



**ABBOTTSFIELD
YOUTH PROJECT**

~ Plant the seeds and watch them grow ~

Abbottsfield Youth Project (AYP) Society

2019 Annual Report



Original Alcohol Ink Painting by Anne
Sophie, 11 yrs

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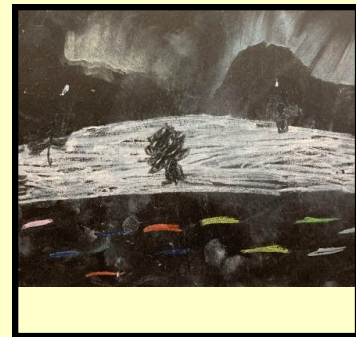
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2019 Audited Financial Statements (Attachment)



- Brayden



- Yaseen



- Ken

Our Mission

“To provide programs for children ages 6-12 that encourage the development of effective living skills, the pursuit of healthy lifestyle choices and the connection of families to the community”

Our Vision

Healthy Living Skills for Children and their Families

We Believe

That all children have the right to learn the skills that will enhance their quality of life.

That all children have the right to express their feelings and know they are valued.

That all children have the right to grow up in a positive, healthy, secure and stable environment.

That family, school and community greatly influences the development of a child.

That the most influential periods in a person’s life occur when he/she is a child.

That participation in recreational activities is not a luxury, but a necessity for a happy and healthy life.

That access to cultural and recreational facilities promotes a sense of citizenship.

Our Goals

To promote a healthy sense of self-esteem in each participant.

To enhance participants’ social interaction skills.

To promote relationships between participants, families, schools and community service providers.

To guide participants to new and interesting opportunities in the community.

To provide parents with helpful resources and to offer support to parents, caregivers and teachers.

Our Values

A Message From Our Current President - Courtney Naccarato

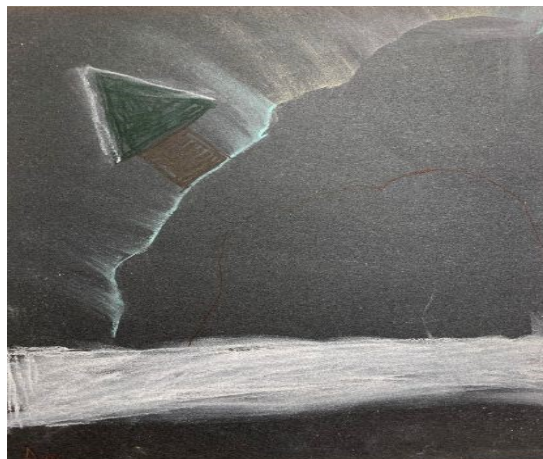
It's hard to believe that we are preparing to start a new year at AYP. As I sit here, reflecting on our last year – albeit a little later than normal – I really don't know where to begin. It goes without saying that this year was, well, unique, if you will. I could go on as we normally do in the AYP President's message about the facts and data and the details of our programming. But at the end of the day, our programming reach hasn't changed too much over years previous. Our delivery methods, ways of connecting and thinking, and our world overall, however, has. And so I would be remiss if I didn't talk about how the sudden and unexpected changes have created opportunities. Opportunities for us to grow and to learn new things. It was Heraclitus of Ephesus who said "everything flows," or the everyday common explanation of "the only constant in life is change." And so, while this past year brought about much change, it was a year that offered us opportunity to learn and grow.

Our longevity and success as a community organization can be attributed to the incredible staff AYP has been fortunate enough to find over the years. As a Board of Directors we are always left in awe of their caring and the creativity they display each and every day. But this year...this year...we were left without words. We saw the world change in the blink of an eye and our staff was able to move forward and stay connected with our families and community. Whether that be by pivoting the delivery of our core programming to ensure we maintain connections with our participants, adjusting our nutrition program to better support our families, or simply modifying our summer programs to run with no COVID cases, the AYP staff accepted all the challenges this year had to offer and used this as an opportunity to inspire each other, our participants, our families and our community to come together.

