



*"This place is my home."* - Lucas, 15 yrs old

*"You're the first adult I've ever told this to."* - Finn

*"Without the Core, I don't know if I would still be alive."* - Richard, 16

These are words from youth who walk through the doors of Youth Unlimited Edmonton every week.

Over the past 2 years, we gathered and analyzed more than **110 statements directly from youth** across our drop-in centres. What they told us was both heartbreaking and hopeful.

Nearly half of youth said our centres are **the place where they finally belong**. Over 40% described them as their only **safe and stable space**. Four in ten spoke about the impact of a **trusted adult relationship**—often the first one they've ever had. And more than a third shared how coming here helps them manage anxiety, loneliness, and mental health struggles.

For many young people, our centres aren't just something to do after school. They are where they belong. Where they feel safe. Where someone listens. **Where hope is restored.**

But here's the challenge. Right now, the need for real relationships among youth is growing faster than our capacity. Youth keep showing up—often asking the same question:

*"I wish I could be here more."* - Corbin, 17

That's why we're launching Another Day in 2026.

The goal of the Another Day campaign is simple:

**Add one more day of programming each week at each of our 3 youth centres.**

One more day means:

Another day youth don't go home to empty houses or unsafe situations

Another day with a caring adult who knows their name and listens to their story

Another day with food, positive peer connection, and encouragement

Another day where loneliness doesn't win

Research tells us that having **one caring adult** and a **safe place to belong** dramatically increases a young person's resilience. Our youth are telling us the same thing—loud and clear.

Another Day isn't about adding more programming for the sake of programming. It's about **being available one more time** each week for youth who are already telling us this place is saving their lives.

Would you consider making a gift today to help make Another Day possible?

To give today online: <https://anotherday2026.raiselysite.com/>.

Thank you for believing in young people, and for being part of a community that shows it cares, again and again.

Wishing you a very blessed 2026!

Gary Higgs

Executive Director

P.S. Aiden recently told us, ***"You guys are the reason I'm still here."*** Another Day could mean the world to someone who hasn't found their place yet. You can help make that happen: <https://anotherday2026.raiselysite.com/>



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