

why



why



Help us shape the future for Calgary's children and youth.

why us?

we
raise funds

we
lead

we
build awareness

we
connect

we
provide hope

we
help at critical times

Our work flies under the radar in the crowded non-profit world of Calgary. We're small but we have a mighty alliance with the Calgary Police Service. That's our difference – and our superpower.

Read on to learn how this unique partnership changes lives.



educate
equip
empower

We are the Calgary Police Youth Foundation

We support crime prevention, education and early intervention programs for children and youth.

These programs educate, equip and empower young people to make informed decisions to avoid criminal activity and victimization. We raise funds in the community and steward donor dollars towards the creation, maintenance and improvement of programs unique among policing cities in Canada. We connect community organizations and individuals to the Calgary Police Service. In most of our programs, officers are the ones directly interacting with children and youth. In our programs, children, youth, parents and caregivers come to see police officers as part of a wider circle of trusted adults they can turn to.

Our leadership helps keep children and youth safe, giving them the fair shot at life they deserve.

Our work changes the way young people perceive the police, and more importantly, how they see themselves.



why now?

Calgary is a fast-growing and diverse city with great civic pride. Like many other large Canadian cities though, Calgary is dealing with systemic problems like food insecurity, addictions, racism, hate crimes and widening inequities. These systemic issues can lead to children and youth living with a lack of supervision or in unsafe homes, susceptible to crime and victimization.

Many children do not know how to ask for help from supportive adults when they need it.

Children and youth need to know there are adults in their community who won't judge them and with whom they feel safe to share, ask questions or get help. They need adults who have resources and influence, but first, they need to feel safe with those they seek help from. They need to experience the positive role models of police services first hand.

Systemic issues need localized, grass-roots solutions.

That's what we fund - programs delivered at the ground level with a purpose to educate, intervene and prevent youth crime and victimization.



The teenager trapped
in a youth gang

The 9-year-old
who is self harming

A 10-year-old who has mental
health issues and no support

The 5-year-old who is
stealing their friend's lunch

A 13-year-old who has
missed school due to arrest

Newcomer parents who carry
a deep mistrust of police

A teenager who shoplifts
for their friends

**who
needs
us?**

Our answer: **Fund the development of evidence-based programs led in-person by police officers.**

For youth who have already had some kind of involvement in criminal activity, some of our programs help them see a different path forward, one that doesn't involve crime. Several of our programs are designed to help children who may be at risk of becoming involved in criminal activity, diverting them away from negative influences through positive interactions and informed discussions. This is how we're "working upstream" from the issue of youth crime. Police officers engage with children to help break down stereotypes of the police as strictly law enforcers. Young people in our programs learn to trust the police as they learn how to live healthier, safer lives. We also have programs aimed at building resilient role models that have peer-to-peer influence. These are young people who are already

making great choices, we just help them to focus that energy and see themselves as leaders.

In short, our programs seek to tackle the issue of youth crime in targeted, strategic and evidence-based ways across a spectrum.

**Working early
on in a young
person's life has
long-lasting
positive outcomes.**



Why the Calgary Police Service?

Calgary Police Service officers draw on their deep knowledge and experience of current issues and risk factors facing children and youth to inform strategically targeted education, intervention and prevention programs.

what we do:

Our programs are strategic and evidence-based. They target areas where the need is the greatest. Young people get to know police officers over time, building trust and opening doors for conversations that fuel personal growth.

In 2022, these programs supported more than 23,000 children and youth in our community.

The common thread to all our programs is to keep children safe from crime and victimization. Our nine programs each approach that goal from slightly different angles...

Our Programs:

Integrated School Support Program (ISSP)

ISSP started as a two-school pilot in 2014 to support students with their physical, emotional, psychological, nutritional and academic needs.



Delivering those supports right in the school all but eliminates barriers to students to access wrap around supports. They include a positive police presence, an on-site mental health professional, a physical education teacher, nutrition programs, and after-school programs.

Embedding programs within the school means children feel less burdened by other concerns and able to focus on their learning. The supports put in place become normalized and less stigmatizing so that children know it's okay to ask for help.

Building on the success of the pilot program, ISSP is currently being expanded across 22 communities in Alberta. The Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction approved funding for a mental health professional in each ISSP-designated school.

We build collaborations with each school district to ensure the other ISSP supports are present and students have everything they need.