The organization also welcomed a new Executive Director to the fold. As Interim Executive Director, Jessica Satrcheski, left to pursue new opportunities, Rohan Samuels has stepped in. And as Rohan steps into the position, we look forward to the future with him. To expand on our possibilities and opportunities as AYP with him at the helm. AYP's motto is to "plant the seeds and watch them grow" and we are excited to see what Rohan has growing in the garden in the next few years.

With the ongoing support of our funders, partners, staff, volunteers and Board, we will continue to look for the opportunities and move forward as an organization. We will continue to adapt to new ways of reaching our participants and serving our families and connecting with our communities. Although much has changed, I am inspired but what has remained: the relationship building, the collaboration and teamwork, and the caring and trust. With that at the core, the possibilities are endless.

—Courtney Naccarato
President, Abbottsfield Youth Project



- Atticus

A Message From Our Treasurer - Penelope Timleck

Each year prior to the Annual General Meeting, I review our financial statements and look for variances in them; I look to see if our income and expenses remain constant and I highlight any major changes at the AGM while people attending hope this part of the meeting goes quickly.

AYP has been financially static for some time. In 2019 we negotiated a new five-year lease with our landlord, marking the end of our first five years in our current location. Our incredible staff continue to look for ways to expand our programming and introduced one on one mentoring. Our interim executive director Naomi left AYP when she went on maternity leave and we were fortunate to have a former staff member, Jessica Starcheski, take over in August. She did a wonderful job of seeing AYP through the end of her contract, when she too left to welcome her first child in July, when we welcomed Rohan Samuels. These changes had impact on AYP, but they aren't the kind of things that you can see in financial statements. The only financial change of any significance was that we moved some money from the fundraising account to the donation account.

In April 2019 I wondered what kind of impact the newly elected conservative government would have on our funding. We knew many people who were laid off when the government began to slash funding for social programs immediately after taking office. On the one hand it worked out beautifully for AYP when the program Jessica worked with was cut and she was available right when we needed her. On the other hand, I was constantly concerned about potential financial harm to AYP as two of our largest funders are Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) and Alberta Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis (AGLC).

I could not have imagined then that three months into 2020 AYP would be faced with the reality that not only were our AGLC funds threatened – can't make money off a casino if all of them are closed – our annual fundraiser was postponed indefinitely. It was the first time in my 12 years on the board of directors AYP has ever had to lay off staff *en masse*. Even today we are still not back to full capacity. As difficult as this decision was and the enormous impact on the team, AYP staff rose to the occasion. They brainstormed ideas that would allow them to stay connected to kids and their families despite uncertain funding and closed schools. Only a few days after the schools shut down, Jessica presented the board of directors with a long list of ideas the staff generated; some of which went into action the day after the board meeting.

It is hard to find the right words to describe the kind of enthusiastic and unwavering resilience AYP staff showed in the face of adversity of this magnitude. I went into that board meeting genuinely afraid of what would become of AYP. I left it certain in the knowledge our amazing team had everything well in hand. It is not only funding that has kept AYP thriving for nearly 35 years; it is the culture of creativity, adaptability and innovation maintained by and through our staff, year after year. I am excited to see the direction Rohan takes AYP now, knowing he will be supported in those endeavours by an absolutely incredible team and his board of directors.

—Penelope Timleck, Treasurer, Abbotsfield Youth Project

A Message From the Executive Director – Rohan Samuels

Change is expected in life and can bring with it many challenges, both professionally and personally. This past year has definitely been one of change here at Abbottsfield Youth Project (AYP), but through change we see growth, opportunity and new beginnings.

