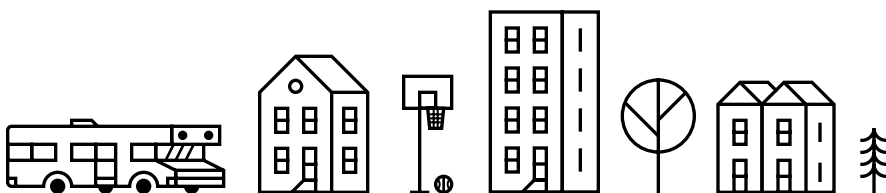




2019

# Impact Report

FIND YOUR SWEET SPOT



# Find Your Sweet Spot!

A few years ago, I remember reading that the neighbourhood in which my family lives had the highest ratio of building permits in the entire City of Toronto. I got used to driving to work in the morning, and then coming home along the same roads and seeing an entire house gone. Just a pile of rubble. In one day... But, slowly over many months, a new house would emerge – step-by-step, trade-by-trade.

It still strikes me how quickly things come tumbling down, and how long and arduous the process is to build it all back up. It's true of houses, and true of most things, I think. It's especially true of the lives of our young people throughout Toronto.

The world seems stacked against our youth these days, whether by virtue of income inequality, family breakdown, mental health crises, trauma, addiction, or a lack of belonging. These factors in young lives can quickly lead to hopelessness, despair, and even desperation.

Just like building a house, restoring the wellbeing of our young people requires an intentional step-by-step, communal effort towards wholistic transformation. Truly, everyone in our city has a part to play in seeing young people experience wellbeing, spiritual growth, healthy community, hope for a bright future, and genuine opportunities.

So, that's what this year's Impact Report is all about. It is about a community of people exercising their gifts and passions to build up the youth of our city; to see them become the agents of change in our city. Through these partnerships, young lives are truly being changed. I'm so grateful God works in this way – all of us, together, in our unique place of impact. As you read our Impact Report, I hope you'll find your sweet spot, too; that spot where your passion, and gifting meet the needs of young people in our city.

Humbly in my sweet spot,



SCOTT MOORE  
Executive Director

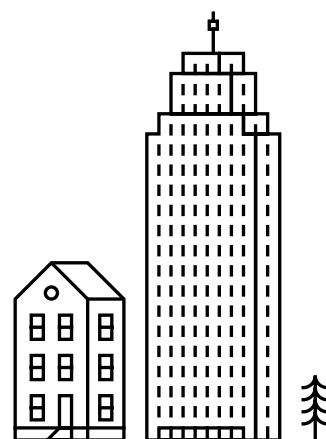


This past year, we were very excited to launch our four-year strategic pathway “Making Space”. Visit [making-space.yugta.ca](https://making-space.yugta.ca) today to learn all about our direction, and how you can make a difference for the youth in our city, too.



# At Youth Unlimited, partnerships are the lifeblood of accomplishing our vision:

Every young person in the GTA will be transformed by God's love and life-changing power and will be a redemptive presence in their family, community, and beyond.



We view ourselves not merely as a charity, not-for-profit, agency, or organization. We are a **transformative movement** – a collective of people from every part of our city mobilizing our gifts together to be a force for change in our city. And all

of it through the young people we serve.

This transformative movement's impact comes through partnerships in a multitude of forms: Individuals giving financially, churches engaging in ministry together with

YU, businesses sponsoring events, agencies coming alongside in shared mission, small groups praying faithfully, and more!

Here's an overview of the youth we served in 2019 and the supporting movement that impacted them:

At [making-space.yugta.ca](https://making-space.yugta.ca), do a deep dive into our 4 areas of focus: Vulnerable Youth, Mental Health, Church Integration, and Wholistic Transformation.

