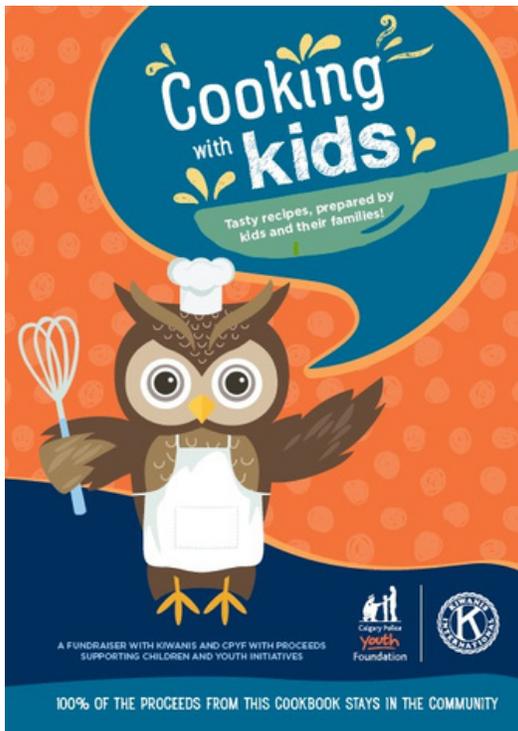




# CALGARY POLICE YOUTH FOUNDATION

**APRIL 2021 E-NEWS**

## **PRE-ORDER YOUR COOKING WITH KIDS COOKBOOK TODAY!**



The Calgary Police Youth Foundation has teamed up with the Kiwanis Clubs of Calgary and area to create a cookbook with recipes and crafts for families to enjoy together.

Featuring over 100 recipes, this cookbook contains contributions from families in the community along with local celebrities and dignitaries such as Mayor Nenshi, Jann Arden, Curtis Glencross, Cassie Campbell-Pascall and many others who enjoy cooking as much as we do!

Cookbooks are available for pre-order now and all of the funds raised will be shared equally between CPYF and Kiwanis in support of children and youth in Calgary. Order yours today at: [www.CPYFStore.ca](http://www.CPYFStore.ca)

## **CPYF GARAGE SALE UPDATE**

Last year, CPYF announced that we would be hosting our Giant Garage Sale and Community Fair on June 6, 2021. Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, we have made the decision to postpone the event until June 27. The safety of our guests is incredibly important to us and we feel that this is the best course of action moving forward. Be sure to stay tuned for more event information in the coming weeks and we can't wait to see you there!

# CPS VIEWS

This month, the Calgary Police Youth Foundation is excited to share the perspectives of two Calgary Police Service officers with our supporters. These officers offer insight into the importance of early intervention programs, like the child-youth programs supported by CPYF, and share with us their motivation for becoming police officers.

Thank you to both Cst. Green and Cst. Gauchier for these valuable insights and for your service to our community! We truly appreciate all that you do!

## HEAR FROM CST. GAUCHIER:

As a kid I dreamt of being a police officer and it all started when I was 8 years old. When I was in elementary school, we had police officers spend the day with my class. During this time, they talked to us about what police officers do, how they help people everyday and keep us safe; they even brought some of the police vehicles to show us along with a K9 unit. That's where it all began; and at 22 years old, once I completed university where I studied Psychology and Sociology, I was off to Calgary to pursue my dream as a Police Officer.



During my time as a police officer I have dealt with youth that have been exposed to criminal activity, gang activity, drugs and alcohol at a young age. I have seen how it has affected them over time. Witnessing how this lifestyle has affected them and seeing the path it has taken them in their lives is very eye opening. It makes you wonder what would have happened if they had someone intervene, assist them and be their advocate at a younger age and where they would be instead of where they are.

Youth prevention initiatives funded by the Calgary Police Youth Foundation provide those vulnerable youth an opportunity to move off that risky path to one where they can enjoy their youth the way they should.

The Youth programs have done this by helping them with their substance abuse, helping them get a job and have even helped them get sporting equipment so they can try out for sports teams they have always wanted to try out for but never had the opportunity. I believe that helping youth at risk before they get into the risky lifestyles would decrease youth going further into those lifestyles for the rest of their lives. I am a big believer in the programs that the Calgary Police Youth Foundation funds because it helps kids be kids, enjoying their youth and giving them opportunities they never had.

I remember the impact it had on me when I got to spend time with Police Officers at a young age and so now that I am a Police Officer, any time that I have the opportunity, I will always stop and spend time talking with youth in the community I patrol in, showing them the patrol car and telling them what Police Officers do and what its like to do the job.

