



STRONG NOT WRONG

We focus on **STRENGTHS** and **POSSIBILITY**
instead of DEFICITS and RISK.

We build up youth, partners and community.
We are catalysts to a brighter future.

JOIN US



Calgary Youth
Justice Society

CASE FOR SUPPORT

STRONG **NOT** WRONG

...I wasn't a happy person. I was unconfident, negative and had no idea what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I was lost. But right when I walked in that door, for the first time, I could talk to amazing staff and students, every week, about anything, good or bad, with complete confidence. I could talk to my coach who was like a friend to me; he supported me through everything and helped me with my problems that I couldn't figure out by myself. He listened without judgement, and didn't just tell me what to do but, he helped me find the answers to my own questions through his thoughtful questions. I also made new friends through their great volunteer program, and weekly sessions at school. It gave me an opportunity to gain knowledge, confidence and leadership skills, so I could find out who I am and what I want to be in the future. I learned to stop dwelling on the past, and focus on the present, and focusing on what I can do right now. Not only did this program completely accept who I am, but they supported who I am. They asked questions about my beliefs and values so I could have a further understanding about who I am. This program helped me in a way, that not a lot of things can, but **the biggest thing about this program, was it gave me a chance to be happy again...** and I am so thankful that I was able to be a part of this amazing experience with all of you...

YOUTH PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

Every Young Person MATTERS.

Every young person has the potential to meaningfully impact our community. Every day, Calgary Youth Justice Society sees young people gain confidence and hope for a brighter future when their strengths are recognized and invested in.

Since 1996 the Calgary Youth Justice Society has helped youth find what is strong in their lives through programs proven to build resilience, reduce risk and nurture community connections.

**In the last 23 years,
CYJS has impacted
the lives of over
13,000 young people.**



**“nothing - nothing
- has more impact
on the life of a
child than positive
relationships.”¹**



**Every Young Person Is STRONG.
Every Life Has POSSIBILITY.**

re·sil·ience (noun)

The capacity to recover quickly from difficulties. The belief that individuals and families have the strength, resources and ability to recover from adversity.

The Science of Resiliency

Most young people experience stress of some kind in their lives. Young people with strong protective and developmental factors usually handle stress and adversity more successfully and are less likely to engage in risk taking activities. Youth with higher resiliency factors and developmental strengths are less likely to engage in risk-taking activities. (Understanding the Resiliency Framework; Resiliency Initiatives 2003).

Protective factors can be built and improved with the right support. When growing up and making decisions, every young person needs people around them who recognize their potential.

**Calgary Youth Justice Society
programs have been designed
around 3 core principles.**



1. Benson, P. L. (2010). Parent, teacher, mentor, friend: How every adult can change kids' lives. Minneapolis, MN: Search Institute.

STRONG PROGRAMS BUILD RESILIENCE & DELIVER PROVEN OUTCOMES

YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE



The Youth Justice Committee Program is a community-based alternative to court that gives young people a second chance on a bad decision. Youth Justice Committee volunteers help young people move through and past a minor offence by holding them accountable without holding them back.

Because of the Youth Justice Committee Program

- ✓ **12,000 youth have been diverted from the formal court process**
- ✓ **90% of Calgary youth are successful in the program**
- ✓ The majority of youth stay out of trouble.
- ✓ **3 years later, 80% of them had not been charged again.**
- ✓ **Every \$1 spent on diverting youth from the criminal justice system today saves \$4 tomorrow.**

Our Resiliency Building Principles at Work

Relentless pursuit of strengths

Volunteers get to know each youth and their story to find consequences and solutions personalized for them that build skills and inspire hope for the future.

Meaningful Relationships with Adult Volunteers

Our Committee volunteers live in the same neighbourhood and set positive examples for youth. Young people learn there are adults in their community who care about and believe in them.

Positive Connection to Community

Having the opportunity to make meaningful amends in their own community gets young people invested in where they live and empowers to make a difference for their neighbours and community.

Avoiding a criminal record keeps doors open to opportunities such as volunteering, admission to higher education, access to employment, and out of country travel which are all relevant to leading a productive life.

SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT
CASE STUDY, 2010

“I have never had a volunteer experience where I felt this connected to the results. These youth literally transform before our eyes.”

YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER



A Mother's Story

I'll never forget the day I got the phone call...
."Mom, it's me. Please don't hate me forever – I've been arrested for shoplifting."