## YOUTH WE SERVED:

3,416

TOTAL YOUTH  
REACHED

1,321

REGULARLY  
ATTENDING

851

ENGAGED IN MEANINGFUL  
RELATIONSHIP

## SUPPORTED BY:

61

STAFF

473

VOLUNTEERS

165

ORGANIZATIONAL AND  
CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS

3,329

ACTIVE  
GIVERS

# Youth Unlimited 2019 At A Glance.

65 ACTIVE INITIATIVES



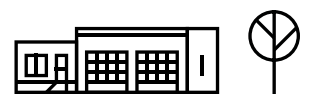
1,321 REGULAR YOUTH



CENTRAL  
SERVICES

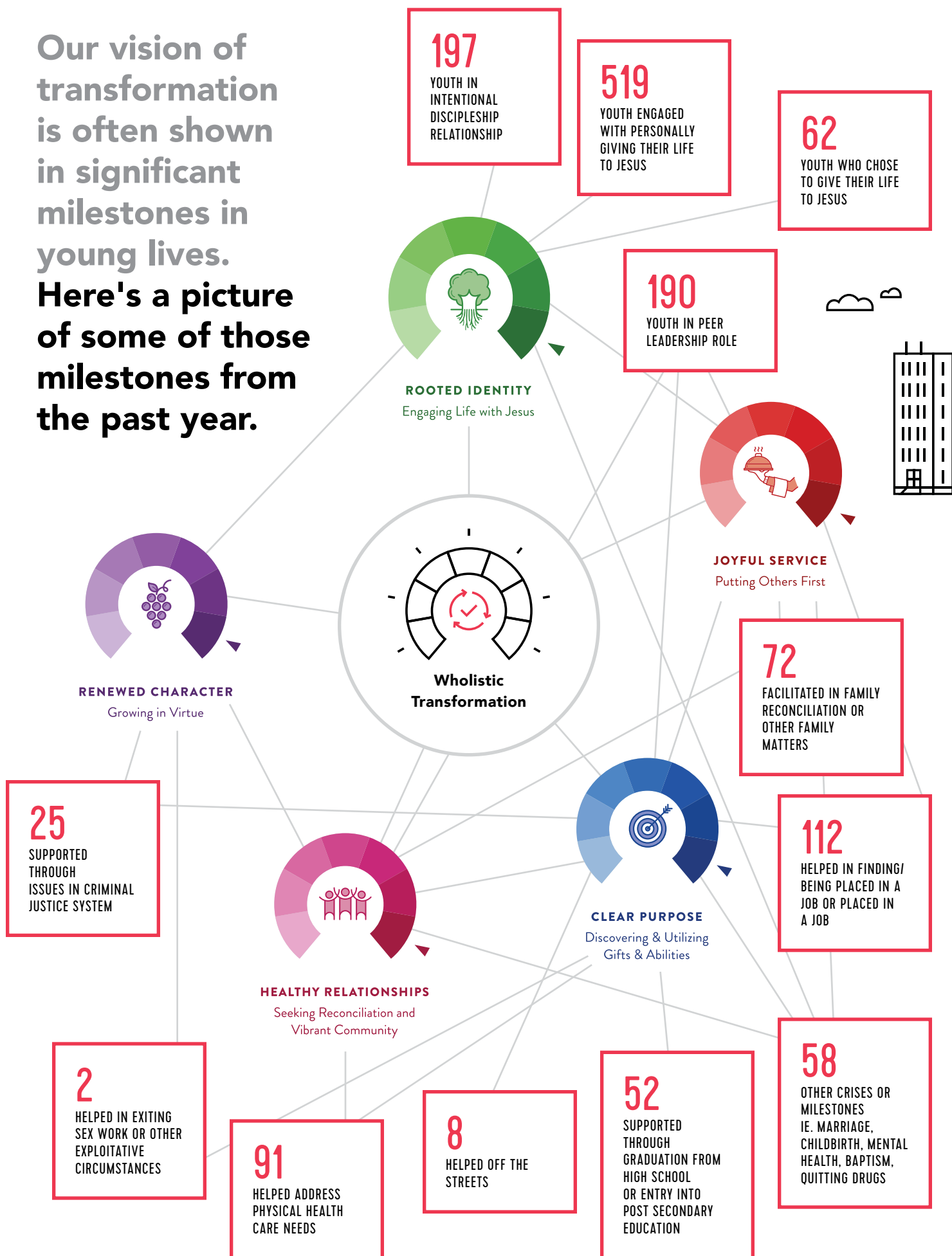
7 VOLUNTEERS

1,401 ACTIVE GIVERS





Our vision of transformation is often shown in significant milestones in young lives. Here's a picture of some of those milestones from the past year.



# Volunteers are at the heart of life-changing relationships with our youth.



"I longed to be involved and engaged in something that made a difference, gave me purpose and where I could use my gifts and passions...I prayed, asking God to lead me to a place in Toronto, and that's where Youth Unlimited and Light Patrol came in," shares Marianna Ofner-Agostini, who has been volunteering with our outreach to youth experiencing homelessness for six years now. As Matt Escott, Co-Leader of Light Patrol, and Dani Hoover, LAUNCH's Coaching Coordinator, agree, the work of Youth Unlimited could not go forward without a team of committed and passionate volunteers like Marianna. Throughout our Youth Unlimited programs, we see the bonds between staff, volunteers, and youth as mutually life-transforming.

Our volunteers are often at the forefront of forming vital, long-term relationships among the youth Youth Unlimited serves in Toronto. As Dani puts it, "Volunteers are the heart of the transforming impact of LAUNCH." They form the crucial bond with 'LAUNCHees' as they meet once a month to encourage, support, cheer them on, and pray with them. Matt often sees volunteers going 'above and beyond' for the street-involved youth they serve – accompanying youth to doctors' appointments, taking them out for meals, and much more. Dani says, "When LAUNCHees find out their coaches are volunteers, it makes the relationship even more meaningful. They aren't doing this to be paid! They are passionate about seeing young people thrive and grow, and watching them transform."