Multi Agency School Support Program (MASST)

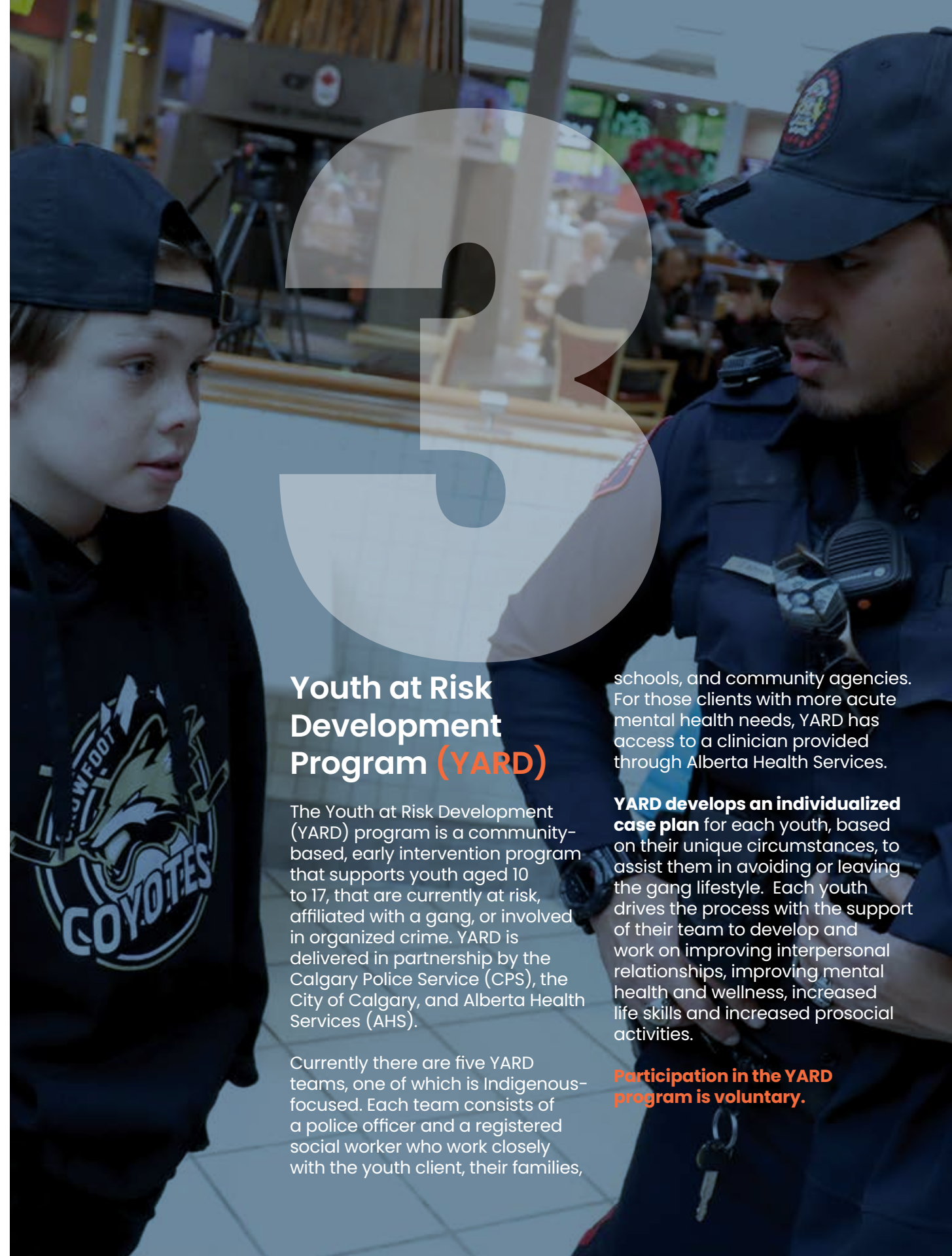
MASST is an early intervention, school-based program that supports children aged five to 12, who are exhibiting behavior which puts them at risk for negative, possibly criminal patterns of behaviour or victimization into teen years.

The program is based on two concepts:

- 1. Early, individualized assessment of risk factors**
- 2. Access to social support services in school and community**

Children and their families work closely with teams of police officers, registered social workers, and mental health care professionals, often for extended periods of time, to achieve the following long range goals:

1. Children are less likely to be involved in negative, even criminal patterns of behaviour or victimization
2. Greater collaboration among police, schools, and other agencies in addressing crime prevention and child/family resiliency
3. MASST-involved children and families have an improved perception around the role of police, social workers and other helping professionals



Youth at Risk Development Program (YARD)

The Youth at Risk Development (YARD) program is a community-based, early intervention program that supports youth aged 10 to 17, that are currently at risk, affiliated with a gang, or involved in organized crime. YARD is delivered in partnership by the Calgary Police Service (CPS), the City of Calgary, and Alberta Health Services (AHS).

