



Calgary Police  
**youth**  
Foundation

**why**  
**US**

**why**  
**NOW**

Join us to help shape the future for Calgary's children and youth.



# why us?

we  
**help** at critical times

we  
**lead**

we  
**build** awareness



we  
**provide hope**

we  
**connect**

Our work flies under the radar in the crowded non-profit world of Calgary. We are 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.**

we  
**raise funds**

A photograph of a police officer and a hockey player on an ice rink. The officer, on the left, is wearing a dark blue uniform with a patch on the shoulder that says 'POLICE' and '2011'. She has a radio and a holster on her belt. The hockey player, on the right, is wearing a grey camouflage jacket, brown pants, and a black helmet with a white cage. He is smiling and looking towards the officer. The background is a blurred ice rink with blue and yellow banners.

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.



A photograph of two police officers and five children in a library. The officers are standing behind the children, who are sitting at a table. The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent orange filter. The text "Why now?" is written in large white letters across the center of the image. In the background, there are bookshelves with books and a sign that says "Intermediate".

**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

A suicidal teenager being  
bullied online

A young boy at risk of  
sextortion

# 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 2025, these programs supported more than 30,000 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 eliminates barriers for 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 are 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 expanded across Alberta and continues to grow. Funding from the Ministry Mental Health and Addiction supports a mental health professional in schools suitable for ISSP.



## 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 Recovery Alberta, 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 helpful 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 Recovery Alberta.

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 Recovery Alberta.

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 (BTBF)

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.



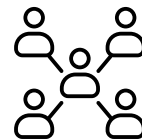
### Examples of Bridges to Brighter Futures community initiatives in 2025:



**12,122** children and youth attended BTBF community initiatives in 2025



**2,100** holiday hampers provided to children, youth, and families



**8** Calgary Police Service District Office events hosted



**24** young women and gender-diverse youth attended Camp Courage Calgary to learn about careers in the tri-services



**4** school pantries were created to provide over 1,000 students with healthy snack and meal options throughout the day



## 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.



**6,750** backpacks provided to Indigenous and marginalized students

# 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:

**93** Cadets enrolled in 2024

**241** hours of Cadet training in 2024

**429** hours volunteered in 2024

## YouthLink Calgary Police Interpretive Centre

YouthLink Calgary Police Interpretive Centre is a groundbreaking, award-winning institution dedicated to teaching crime prevention, community safety, and the history of policing in Calgary.

YouthLink Calgary believes in the power of education to shape safer, more resilient communities. Their programs and initiatives, ranging from cyber safety education to police school and youth summer camps, are central to their mission of preventing crime and empowering the public with the knowledge to protect themselves and their loved ones.

Program Highlights

**38,451** people impacted by YouthLink Calgary programming in 2024

**5878** students visited YouthLink on a field trip

**18,457** people participated in outreach programs or seminars in 2024



# Our Programs:

## ReDirect

ReDirect is a collaboration between the Calgary Police Service and the City of Calgary that supports youth ages 12-18 who are engaging in hate or ideology-based conflict with others. Teams comprised of a police officer and a social worker work with the youth to build resiliency by increasing life skills, improving conflict resolution abilities and by connecting them to their community.

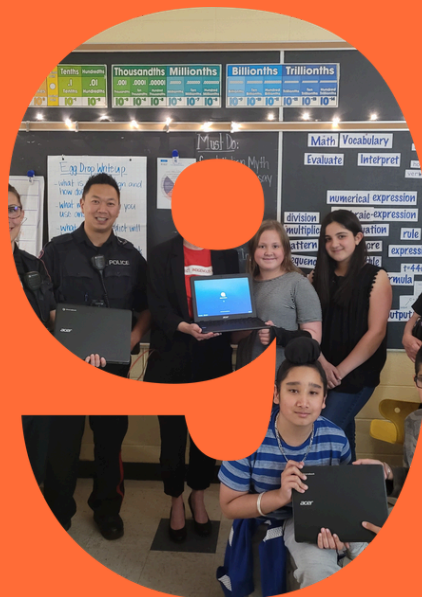
The ReDirect program was developed in 2015 by the Calgary Police Service and the City of Calgary to build resilience against radicalization to violence/violent extremism among youth and young adults.