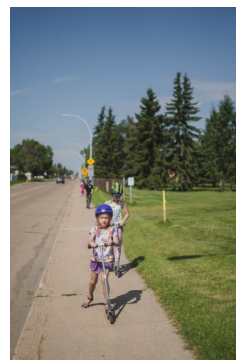
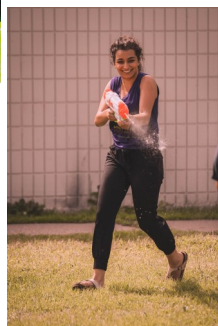
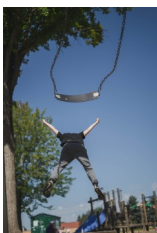
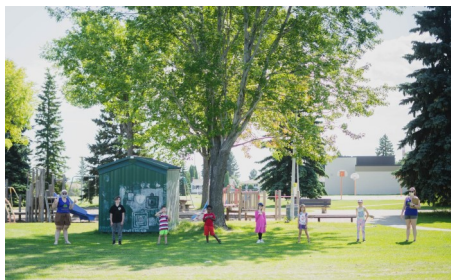
Joining the AYP team July 2020, we have experienced significant changes. We were saddened to see two long time employees leave the organization. Jessica Starcheski, Executive Director, who was an integral part of AYP, moved to pursue new adventures. Our longtime employee, Dennis Hong moved out west to pursue new adventures as well. We want to wish them the best, and say that we were grateful to have them a part of the AYP team!

By setting operational priorities and measuring progress towards achieving them, we will be better able to bring our Mission, Vision and Values to life. Fundamentally, it is all about continuous improvement and it's changing, executing and innovating to meet the present demands that we will encounter in the future.

The stories and statistics in this report provide a glimpse into the inspiring lives of some of our children and families, and the hard-working staff and volunteers who support them. I would like to thank all our funders and donors. By their contribution, we were able to effectively run our programs and

Our accountability to the community is unwavering, and we feel privileged to play a role in helping to make our organization even stronger in the years ahead.

—Rohan Samuels, Executive Director



Board of Directors

2018-2019 Board of Directors (elected June 2018)

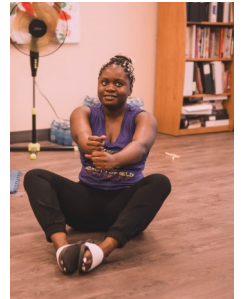
Courtney Naccarato - President
 Penelope Timleck - Treasurer/Secretary
 Kim Mattson - Director
 Jacqueline L'Hirondelle-Director
 Dale Carton - Director
 Charlene Sharf - Director
 Sephra Lamothe- Director

2019-2020 Board of Directors (elected June 2019)

Courtney Naccarato - President
 Penelope Timleck - Treasurer/Secretary
 Sarah Lanceley - Director
 Adam Luciuk-Director
 Leslie Pearson - Director



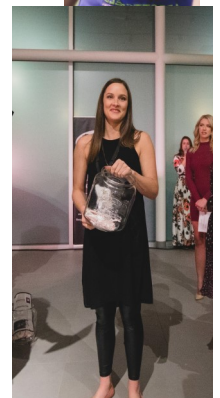
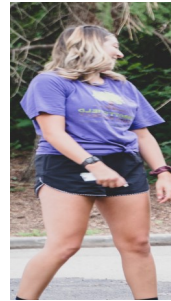
Courtney & Penelope at the GROWCASE Fundraiser



Our Team...

We are so grateful for our AYP Team! These were our 2019-2020 team members:

Jessica S
 Taylor P
 Randi K
 Brittany H
 Dennis H
 Jenan H
 Shequelle W
 Shayla R
 Jeannie P
 Janelle F
 Brittany R
 Randi Serfinchon
 Marae Maltais



In 2019 AYP supported....

400+ unique children

300+ unique families

407 children made up **849** individual registrations.