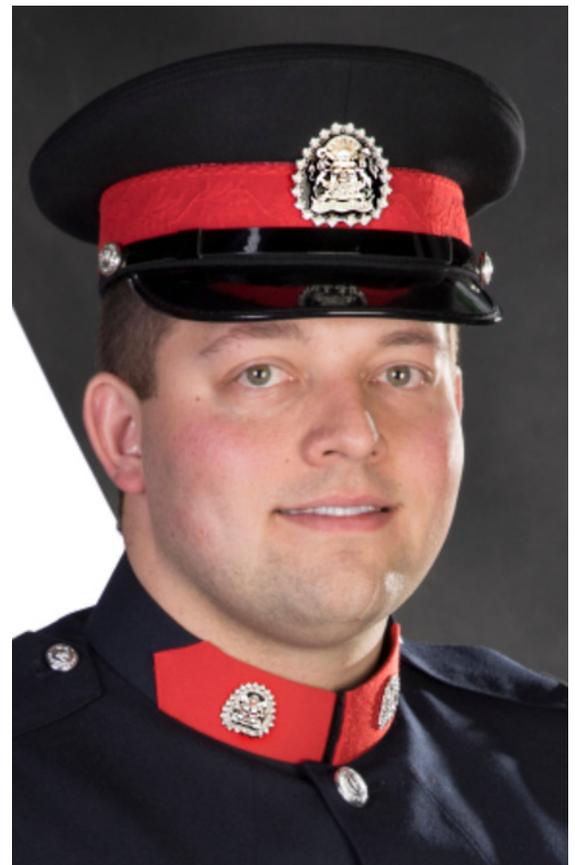


## HEAR FROM CST. GREEN:

I joined the Calgary Police Service in April of 2019 and have since worked in District 8. I always strived to be a police officer and before becoming one, I worked in other law enforcement fields.

One of those jobs included working as a Correctional Peace Officer within a Correctional Facility in British Columbia. Seeing offenders as young as 18 years old and some well into their 70's who were in and out of custody their entire lives, made me think that there has to be something we as a community can do to break this cycle or completely prevent it. The Correctional Centre I worked at had numerous programs for offenders to take advantage of but yet, it seemed no matter how hard they tried, there was always a revolving door for a lot of them. I believe early intervention and prevention is key to address this cycle. A proactive approach rather than a reactive approach is always the best solution.

Since becoming a police officer I have once again seen the same cycle, where the same people constantly come into contact with the criminal justice system. I believe the Calgary Police Service has an excellent approach to the prevention of crime rather than just focusing on reacting to crime.







# CPYF PROGRAM AMBASSADOR FEATURE - MEET OMAR!

This month, the Calgary Police Youth Foundation is proud to feature one of our newest Program Ambassadors, Omar! Omar has benefitted from the Youth At Risk Development Program (YARD) and is volunteering with CPYF as a Program Ambassador to help tell his story and share the impact the program has had on his life with our supporters.



*Photos of Omar throughout his life.*

## **Tell us about what led to you being referred to the YARD program.**

Originally, it was my irritability with authority figures and the start of my involvement in criminal activities that led me to YARD. It began when I was having behavioural difficulties inside and outside of school, and when my Dad moved to Iraq. That was a very hard time for me but I grew to see that he was better off there.

## **What would you tell people about the YARD program?**

YARD cannot make decisions for you, but they can help you succeed if you're truly up for it. Just because one has a [police] badge does not change the fact that they are there to help. You should get to know them for them, and not the career they chose. It is completely different, [the officers] aren't there to help themselves, they work hard for you. I know it can be hard if you have had your own negative experiences with police or social workers in the past or present, but that doesn't mean they are all the same. You'll never know until you try.

## **What are the three main things you learned while being in YARD?**

1. Every action can cause a reaction, either good or bad.
2. Everything you lack interest in now could eventually lead you to where you're headed, your goals in life or what you want to become.
3. To have patience when it comes to finding solutions. Problems can be solved over time.

## FAST FACTS ABOUT OMAR!

**If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you live?** There is no specific place, I would be happy enough just to have my family with me.

**What activities do you like to do for fun?** Usually sports. I'm a big basketball, football and soccer fan. I would say I'm also open to new experiences. I'm not a picky person when it comes to activities. It all depends on how people feel. If the vibe isn't so great, I wouldn't be upset but it wouldn't be much fun if that's fair to say.

**How would you describe your perfect day?** Fishing, friends and family in the middle of the mountains on a sunny day.

**What are your goals for the next 5 years?** Grow more, become more independent and figure out my future career. For now, I will remain living each day like it's my last and just enjoy it, stay thankful and grateful.

**Who is your hero and why?** It is my religion, although it is hard to explain why.



## THANK YOU TO OUR MEDIA PARTNERS, CORUS ENTERTAINMENT!



We are so proud to work with our friends and official media partners, Corus Entertainment. Thank you so much for your ongoing support and for using your platforms to help vulnerable children and youth in Calgary!



# PHILANTHROPIC LEADER AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT - COMING SOON!

We are so excited to share that our 2021 Philanthropic Leader Award recipient has officially been chosen! The Philanthropic Leader Award is a prestigious social impact award presented annually by the Calgary Police Youth Foundation and the Chief Constable of the Calgary Police Service that recognizes an individual or family for their charitable contributions to children and youth in our community. While we can't say who our winner is quite yet, we will be sharing the good news in our upcoming May Edition of E-News so be sure to stay tuned!

## STILL TO COME THIS YEAR:



With so many exciting events and campaigns to look forward to this year, we want to make sure that you don't miss a thing. Check out our listings below and mark your calendars! Want to get involved or volunteer, let us know at [CPYF@CalgaryPolice.ca!](mailto:CPYF@CalgaryPolice.ca)

**June 27** – Giant Garage Sale

**August** – Backpack Drive for Indigenous Students

**September** – Cooking with Kids Cookbook Launch

**October** – CPS Traffic Unit Motorcycle Calendar Launch

**October** – CPS Mounted Unit Calendar Launch

**October 4** – 2022 K9 Calendar Launch

**November 19** – Chief Youth Courage Awards

**November 23** – Day of Thanks Telethon

**November 19 – 28** – CYCA Silent Auction

**December** – Holiday Hamper Campaign



Next E-News

**MAY 2021**