What? My super smart, athletic, cute youngest daughter arrested? As a grade 11 honours student, she was already applying to universities, many in the US. My mind was racing; was this the end of her dream to attend a top school?

At the store where I found my daughter and two Calgary policemen. My daughter sobbed as one of the two officers told her she'd need to be handcuffed and charged. I was beside myself.

She later told me she had been trying to prove to some so-called friends that she wasn't the goody-two-shoes they kept saying she was. Now, she faced a criminal record. Luckily, one of the

police officers said he would try to get her into an alternative measures program.

A volunteer with a Youth Justice Committee met with our family and involved us throughout as my daughter completed her Agreement. The charges against her were dropped, and the process helped bond our family closer in the wake of the incident. I later learned that the members of the Youth Justice Committees are all volunteers. I was amazed. Since then, our family has done what we can to give time and money to Calgary Youth Justice Society.

My daughter got into that school in the US that she was hoping for. When we dropped her off, tears filled my eyes as I realized how different her life, and all our lives, would have been had she not had this chance.

STRONG PROGRAMS BUILD RESILIENCE & DELIVER PROVEN OUTCOMES IN THE LEAD PROGRAM



In the Lead is an innovative leadership and character development program for vulnerable youth (14-24) who are often overlooked as leaders. Through weekly skill development classes, connection to a caring adult volunteer (Coach) and group volunteer opportunities, our Young Leaders develop key protective factors to build resiliency and reduce risk-taking behaviour.

In the Lead, an Alberta Education accredited course, is delivered in high schools, in community based youth organizations, and to youth involved in the justice system.

Because of In The Lead

- ✓ 98% of Young Leaders felt they had found ways to use their strengths to overcome challenges
- ✓ 95% of Young Leaders felt their self-confidence had increased
- ✓ 97% of Young Leaders indicated that they felt 'more positive' about their future
- ✓ **97% of Young Leaders indicated that they felt they could be contributors to the world around them.**

Our Resiliency Building Principles at Work

Relentless pursuit of strengths

The program focuses on building increased resiliency through growth in seven core leadership competency areas.

Meaningful Relationships with Adult Volunteers

Adult volunteers support young leaders, showing them someone is committed to their success and believes in their strengths.

Positive Connection to Community

Volunteering allows youth to see themselves through the lens of helping others as opposed to someone needing help and provides an opportunity to explore the practical application of the skills learned in class.

Students who complete In the Lead believe in themselves and have that rare but necessary commodity that will allow them to achieve their dreams, "hope".

BRUCE SAWDON PRINCIPAL,
DISCOVERING CHOICES HIGH SCHOOL

“I reference things I learned from In the Lead all the time... I felt like I had the support and coping strategies to deal with anything life threw at me.”

PAST YOUTH PARTICIPANT



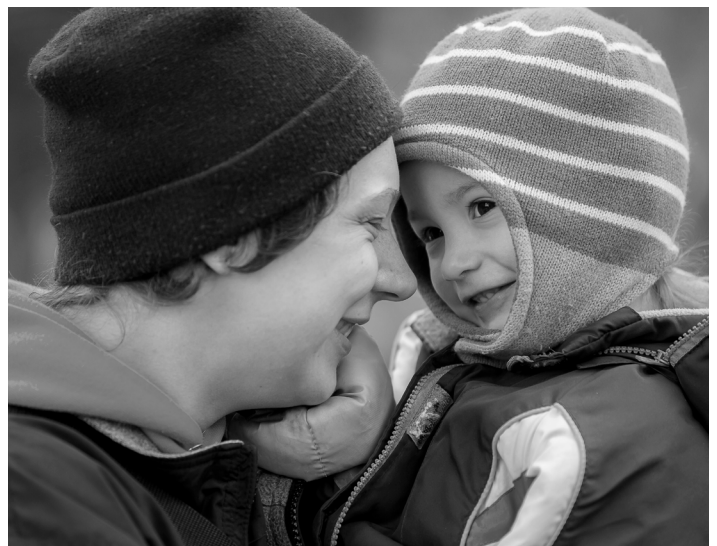
Coral's Story

Coral grew up knowing a lot of abuse and poverty. She left home in her teen years to raise her infant daughter in a better environment. Even while homeless, and despite significant challenges, she had a goal of finishing High School.

On one of her worst days not long after she began, Coral started to listen to the voices in her head “You aren’t worth it, aren’t good enough, and you’ll never make it. You should just quit”. It was at this moment that a teacher approached Coral to tell her she had been nominated to a leadership program called In The Lead– and then began to tell her about all the strengths she could see in her.