Community Outreach and Living Skills (COLS) Program - **355** children

Community Explorers - **23** children

Community Explorers Clareview - **18** children

Junior Leaders - **16** children

Junior High Prep - **21** children

One on One Mentoring - **22** children

Homework Help - **20** children

ART with AYP - **36** children

Spring Break - **44** children

Summer Break - **116** children

Junior High Program - **21** youth

Growing Leaders - **13** youth

Make Way for Play - **51** children

Make Way for Play Spring Camp –**23** children

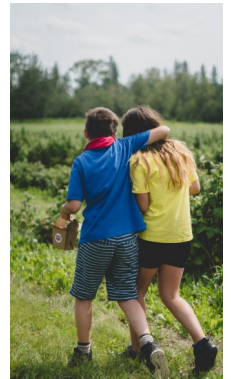
Thrive - **30** children

Happy Chefs - **93** children

Healthy Snack Program - **7355** healthy snacks were

Exploring Art— **7** youth

offered to **407 unique** children.



Program Sites

Abbott Elementary

Beacon Heights Elementary

St. Bernadette Elementary

Montrose Elementary

St. Jerome Elementary

Homesteader Elementary

St. Bonaventure Elementary

Sifton Elementary

Kirkness Elementary

Bannerman Elementary

Fraser Elementary

Homesteader Community Center

St. Leo Elementary

Hairsine Community Hall

Abbottsfield Recreation Center

AYP Main Office

Our Programs...

Community Outreach and Living Skills (offered in partnerships with 13 community schools) uses a learn-through-play philosophy to guide participants on how to make positive life choices, develop healthy self-esteems and learn effective communication strategies. Some curriculum topics include: the importance of life balance, positive coping strategies, problem solving, teamwork, self-esteem, communication, responsibility and feelings.

Community Explorers is a program for children in grades four, five and six that have spent at least one year in our Community Outreach and Living Skills program (COLS). The goal of this activity is to build on the social and emotional skills highlighted in our regular COLS program as well as give the children the opportunity to explore a variety of new interests, discover their hidden talents and spark their imagination. The hope for this program is that children will feel inspired to find their passion and see the possibilities for their future.

Junior Leaders is geared toward children in grades five and six to further support the development of their leadership, teamwork and public speaking skills. Children selected for this activity have demonstrated consistent leadership skills during their involvement in the COLS program. Participants in this program are encouraged to further develop their leadership skills, recognize the qualities of a good leader in others and within themselves. Topics also include; communication, public speaking, problem solving and teamwork.

Junior High Prep runs for four weeks and is intended to support children with the often difficult transition from grade six to grade seven. Children will discuss bullying, peer relations and internet safety.

Homework Help Club provides a safe and supportive environment for children to complete school assignments and access one-on-one tutoring. Children are matched with volunteer tutors that work with them throughout the year.

Spring & Summer Break is a series of week-long day camps that run throughout the entire spring break and summer holidays. Children are offered a number of recreational and creative learning opportunities, they explore Edmonton, meet new friends and try new things.

One-on-One Mentoring provides an opportunity for selected children to spend a minimum of half an hour per week with one of their Child Development Coordinators outside of the regular group setting. They play games, do arts and crafts, read, color, bake, etc. During these activities, the children are encouraged to further talk about topics discussed in the COLS program such as: feelings/anger management, effective communication, problem-solving skills, and positive coping strategies.

ART with AYP promotes strategies for children to increase their creativity and self-esteem through a variety of art based activities such as drama, dance, sculpting, creative writing, drawing and painting.

Junior High Program supports youth in junior high to build relationships with peers and staff through a variety of recreational and art based activities in a safe and secure environment where they are encouraged to make healthy lifestyle choices and maintain relationships with peers and Child Development Coordinators.

Growing Leaders is an opportunity for teens to hone their leaderships skills and gain volunteer experience by becoming mentors to the children in our Summer Break Program. For two weeks they accompany our staff and our children. They help with preparing and serving snack, leading games, acting as mentors, and giving support when needed with the children. They are awarded volunteer hours and given a reference letter at the end of the summer.