Currently there are five YARD teams, one of which is Indigenous-focused. Each team consists of a police officer and a registered social worker who work closely with the youth client, their families,

schools, and community agencies. For those clients with more acute mental health needs, YARD has access to a clinician provided through Alberta Health Services.

YARD develops an individualized case plan for each youth, based on their unique circumstances, to assist them in avoiding or leaving the gang lifestyle. Each youth drives the process with the support of their team to develop and work on improving interpersonal relationships, improving mental health and wellness, increased life skills and increased prosocial activities.

Participation in the YARD program is voluntary.

Our Programs:

Bridges to Brighter Futures

Bridges to Brighter Futures is a child and youth crime prevention, education and intervention program which includes multiple and targeted community engagement initiatives led by the Calgary Police Service with support from the Calgary Police Youth Foundation. The common thread that ties all these initiatives together is the opportunity for children, youth, and their families to connect with the Calgary Police Service in a positive way right in their own community.



Examples of Bridges to Brighter Futures community initiatives:

1,000

Backpacks provided to Indigenous and other marginalized students in Calgary

15

youth will attend YouthLink Calgary summer camps

Camp Courage Calgary

allows young women, girls and gender diverse youth to explore a career as a first responder

Scholarships

for under-privileged youth pursuing post-secondary education

1,000

Holiday Hampers provided to children, youth and families

Gift of Safety

Car seats are provided to families through our partnership with Calgary Police Service

8

CPS District Office Initiatives led by officers that address the needs of the communities they serve

50

marginalized students have lunch and a shopping experience with a police officer



Power Play

Power Play is a free, weekly program that engages youth ages six to 17, and gives them the opportunity to learn how to skate and play soccer while interacting with Calgary Police Service officers in a safe and supportive environment.

Power Play helps to foster trust and understanding between the police and members of diverse and marginalized communities while helping to make sport available to those who may not have ready access to recreational sport.

6

Calgary Police Cadet Corps

The Calgary Police Cadet Corps is part of a youth crime prevention strategy that focuses on building strong role models and leaders. Designed for all youth aged 12 to 18, the program focuses on policing, while developing leadership skills, gaining education and enhancing physical fitness – all with the support of the Calgary Police Service. Cadets develop a great sense of pride and discipline through their involvement and learn to become model citizens while being mentored in an inclusive environment. Many Cadet graduates go on to pursue careers in policing.

Highlights:

128 Cadets enrolled in 2022

573 hours of Cadet training in 2022

1,391 hours volunteered in 2021 and more than 18 communities supported

YouthLink Calgary Police Interpretive Centre

YouthLink Calgary was established in 2013 at the Calgary Police Service HQ with the support of the Calgary Police Youth Foundation. It's an award-winning, interactive learning centre that delivers relevant and captivating content. Educational exhibits are focused on gangs, drugs, bullying, online safety, healthy relationships, and forensics. The exhibits encourage youth to examine the issues of their time, make positive life choices and become responsible citizens in their communities. Youth and their families become empowered to make good decisions while learning about staying safe from crime and victimization. We help send vulnerable children and youth to the centre who are otherwise not able to visit.

Program Highlights

5,063 grade six students in 2022

Summer camps for children and youth

Public seminars on cyber safety, drugs

7,964 visits by the public in 2022



Our Programs:

ReDirect

The ReDirect program was developed in 2015 by the Calgary Police Service and the City of Calgary to build resilience against radicalization to violence/violent extremism among youth and young adults (12-28 years) in Calgary and the surrounding area.

In early 2023, the program focus changed from the narrow scope of terrorism, extremism, and/or radicalization towards the broader concept of ideological and hate-motivated conflict (in-person and/or online). To address this shift, the program broadened its scope to provide a continuum of supports (including education and awareness, early intervention, and intensive case management) for Calgary youth aged 12-18.

The goals of the new ReDirect program address vulnerabilities and environmental factors that give rise to ideological and/or hate-motivated conflict by:

- Reducing the vulnerabilities that can lead a youth to engage in such activities
- Providing individualized supports and services to youth already engaged
- Supporting the families of youth at risk to increase protective factors
- Developing public and professional awareness about what makes a youth vulnerable by providing learning opportunities, supporting community initiatives, and empowering the community

ReDirect believes that if we provide targeted interventions that build resilience then youth will develop the self-esteem, life skills, and pro-social attitudes and behaviours needed to resist engaging in conflict with others.



