



THE CYFC NOW

The purpose of Child and Youth Friendly Calgary is to lead in providing meaningful opportunities for young people to contribute to our community.

WE COME IN PEACE!!!

By Neil Pohlman and Eric Maryka

We are Neil Pohlman and Eric Maryka and we have made an incredible journey in our tiny spaceship to the great planet of CYFC. It took many years to reach this planet, thirteen years to be exact. We were sent here because of the work we had done on our planet. We were young students who wanted to help others by doing nice things for them. We organized fun activities and helped students explore the many exciting ways to work together and achieve their goals. This required lots of hard work but we really enjoyed the feeling of teamwork that we felt while volunteering and it made us feel pretty good about ourselves. It made us want to keep doing more of this kind of work. In fact, the master aliens recognized our hard work and awarded us the Youth (Alien) of Distinction Award for Leadership. It was they who decided that we should be sent to the planet of CYFC to continue this meaningful work.

When we arrived on CYFC, we felt young and scared, but we soon made friends with the other aliens. We found that although we came from different places and backgrounds, we could work together and do things for this planet of CYFC and beyond. There are many people on this big planet that are our age and can offer so much to this big place. It is very important that we young aliens are active in our societies because then, when we become master aliens, we can be better citizens of our planet.

It has been a great honour to be a part of CYFC considering we were alien visitors to this world. Back on our planet there is an emptiness in our society, a lack of caring for others and being part of a community, but on CYFC you are able to become involved and give back at a young age. We will eventually make the long journey back to our planet to continue our work on a broader scale and address the emptiness that prevails there. Neil will continue this work on the planet of William Aberhart and Eric will work on the planet of Bishop Carroll, however, all of our work will be guided through CYFC.

But wait! We must stop here; we may have said too much already, compromising our identity as aliens, but we feel it is all worth it. We must sign off for now.

CYFC CELEBRITY:

Jane Wu

Jane Wu has always recognized the importance of volunteerism. In 2004 Jane joined CYFC, becoming actively involved in the Youth Volunteer Corps (YVC), the YVC in Schools, the Mayor's Youth Council and the Calgary Youth Foundation. Among Wu's most notable volunteer achievements: planning and executing a young women's career conference, 'Beauty and Brains', which is now an annual event at the Telus World of Science.



Courtesy, Mackenzie Financial Corps

In the past year, Wu has received several awards recognizing her achievements, culminating with her reception of Canada's Top Teen Philanthropist Award, sponsored by Mackenzie Investments. As part of this honour, Wu received \$5,000 to donate to a charity of her choice; she graciously chose CYFC (thanks Jane!).

Presently, Wu is one of two Canadian board members on the State Farm® Youth Advisory Board and acts as the Frosh representative on the Queen's Women in Leadership Executive; all this while beginning first year studies in Commerce at Queen's University.

Wu revealed, "Something miraculous occurs when one not only follows one's dreams, but completely immerses one's self in it"; Wu has immersed herself in her dream of a more connected community, where youth are empowered to pursue their goals in a world that supports these pursuits.



HAVE YOUR SAY!

Have your voice heard - become a Child Friendly Calgary Society youth member. For an annual fee of \$10, youth who have participated in a CYFC program, event or activity in the past 12 months can become a member.

Call us at (403) 266-5448 or e-mail us at friendly@cyfc.ca to find out what opportunities membership can bring.



YOUTHSCAPE NATIONAL GATHERING

January 14-17, 2009

YouthScape is a national initiative with five sites across Canada. The "Big Dream" of the Calgary YouthScape Initiative is to create a Calgary in which all young people are seen, heard, and respected as citizens of the community; where youth, in all their diversity, are honoured, so that their voice can serve as a catalyst for community change. Each year members from all five sites, as well as guests from across Canada, come together to share, learn, and inspire.

This year, the YouthScape National Gathering was hosted by CYFC and held in Banff with over 100 participants. Those in attendance included individuals from YouthScape related organizations, youth serving agencies, members of government, and of course, youth. The agenda included brainstorming sessions, discussions and numerous workshops. The Gathering was unique as many of the participants were asked to facilitate a session based on their own strengths and abilities.

Walking away, everyone involved with the YouthScape National Gathering was energized and motivated to continue making a positive change locally and Canada-wide!



The ConocoPhillips Youth of Distinction Awards is an opportunity for Calgarians to recognize deserving youth (13-18 years of age) for the remarkable ways in which they live. The awards are not academic and each of the six categories has a focus whether it is leadership or environmentalism. Nomination forms can be found at www.cyfc.ca/yoda and must be sent in by April 6th, 2009.

Thanks to generous funding from ConocoPhillips, this year's ceremony, taking place on May 9th, 2009 at the Calgary Zoo, will be better than ever!

Contact Kaitlin at 403-266-5448 or yoda@cyfc.ca for more information.

ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE

Child and Youth Friendly Calgary's 2008 Annual Report is now available. Visit our website, www.cyfc.ca to view a copy. Or if you would like a hard copy, please contact us at 403-266-5448 and we will gladly mail you one!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On Monday, January 19th, Child and Youth Friendly Calgary held its 14th Annual General Meeting. It was an evening filled with presentations by youth volunteers from many of our programs, who shared memories of the past year. It was also an opportunity for CYFC to recognize its community partners who have gone above and beyond the call of duty.

The following individuals/organizations were thanked for their support and contributions to CYFC: Brown Bagging for Calgary's Kids; Jeff Collins and Danielle Nerman of CBC Radio; Alli Marshall of Social Venture Partners; and, Bree Schreiber of Simon Fraser Junior High.