Thrive is a holistic wellness program that focuses on developing a healthy heart, body, and mind. The program implements engaging activities to promote positive self-esteem, coping strategies, and mood regulation. Through *Thrive*, children learn exciting ways to become active, try healthy recipes, and develop relaxation techniques.

Make Way for Play is a camp that focuses on unstructured play opportunities. The goal of this program is to allow children to explore their creative side and imagination through unstructured play. The hope for this program is to give children a sense of independence and inspire a sense of creativity.

Healthy Snack Program allows us to model healthy food choices ongoing throughout the year by offering a nutritional snack to every child each time they attend an AYP program. It also supports the Cooking and Kitchen Skills topic of our curriculum by affording our children the opportunity to learn how to prepare a healthy meal.

Positive Outcomes and COVID-19 Responses for Our Children



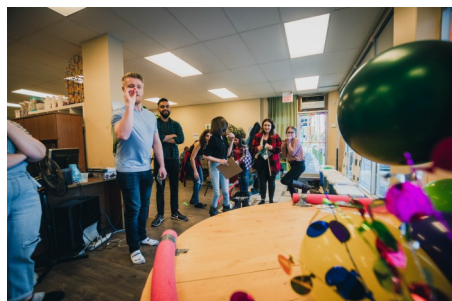
Our 2019-2020 Outcome Survey results shows that: Since coming to AYP...

- Our survey reported that 42% of our children became friends with other AYP participants that they met in our programs.
- 97% of children surveyed, reported that they feel accepted for who they truly are by AYP leaders.
- 92% of the children surveyed, reported that they feel comfortable trying new things.



Our 2019-2020 Outcome Survey results shows that:
Since coming to AYP...

- 100% of the parents surveyed, reported that they think AYP has improved their families social well-being during COVID-19.
- 100% of parents surveyed, reported that AYP's snack deliveries made accessing healthy food easier for them.



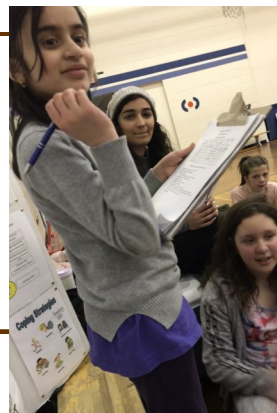
What our Parents/Guardians have to say about AYP...



“[My child] looks forward to coming to [AYP]. She is very comfortable with staff; they make her feel very welcome.”



“ [My son] enjoyed all the years with various staff, the kids and the camps, meeting MANY new kids. He always had a strong imagination and is outgoing. He learned lots though your 'special' learning time.”



“AYP has offered so many different trips with the kids that I cannot do. It has opened her up to new friends and new ideas with school. She tries to help more now with her friends and family.”

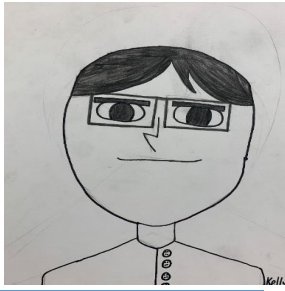


“[My child] had fun with after school activities and made new friends.”



“[My child] has developed more of her liking in Arts and Crafts. She also is more secure about herself, and when she need to do an errand and talk to people, she is not as shy as before.”





Kelly

Kelly's AYP Story...

Hello everyone, my name is Kelly Wang. I have been going to AYP's summer and after school programs for the past few years now, and I'm here to share some of my experiences with you. AYP is a great program that has helped me a lot. I have learned many important things from AYP, such as how and why healthy eating and having a healthy lifestyle is good for you, different healthy food recipes, art techniques, performing arts, and important leadership skills. At AYP I have done many fun activities such as going swimming, water gun and water balloon fights, going paddle boating, painting the van and the windows, playing at the park, group activities/games, martial arts, cooking, making plays, and cardboard crafts. AYP also has encouraged me to try new things. The AYP staff are very kind and helpful, and I have made many good friends at AYP. Me and my family greatly appreciate the happiness and support AYP has brought us. Overall AYP is a great program that has taught me many things, helped me prepare for junior high, and has turned me into a better person.