Coral graduated, was recognized as an Inspired Albertan, and is now paying it forward by using a strengths approach in raising her daughter.

In Coral’s words CYJS “talks a lot about giving kids a second chance. But it didn’t give me a second chance. **It gave me a first chance. I never had a first chance.**”



STRONG COLLABORATION CREATES SHARED VALUE

Our programs create benefits for everyone involved. Surrounding our young people with a community of support invested in their future helps them see there are people who believe in them and their abilities. Our community thrives when young people have what they need to reach their potential as they transition to adulthood.

01. STRONGER YOUTH

Helping young people put their lives on positive trajectories.

02. STRONGER ADULT VOLUNTEERS

Learning valuable skills to use at home, at work, in community and creating more engaged and loyal employees, working together with our corporate partners.

03. STRONGER PARTNERS

Enriching programming in schools, youth serving agencies and the youth justice sector.

04. STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Building engaged and accountable citizens builds safer communities.



Calgary Youth Justice Society serves young people from every Calgary community, from every walk of life, from every kind of family. **The next young person we serve could be yours.**

“It is amazing to see the lights go on when a young person feels valued and understands that **their future can be different in a positive way.**”

VOLUNTEER

A STRONG PLAN REACHES MORE YOUNG PEOPLE.

By 2024, CYJS will double the youth we serve, our partners and our revenue to reach more vulnerable youth in Calgary. We will expand our reach and impact through the expansion of our programs and advocate for system and mindset change. We will balance organic growth of existing programs and partnerships with net new opportunities to serve youth who need us, understanding that growth is more complex than just numbers and resources will be required to serve increasingly vulnerable youth and agencies effectively.

We will grow our impact amongst vulnerable youth in Calgary

- ✓ **Deliver programming in more high schools** and community settings
- ✓ Reach more youth facing multiple barriers, meeting the greatest need
- ✓ Continue to **increase the capacity of Youth Justice Committees**

We will grow revenue, profile & our community of support

- ✓ Invest in resources to increase fundraising, volunteer & alumni engagement, and communications
- ✓ Build relationships with new donors and partners
- ✓ Continue to be thought-leaders, expanding the reach of our strengths-based philosophy and serving as a resource for our community.

We will strengthen organizational infrastructure to support growth

- ✓ Maintain high functioning organization as we grow to serve more youth
- ✓ Enhance IT & human resource systems

It currently costs us approximately \$1770 per young person we serve, all-in. This investment is proven to pay dividends – to young people, their families and our community at large for years and lifetimes. **With more resources, we can ensure futures for more young people:**

YEAR	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
BUDGET	\$720,605	\$868,000	\$997,000	\$1,106,000	\$1,370,000
YOUNG PEOPLE SERVED	400	500	600	700	800

STRONG SUPPORTERS ARE NEEDED.

As demand for our services continues to grow, and youth in our city continue to face challenges, now more than ever we need to continue our programs and connect young people full of potential with programs and adult volunteers who can set them on a positive trajectory. We know this impact lasts far beyond our programs, making our neighbourhoods and our city safer and more connected.

We believe our efforts to reach more vulnerable youth should never be impeded by lack of volunteers or money. Our hope is that we can always be here for young people when they need us. They need us today.

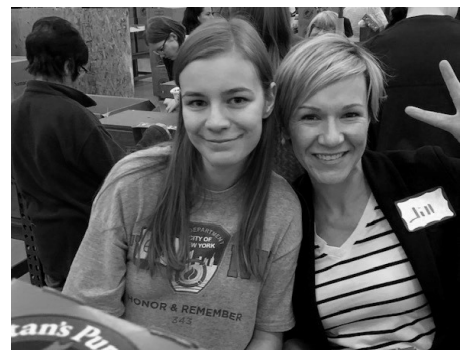
Your support ensures that no young person gets left behind.

"Some young people
who weren't going to
make it **ARE** going to
make it."

DENISE BLAIR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
CALGARY YOUTH JUSTICE SOCIETY



Your support will help us double the number of
youth we serve within 5 years.



Be Strong. **Join Us.**

OUR VISION:

**YOUNG PEOPLE
CONTRIBUTE TO,
AND FLOURISH IN
SAFE, CARING
COMMUNITIES.**

For more information, please contact:
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CALGARYYOUTHJUSTICE.CA

We see strength where no one is looking.



Calgary Youth
Justice Society