

Life STORIES



Baby Love and Loving Moms

The year of 2022 has been a difficult one for my mental health. There have been struggles but in the midst of the struggle, **spending time with the Stepping Stones young moms has been a bright spot and such a blessing.** Recently an organization called Sisterhood YXE put on a special city wide baby shower for moms who are pregnant or have a baby under 1 year and who would not have the opportunity to have a baby shower of their own. Three of my young moms qualified for this event and I am so thankful to have been with them. We did not know what to expect when we walked in but we were blown away by how beautifully the Friendship Inn was decorated. They went above and beyond with balloons, streamers, teddy bears, classy table linens and a photo booth. One of the young moms commented multiple times about how she did not expect it to look that nice in there. **On the tables there were luxury gift baskets with things like organic chocolate and organic moisturizing balm and I thought to myself “wow, this is very extravagant and maybe the wrong crowd for this kind of thing.”** Then I took a moment and realized I was wrong. **This is EXACTLY what my young moms and the other women who were there needed; someone to show them that they are loved and worthy of extravagant things. Is that not what God wants for us? For us to know that we are worthy of his extravagant love?!**

The luxurious afternoon continued with a supper provided by Refuge Coffee and Baking from Warman. We could not identify all the things on the sandwiches but they were so delicious and the young moms all commented on parts of it that they did not know what it was, but they loved it. At the end of the event the volunteers walked out with multiple bags and boxes and a diaper bag for each mom. **I watched with glee as my moms opened all these gifts and with each new thing to open they were more and more excited. I estimate that they walked out of there with \$400 worth of gifts and a \$100 Babies R Us gift card.** I had squeezed two moms and their kids and car seats into my car and did not think there was anyway all those gifts would fit in my trunk. I am certain it was a miracle from God that all the gifts fit. The moms said over and over in the car that they could not believe they got to be at that event.

Galatians 6:9

“Let us not grow weary of doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”



Mike midway through the process of building the Care Closet!!

The Care Closet is Done!!

I am so pleased to report that the Care Closet that I have been dreaming about since I first started at YFC is now a reality! Back in February, Maxine and I had a lot of fun creating the plan for the closet with my wonderful friend, Mike. This spring it began to take shape and early in June it was completed. I am so excited about it and to continue to fill it with donations! This spring I was even more looking forward to having the Care Closet built to protect our donations. We had a little bit of water come in with the spring thaw and some of our donation boxes got wet on the bottom. Thankfully nothing was ruined, but I am really happy to not have these precious items sitting on the floor anymore.

It is great to have all our Stepping Stones donations in one easy to access place. Before this week our donations were in 3 different storage spots at our building and some of them were very difficult to get to. Now that it is all within my reach in my office and almost all organized I know much better what I have and can be more efficient at getting items to moms in need.

If it was not for needing to organize the Care Closet I would not have realized that we have been exceptionally blessed with an excess of baby clothes and baby blankets and we want to make sure these items get to people who need them. I am excited about a partnership with the Inspire YXE program. They are heading to some Northern communities and will be taking some of our extra baby blankets and baby clothes to help us reach even more moms and families in need. A huge thank you to those who donated items and funds for Care Closet materials and thanks to Mike who worked long and hard!

Summer Fun



YFC summer team with our College students!

I am looking forward to an incredible summer at YFC. Last summer we had four students working part time with us and it was great. This year we received partial government funding for five full time student workers. In May we hired two college students which have been such a blessing. Our high school will join the team in July. Such an exciting time!

We have great plans for Summer Programming with the help from our amazing students. Our college students have been busy planning summer games and art projects and also helping with a crazy number of Gym Blasts that schools scheduled for all of May and June. Our college students have so much energy and enthusiasm and are such a blessing to our whole organization and so willing to do what's asked of them.

We do need some help though. The government grant we received for summer staff ended up being less than what we had asked for and expected. That means we need to secure the remaining funding to ensure our summer workers can get a full salary. This programming is so important, not only do we get the chance to develop these young leaders, but we get to BRING HOPE to hurting kids in the Mayfair neighbourhood as we offer positive and meaningful activities throughout the summer.

We need to raise \$6,000 to cover the shortfall. Every dollar helps! On the donation card select other and write "summer." If you are donating online indicate the donation is for "summer." Thank you so much for the role that you play in my ministry at YFC.

Blessings,

