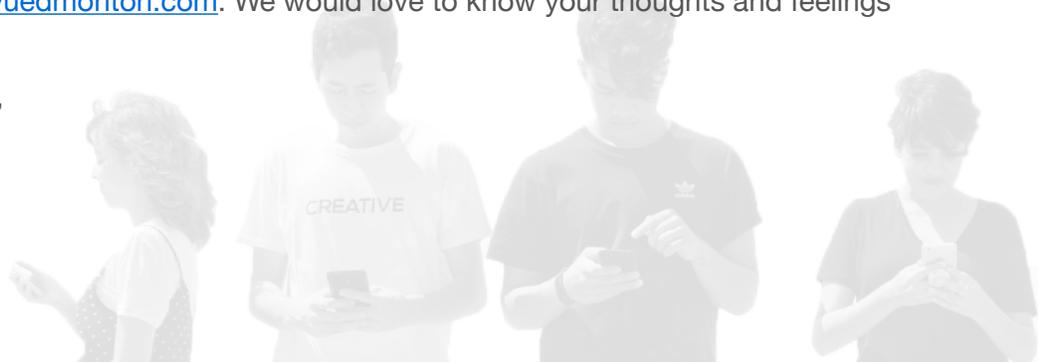
**Moving forward together.** That is what we are trying to do at Youth Unlimited. Our staff and volunteers are working to walk alongside youth who have never faced greater uncertainty and hopelessness in their lives. This is definitely the most challenged generation of youth in our history. We have great concern for the future of our youth and helping them deal with the impacts of isolation and loneliness. Especially our indigenous youth.

Did you know that the greatest single factor for youth resiliency (overcoming struggles and thriving) is having one significant adult relationship? At Youth Unlimited we are providing several opportunities for these relationships as youth come to our programs and events, creating a unique bond between youth and adults who care to listen and walk alongside them.

As we move forward together in 2021, Youth Unlimited wants to **move toward supporting our indigenous youth** in greater ways. If you have any ideas or contacts, or feel called to help in this important opportunity, please feel free to contact our office - 780-437-3000 and talk to Pam or myself. You can also email us at [admin@yuedmonton.com](mailto:admin@yuedmonton.com). We would love to know your thoughts and feelings on this project.

Hoping for a brighter future for all,

**Gary Higgs**  
Executive Director



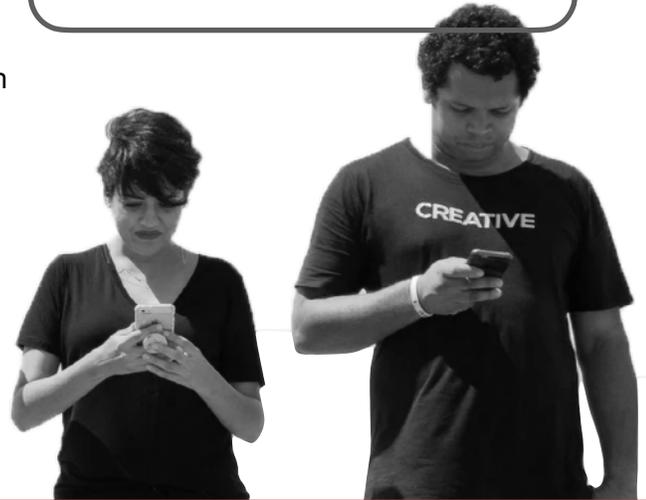
## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

[yuedmonton.com/donate](http://yuedmonton.com/donate)

This pandemic has brought the world to a halt, but our mission is still moving forward at full speed... it just looks a little different these days.

We are still using every available avenue to reach out and connect with youth in Edmonton, and you are instrumental in making that happen.

Teens need support more now than they ever have. This summer will bring lots of great opportunities for our youth to connect in. Will you partner with Youth Unlimited in helping make that a reality?



## MEET THE TEAM!

Please welcome to the team, Maren Morton! Maren has recently joined as our new Cellar Manager. YUE is blessed to have her on our team. We know she will help make a significant impact in serving you and our youth.

Maren has been working at Youth Unlimited since March. If her personality was compared to any tv show character it would be a mixture of Chandler and Phoebe from friends. Maren loves to bring joy into a moment with her sick dance moves like Chandler or genuine and child-like personality like Phoebe. Maren is super excited to bring these traits into her work at YU. Maren's passion is to see youth transformed through Christ's redemptive power. Her years of youth work has shown her that availability means the world in a student's life. Maren is very excited to walk alongside Youth Unlimited to continue to see these youth's lives transformed.



**Youth Unlimited™**  
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**SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 • SAVE THE DATE!**

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