Keira



Sabrina's AYP Story...

Hey, my name is Sabrina. I have been in AYP for about 4 years now, and I attend Montrose School, where I started with AYP. I've also taken part in several of the other programs.

Some really fun ones are Thrive, now called Healthy Heroes, where we got to learn how to make healthy foods, and we got to do cool things like yoga and make gratitude jars where we would write down some things that we're thankful for on a piece of paper and put them in the jar.

Another fun program some of us got to do was Explorers. Every week, we would explore different places in Edmonton. We went to the library downtown where we got to try virtual reality. We also went to a really nice pasta restaurant, and a cat café.

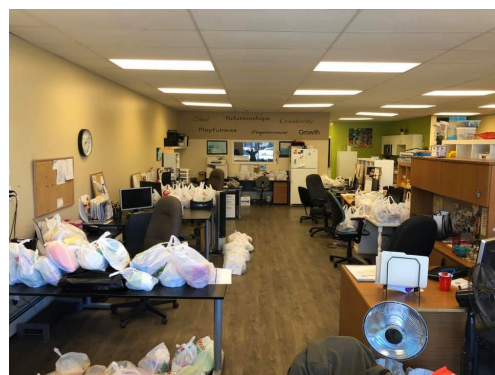
I've also been in ART with AYP. I really enjoy art, so this was a fun experience for me. We experimented with papier mache, we painted, and we went to a ceramic studio. We even had an art show at the end of the program. Every year, I also got to participate in the spring break and summer camps. We got to go raspberry picking, swimming, scooting to the park, drama activities and cooking. When COVID shut down the school and AYP program, the leaders still came to everyone's house to drop off healthy snacks and crafts. Over the years I've been in AYP, the leaders have provided healthy food and fun activities for the kids and everyone enjoys them, and it's just an overall great experience!



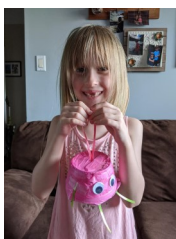
Program Highlights

Social Distancing Summer Camp

Our camp this year was run a bit differently due to COVID-19 and aptly themed, “AYP Social Distancing Camp.” Every day we incorporated a few of our values: relationships, creativity, playfulness, empowerment, growth, and most significantly trust (safety with social distancing). As we ran our camps for four days, which is shorter than previous years, we tried to pack the most socially distanced activities we could into the time. With our reduction in duration of camps, we were able to reach and support the most participants as possible this summer. Highlights from this summer included a Medieval themed day for each camp. Participants made shields and swords out of cardboard boxes and then participated in pool noodle jousting tournaments. The pool noodles helped remind participants to stay six feet apart while having a blast jousting! We then moved our knight business along to the park across the street to build castles and forts with tarps, rope, and more cardboard. Another highlight included having water gun fights, where children went to the park and were able to playfully spray staff and their peers. Some other camp activities included slime making where children were given the chance to create unique slime experiments, window painting where children had the opportunity to explore their artistic abilities and creativity, and scootering to Rundle Park where children were able to enjoy the outdoors and grow their motor skills. This was a wonderful program that gave children the opportunity to create relationships through play while staying safe during these uncertain times.



THANK YOU AYP FOR THE
SNACKS AND CRAFTS.
FROM KAYVAN, MAKENNA
AND LITTLE SISTER.