Working with volunteers "feels like a faith family," says Matt. "We're not just showing up and telling people what to do. We are investing in one another and pastoring one another

for the sake of our youth." At Youth Unlimited, we are so grateful for this family of friends who play such a significant role in seeing *transformed youth transforming our city*.

“

Even though I have a very busy life, working full-time, teaching and raising a family, I find volunteering once a week a joy and an experience that has transformed who I am.

MARIANNA OFNER-AGOSTINI  
Light Patrol Volunteer



## LAUNCH VOLUNTEER TEAM:

50

COACHES  
ON THE  
ROSTER

7

NEW  
COACHES  
THIS YEAR

21

ACTIVE PARTNERSHIPS  
BETWEEN COACHES &  
LAUNCHEES

3

COACHES  
ACTIVE FOR  
OVER 10 YEARS!

## LIGHT PATROL VOLUNTEER TEAM:

40

ON THE  
FRONTLINES  
WITH YOUTH

20

IN  
SUPPORTING  
ROLES

If you're interested in learning more about volunteering at Youth Unlimited – in a frontlines role, or as a project supporter – go to [yugta.ca/volunteer](https://yugta.ca/volunteer) today or call us at (416) 383-1477.

# DOXA Journeys celebrates 10 years of transforming partnership with Serpent River First Nation.



DOXA Journeys (DJ) is a program focused on engaging youth in Scarborough and the Greater Toronto Area in serving their own community and beyond. Our desire is to see “globally conscious, locally active young people.” Over the last 10 years, DJ has been partnering with Daystar Native Christian Outreach, an organization that serves in First Nations communities in Ontario, sharing God’s love and hope. Many of these communities have been negatively impacted by the residential school system and years of discrimination. Through our partnership with Daystar we run day camps and other

community outreaches in Serpent River First Nation (SRFN), and desire to be a redemptive presence sharing God’s love for our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

Through the relationships that we have built with the people in SRFN we have been able to provide support, encouragement, and love. In return, we have received those things from this community as well. The long-term commitment to this partnership has built trust between us and allowed mutual learning of cultures and beliefs.