In early 2023, the program focus changed from the narrow scope of terrorism, extremism, and/or radicalization towards the broad concept of ideological and hate-motivated conflict (in-person and/or online). This expanded program scope will allow ReDirect to provide a continuum of supports that includes education and awareness, early intervention, and intensive case management for Calgary youth aged 12-18 at-risk of or engaging in ideological and hate-motivated conflict.

The goals of the new ReDirect program are to:

- Address and reduce the vulnerabilities that can lead a youth to engaging in ideological and/or hate motivated conflict.
- Provide individualized supports and services to youth that have been engaged in ideological and/or hate-motivated conflict with others.
- Support the families of youth at risk of or engaging in ideological and/or hate-motivated conflict to increase protective factors.
- Develop public and professional awareness about what makes youth vulnerable to ideological and/or hate-motivated conflict by providing learning opportunities, supporting community initiatives, and empowering the community.

ReDirect believes that if we address the psycho-social risk factors that make youth vulnerable to ideological and hate-motivated conflict by providing 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 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 others. circumstance.

# Impact

**We see firsthand how our programs change the trajectory of young lives in our community.**

We listen to feedback provided by children, youth and their families. 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

Studies have shown that the MASST 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

"We truly appreciate your time and support. YARD is an amazing and life changing program. It's because of people like you that it so successful."

-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

“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

“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

**“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.”**

# Community

We have built relationships with agencies, organizations and school boards.

**“What a success! On behalf of Calgary Housing Company and the Residents of our Applewood Complex we would like to thank the team from the Calgary Police Youth Foundation and Calgary Police Service and let you all know how extremely grateful and proud we feel in getting your support, participation, and collaboration towards the “Operation Badges and Basketball” event. It was the vision of the residents to create a gathering space for families to meet and enjoy while providing a safe place for their children to play. Your generous donation helped to make that vision a reality by providing the funds needed for the Basketball Hoop System.”**

Calgary Housing Company

**“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  
Chief Superintendent  
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 Executive Director

**“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 are so proud to support the Calgary Police Youth Foundation because we believe every child deserves to feel safe. When children don’t feel safe, they can’t focus, grow, or see what’s possible for themselves. Supporting them now is one of the most meaningful ways we can help create a stronger, safer Calgary for everyone.”

Aeonian Foundation

“Les and I have always supported developing youth. The Calgary Police Youth Foundation provides an opportunity for youth to deal with our Police Service in a positive way and that will have long term benefits for their development and our society moving forward.”

Gary and Leslie Peddle

“In our philanthropic endeavours, we look for Calgary based charities that give kids the potential for a brighter future. Through its programming, we see the CPYF providing the means to build strong, positive relationships between the police and Calgary’s at-risk children which can help put the kids on a better path going forward. This includes work to change a child’s future when they become involved in crime. These are the life changing moments that we like to support. Every child should have the opportunity to get on the path to realize their dreams. We feel the CPYF helps them stay or get back on that path to success.”

Greig and Brenda Nicholls

**“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.”**

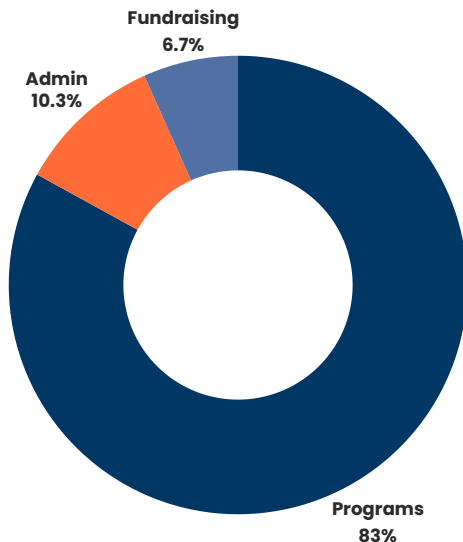
Mike and Linda Shaikh

# 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. Monthly Giving is a smart donor choice, providing sustainable funding for programming for many years to come.

## Promising Futures

Committing to **monthly giving** provides stable funding that allows us to continue to support the in-person delivery of nine 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 multiagency 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!

Simply scan the QR code to make a one time donation or to sign up as a Promising Futures monthly donor.



Have questions or want to learn more? Visit our website at [www.YCYouthFoundation.ca](http://www.YCYouthFoundation.ca).



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#812149714RR0001

Calgary Police Youth Foundation  
5111 47 St NE  
LC # 987  
Calgary, AB, T3J 3R2

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