Food and Art Deliveries

This year we were able to support families in a way that we have never done before... remotely! We started to implement Healthy Food and Art Deliveries to our families during the lockdown where AYP staff would prep and deliver bags bi-weekly full of ingredients for healthy snacks and supplies for fun art projects. Highlights from this program included participants getting to interact with the staff again in a safe manner and children were given the chance to create more positive relationships. Another highlight included receiving photos from the children of their completed snacks/crafts they made from the deliveries, where children were able to explore their creativity and given the opportunity to have something to look forward to during the lockdown. Another notable moment included instructional YouTube videos where children were given the chance to connect and spend time with their families by watching them together. This was an amazing new program that allowed us to adapt and grow as an organization during these challenging times.

Fundraising & Special Thanks

GROWCASE 2019; Sponsored by Central Social Hall

On September 21st, 2019 at the stunning Volvo of Edmonton venue, our guests were offered complementary sweet treats and appetizers including a delicious charcuterie spread from **Central Social Hall**. Furthermore, we were so privileged to have dueling pianos for our entertainment! Guests were encouraged to bid on over 100 silent auction items and purchase tickets for the Flair Air raffle where the winner received two round trip tickets to any destination that Flair Air flies. Radio host Chelsea Bird hosted along with our corporate sponsor Jesse Kupina. A HUGE thank you to all of our donors as the proceeds raised for our organization were just over \$26,000!!

Save the date and stay tuned to our next GROWCASE Fundraiser!



2019 Funders, Donors & Corporate Sponsors

Community Initiatives Program (CIP)

Community Investment Operating Grant (CIOG)

Eldon and Ann Foote Foundation - Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF)

Breakfast Club

TELUS

Montgomery Fund– Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF)

Central Social Hall

Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)

Kids Up Front

City of Edmonton Leisure Access Program

REALTORS® Community Foundation

Rotary Club of Edmonton Northeast

Seats for Kids - Edmonton Oilers Foundation

Suncor

YEG Cycle

Various donors from the community, board and staff



Partnering Schools

Abbott Elementary

Beacon Heights Elementary

Homesteader Elementary

Montrose Elementary

Ivor Dent Elementary

Sifton Elementary

St. Bernadette Elementary

St. Bonaventure Elementary

St. Jerome Elementary

St. Leo Elementary

Kirkness Elementary

Fraser Elementary

Bannerman Elementary



Partnering Agencies & Community Partnerships

Edmonton Public Library: Abbottsfield Penny McKee branch

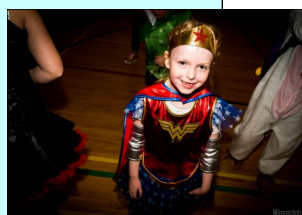
Our Lady Queen of Peace Ranch

Rundle Health Center - Primary Care Network

The Learning Centre

The City of Edmonton

The Candora Society of Edmonton



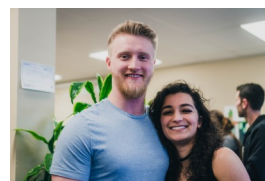
AYP Volunteers, we appreciate and celebrate you!

AYP volunteers, you continue to amaze and delight us with your generosity, kindness and compassion! We are ever so grateful for the impact that you have on our children.

47 volunteers contributed a total of **708** volunteer hours in 2019 in the following positions:

- *Assistant Youth Worker
- *Homework Help Mentors
- *Board Members
- *Casino
- *Practicum Students
- *Special Event Assistants: Family BBQ, Fall Kick-Off Party and GROWCASE Fundraiser

*Thank
you*



AYP Fall Kick-Off Party

We were very excited to celebrate the launch of our 2019-2020 Program Year with our second annual Fall Kick-Off Party. It was a wonderful evening full of food, games, and much family fun! Interested in registering for our 2020-2021 program year? Save-the-Date for our 2020 Fall Kick-Off party!

AYP Family BBQ

We were very grateful to have wonderful weather for our AYP Family BBQ. It was a wonderful afternoon spent celebrating the end of our program year with food, games, face painting, a bouncy castles, and much fun! Thank you to all our families who attended to help us celebrate a well spent year.