The youth on our team from the GTA have experienced new opportunities in serving

others and learned much about First Nations people here in Canada. This learning has opened their eyes to the needs of those around them and how they can be a part of making a difference in their own context.

There are many different partnerships that make this ministry possible including the leadership of Serpent River, Youth

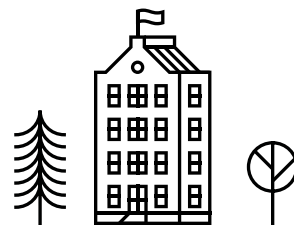
Unlimited, and Daystar, as well as partnerships with the local churches in Toronto and in Northern Ontario, and ongoing support from generous donors. We are so thankful for this friendship that we share with Serpent River and how God is using this ministry to spread His love “to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

**Written by Sarah Burton**

**Photos: Top Left** The DOXA Journeys team celebrates the baptism of 2 of our young adults (from Scarborough) in the lake while at Serpent River. Family & friends from the community came to witness as well! **Bottom Left** Wrapping up 2 amazing weeks of day camp & community outreach! **Right** DOXA Journeys students being invited to learn more about First Nations culture & traditions through drumming, song and dance. Building relationships, building community.



# Everyone plays a part in the transformation of Toronto's youth.



As we together 'build up' the young people Youth Unlimited serves, there are a multitude of ways that you can find your sweet spot. Here's what it took last year to impact our young people in the way we did, and how you might consider joining in our vision of transformed youth transforming our city in the upcoming year:

## 180

### DAILY PRAYER PARTNERS

Prayer undergirds who we are and all that we do. Email [info@yugta.ca](mailto:info@yugta.ca) today to receive a daily prayer email (or monthly paper copy).

## 220

### YOUTH MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

Join the frontlines in one of our many programs across the city at [yugta.ca/volunteer](http://yugta.ca/volunteer)!

## 253

### PROJECT OR PROGRAM SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS

If you have gifts of service, hospitality, or just love being behind the scenes, our support volunteers help with events, program preparation, and more. Visit [yugta.ca/volunteer](http://yugta.ca/volunteer) today.

## 1200+

### ACTIVE MONTHLY GIVERS

Monthly financial partnership brings steadiness and sustainability to YU's long-term relationships with youth. Give today at [donate.yugta.ca](http://donate.yugta.ca).

## 72

### BUSINESSES SPONSOR AND/OR FINANCIALLY SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMMING AND WORK

Businesses can make a significant difference in our communities! Email [mkollar@yugta.ca](mailto:mkollar@yugta.ca) today to learn how your business can be a transformative force for good in our city.

## 130

### CHURCHES FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING OUR FRONTLINE AND LEADERSHIP STAFF

Since its inception, the Church has sent 'missionaries' to share the hope and transformation found in Jesus. If your church wants to participate in sending a YU team member, email Scott today at [smoore@yugta.ca](mailto:smoore@yugta.ca).

## 66

### CHURCHES PARTICIPATING TOGETHER IN PROGRAMMING WITH YU

If your church is eager to reach the vulnerable youth in your community, we'd love to have a conversation. Email [info@yugta.ca](mailto:info@yugta.ca) today.

## 7

### BUSINESSES ACTIVELY SUPPORT YU PROGRAMMING

Your business might be able to employ vulnerable youth, or assist our social enterprise work. Email [smoore@yugta.ca](mailto:smoore@yugta.ca) if this interests you.

## 36

### FOUNDATIONS PROVIDING FINANCIAL AND STRATEGIC SUPPORT TO OUR PROGRAMS

Over ½ of the foundations in Canada are family-run. If you are involved with or connected to a foundation interested in partnering with Youth Unlimited, email [mkollar@yugta.ca](mailto:mkollar@yugta.ca).