From left to right: Alli Marshall, Rob Gray and Penny Hume

AGENCY PROFILE: CALGARY CHILD'S MAGAZINE

By Ellen Percival

Calgary's Child Magazine is recognized as the source for news and information about issues, classes, activities and support for families in Calgary and the surrounding communities. With the invaluable assistance of the Youth Volunteer Corps (YVC), we are also able to provide Calgarians with a variety of family-friendly events throughout the year including the Family Fun Fair, Celebrate Christmas in Calgary and Hulabazoo.

Helping at our events is no small feat! Tens of thousands of families attend each year and the YVC enthusiastically manages this enormous task with ease, confidence and professionalism. We are so grateful for their assistance in facilitating events for Calgarians that give families the opportunity to spend wonderful, fun-filled days together making memories.

The Youth Volunteer Corps has time and time again demonstrated its positive influence within our city, and we thank them so much for their commitment as an organization dedicated to supporting a family-first community.

VOLUNTEER CLUB PROFILE

By Aman Bedi and Shaista Jaffer

Volunteering through the Youth Volunteer Corps (YVC) gives individuals the chance to express their identity and interests in a way that makes them happy, as well as those who are around them. We like volunteering because it helps us build on our skills, it's enjoyable and we get to meet new people.

At Lester B. Pearson High School, the YVC club gives teens volunteer opportunities such as birthday parties and B-I-N-G-O nights at Whitehorn Village (WHV), Spread the Love, Recycle Everyday at Pearson (REAP), and Global Youth Service Day. At the WHV, we hand out cake and refreshments for the elders attending birthday parties while a band entertains them. During B-I-N-G-O, our task is to hand out B-I-N-G-O cards and assist some of the elders who are hard of hearing. Spread the Love takes place one Thursday every month during lunch hour. We work together to make sandwiches for the Mustard Seed. With REAP, volunteers take pop cans and other recyclable drinks out of the recycle bins and put them into garbage bags, which are then sent to a bottle depot. Finally, for Global Youth Service Day 2008, our volunteers went out to a number of elementary schools to play soccer and other games with them. We wanted to educate young children about good nutrition and healthy ways of living.

Volunteering makes us better people and it keeps us aware of the issues that are occurring in our society. It also reminds us that we have an opportunity to make a difference.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YVC IN SCHOOLS?

Do you know anyone who would be interested in class or school presentations about volunteering and leadership?

The Youth Volunteer Corps in Schools program would love to give an engaging and interactive presentation to your students. Our focus is to teach students the importance of volunteering and being a leader in their community. In these presentations, we play fun games, have open discussions and help students get a better understanding of leadership and volunteering.

If you have any questions or would like to set up a presentation, please contact us.

Brett Dibble – yvcclubs@cyfc.ca
Sylvia Galica – yvcclubs2@cyfc.ca



Youth Week Calgary is an annual, international celebration of youth, planned by youth, which is held during the last week of April. Its goal is to connect young people of different ages, cultures and areas of Calgary to resources in our city. Throughout the week, youth minded agencies celebrate young people by hosting an array of special events such as teen nights and contests.

Youth Week Calgary 2009 will be held from
April 25th – May 3rd, 2009

Check out www.youthweekcalgary.ca for a full list of events!

CYFC RECOGNITION

The Youth Volunteer Corps has received The Publisher's Award of Distinction, chosen by the Publisher of Calgary's Child Magazine, which recognizes organizations exceptional and sustained contributions to the community in Calgary.

The Home Safety Project has received the Jim Gray Safer Calgary Youth Award, awarded to an individual or group of Calgarians, 18 years of age or younger, whose achievements in the promotion of safety have brought recognition towards making Calgary a safer place for all.

NEED MONEY FOR A GREAT PROJECT?

Do you have a great idea for a youth-led project that will benefit the community? Child and Youth Friendly Calgary has two funding opportunities available for projects that benefit youth.

- The Calgary Youth Foundation & Mayor's Youth Council are currently accepting applications for the Jack Leslie Youth Environment Grant. The Jack Leslie Youth Environment Grant is a partnership between Child and Youth Friendly Calgary, The City of Calgary, The Parks Foundation, and the Jack Leslie family. The grant recognizes the positive impact former Mayor Leslie had in Calgary and on the environment. We are looking for youth driven projects that benefit the environment in Calgary.

The deadline is April 27th; apply for up to \$1,000 today!
Contact youthfoundation@cyfc.ca for more information.

- Opening Doors is an ongoing subsidy that assists with the rental costs of community facilities for positive events and activities for youth (between 12-21) to a maximum of \$2,500.

Contact youthfoundation@cyfc.ca for more information.



Get Involved!!! Visit www.cyfc.ca

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THANK YOU CYFC SUPPORTERS!

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This list includes gifts and general support received between July 2008 - March 2009. Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of this list; but, if you discover any errors or omissions, please call (403) 266-5448.

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GIVE A GIFT

Enclosed is my gift to help Child and Youth Friendly Calgary give even more meaningful opportunities to young people in my community. ___\$250 ___\$100 ___\$50 ___\$20 \$___other amount

___ Enclosed is my cheque. Please make the cheque payable to: Child and Youth Friendly Calgary

___ I would prefer to use my ___ VISA or ___ MASTERCARD

My card number is: _____ Expiry Date: _____

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Address: _____ City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Please complete this form and mail it, along with your donation, to the CYFC office at the address below or donate online at www.cyfc.ca. THANK YOU!

Child and Youth Friendly Calgary is a registered Canadian charitable organization (#899067748RR0001).

A tax receipt will be mailed to you for donations over \$10.00.

CYFC respects your privacy. If you wish to be removed from our newsletter mailing list, please e-mail friendly@cyfc.ca or call 403-266-5448.