Bridging Bytes

Bridging Bytes aims to empower children and youth who access programs supported by the Calgary Police Youth Foundation and Calgary Police Service by providing access to technology and fostering digital literacy skills. The program seeks to bridge the digital divide by supplying computers, laptops, cell phones and tablets to marginalized children and youth who do not have access to these tools for learning and skill development. The overarching goal of the program is to empower children and youth to leverage technology as a tool for education and personal growth, ultimately fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.

Bridging Bytes was designed on the foundation that equitable access to technology is not just about giving everyone the same device; it is about ensuring that children and youth have the same opportunities to learn, create, innovate and remain safe, regardless of their background or circumstance.

impact

While it is difficult to measure the impact our programs have on young people, we believe in the power of our programs to redirect lives in positive directions.

Children, youth and their caregivers are given questionnaires to fill out once they've completed a program. When compiled, our respondents self-identify as having experienced many positive outcomes by participating in our programs.

The next few pages give voice to some of those respondents from various programs.



MASST research findings

A longitudinal study was completed in summer 2022 on MASST. The study showed that the program is having a positive impact on clients in the long term. Youth who participated in MASST report greater self-awareness, self-regulation, problem-solving, healthy peer choices, stress coping skills and how to navigate the mental health system. They reported increased positive social interactions with peers and adults and also saw better school engagement, behaviours, and performance.

Parents and caregivers report having a better understanding of child risk factors and consequences while feeling like they have better parenting skills and an overall improved relationship with their child, their school and police officers. Parents also report knowing more about the programs and services offered and how to access them.

parents & caregivers

Adults who love kids so much they ask for outside help.

"I truly believe the time you spent with J has played a huge part in his self-esteem and confidence. I couldn't be prouder of who he's becoming..."

Parent

"Our son had never been to a summer camp, but had a memorable and positive experience at YouthLink last summer. We can't begin to thank you enough for supporting our son and creating these amazing opportunities for him."

Parent

"The Calgary Police Cadets has been a huge part of A's life and will be continuing through her choice of career in law enforcement".

Parent

"My son LOVED the program. He is adopted and does not have a father, so hanging out with a "cool cop", as he called him, was a fantastic experience."

Parent

"I love watching the smile that Power Play has brought to his face. He was having self esteem issues before and he has turned around 100 per cent."

Parent

children & youth

So many lives affected, so much positivity!

"I cannot explain how much you did for me, even when I did my best to continue down a dark path."

J, Former MASST Participant

"Now I know how to stand up to bullies and how to avoid being lured on social media. My friends and I learned so much about drugs and gangs too. YouthLink was the best field trip ever!"

Grade 6 Student

"Being a shy 12-year-old girl, I never felt like I would fit into a community of such discipline, togetherness, and unity. I couldn't have been more wrong. I learned how to stand up for myself, to be confident in my decisions, and how to be a kind, patient, and empathetic leader. I wouldn't be who I am today without the Calgary Police Cadet Corps."

Former Cadet

"I feel blessed that when I come to school every day, I have the option to have something to eat."

Grade 6 Student

"Thank you for helping students and their families with activity bags, sports equipment, snack bags and grocery gift cards!"

Grade 6 Student



officers

Real change is a two-way street – how can you not be affected by helping kids?

“My original way of policing was to arrest and charge – that all offenders must face the criminal justice system. I now police through multiple lenses, and understanding that criminality is not the core issue and that there are better and more effective resources & options that can be implemented.”

“I believe I’ve become more empathic and patient when dealing with youth.”

“I’ve seen my colleagues learn a different side of policing: a way to be involved before criminality and being present, potentially being in a position to prevent it.”

“Working with youth and their families has given me better perspective as a parent.”

“Working in the MASST program is easily the most satisfying thing I have done in my career. I truly believe that effective change in children happens when you can get them as much support as possible. No child can have too many people in their corner.”

Photo: Police officer and son share a moment

community

We’ve built relationships with agencies, organizations and school boards.

“The Indigenous community has a poor perspective of the police. Your support gave us access to police officers who have assisted Stardale in talking circles to bridge the gap and start conversations, so the community may heal from past wounds. Stardale is grateful for all the support and looks forward to continuing to work together.”

Helen McPhaden
Executive Director
Stardale Women’s Group Inc.

“Families receive hampers with food items, grocery gift cards, books, games, mitts and toques. The kids are so excited when these are handed out!”

ISSP, Calgary Catholic School District

“Whether it is providing basic supplies like backpacks or hampers for students and their families, we see first hand how student sense of belonging, responsibility and overall positive mental health is impacted in a meaningful and lasting way.”

Joanne Pitman, Superintendent, School Improvement, The Calgary Board of Education

“Highbanks Society provides safe affordable housing for pregnant and parenting youth who are working towards completing their education. Our youth are fleeing situations of poverty, homelessness, and violence. The significant trauma our clients have experienced includes their experiences with law enforcement and that fear has continued to affect their mental health and overall well-being. Our partnership with Calgary Police Youth Foundation has been instrumental in helping youth shape more positive views of first responders.”

Shannon Johansen
Highbanks Acting Executive Director

“Two ISSP psychologists build capacity daily by helping teachers with strategies, walking alongside with families, increasing parents’ understanding of their child’s needs which helps them access supports faster. Therapy is done through relationships, breaking down barriers so that students can feel “safe enough to learn, brave enough to try” .

ISSP, Calgary Catholic School District

donors

Our supporters tell us...

“Our family have been strong supporters of CPYF since its inception. The exclusive focus on Calgary’s at risk youth through CPYF’s programs of early intervention, prevention and education is compelling. Keeping kids safe is the impactful priority.”

Brian and Cindy Ferguson

“The extensive programs and collaboration that CPYF implements in our schools and communities will not only help keep children and youth safe but also create safer communities for all. Their work helps thousands of young people achieve their goals, giving us all much hope for the future. This is why we are committed to the Calgary Police Youth Foundation.”

Rick and Ingrid Green

“We donate to the Calgary Police Youth Foundation because there is no other organisation that prioritises the safety of children and youth in such an impactful way and fosters positive relationships with the children, their families and police officers.”

Susan and Michael Cron

“We support the CPYF because it provides help and services where tax dollars are not available. CPYF is a wonderful organization which helps youth to be good and productive citizens by teaching them good traits for a better life.”

Mike and Linda Shaikh

Join hundreds of Calgarians who already support the Calgary Police Youth Foundation:

100+
Volunteers

400+
Community Partners

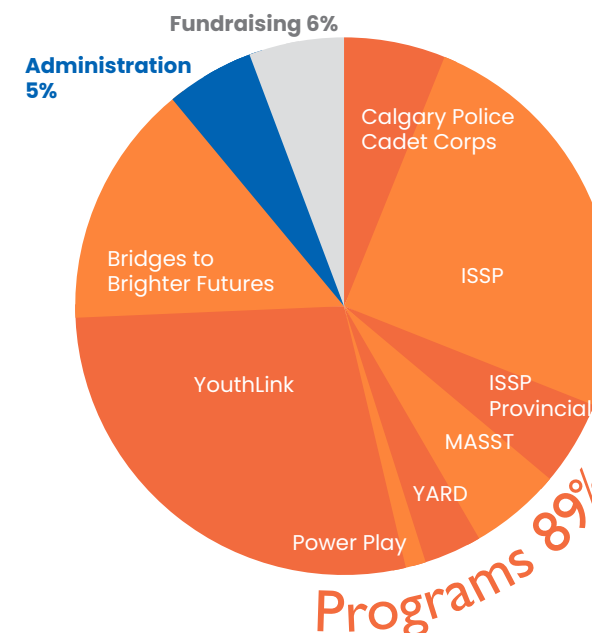
3,500+
Individuals

the future looks promising and sustainable with your support

There will always be a flow of new young people who need our help. That is simply a truth – the deeper systemic issues that give rise to some of the issues families deal with are bigger than we can address. But our work does change the life trajectories of young people. It gives hope and propels change. It is only with your help that we can continue making a difference.

How we use donations:

We operate with very low overhead and fundraising costs, making sure we put as much money into effective programs as possible.



One time donations are always welcome, but we know they aren’t always possible. That’s why we’ve introduced a monthly giving program for the Calgary Police Youth Foundation:

Promising Futures

Committing to **monthly giving** provides stable funding that allows us to continue to support the in-person delivery of seven unique programs and community initiatives for education, prevention and early intervention.

You will be supporting Calgary’s most vulnerable children and youth who, for many reasons, are at risk of taking part in crime, or becoming a victim of crime.

You will be supporting our multi-agency approach that gives children and caregivers intensive wrap-around support.

Your support will empower children and youth to make better choices, learn to be more resilient and become healthy contributors to our community.

Most importantly, by becoming a Promising Futures monthly donor, you are helping to shape our future.

Signing Up is Easy!

Online: yycyouthfoundation.ca
Email: CPYF@calgarypolice.ca



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**every child
has a right
to live a life
untouched
by crime**

