



Youth Unlimited™

YFC STRATFORD

SPRING 2023 UPDATE



Here is our team, excited to be serving at the SDSS Grade 9 Fall Festival in October.

Seeing the **hope and potential** in every young person

Here is Grant, with Jay Lawrence (YFC staff from London), and Dave Lane (YFC staff from Sarnia), participating in our Stratford golf tournament in September.

SUZI'S UPDATE:

Is my testimony and what I am doing making a difference in the lives of the people around me?

That is a question I believe each one of us has asked at various times in our lives. It is an important question, as we, as Jesus followers, aim to hit the mark and be a light in the darkness.

Sometimes we ask repeatedly with no clear answer. Sometimes the answer shows up in unexpected places from unexpected people.

I ran into an old acquaintance recently as I was helping run our after school drop in program at North Park Church. "Hey...do you run this?" I looked up and saw a familiar face. It was an old acquaintance from when I was in high school. We reminisced a bit then he said, "I just came in to say thanks for running this. My son loves coming." I asked who his son was. I had no idea. What a small world.

We continued talking and he shared how important it is for him as a dad to know his son has a place like this. He talked about the young people and how important it is for them to be able to come to a safe place, have fun, hang out with friends and be supported as they journey through their high school years. He ended by saying every kid should have a safe place.

Well, my friend, we couldn't agree more!

Psalm 46:1 says "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble".

Please praise with us that we are able to provide a safe place for our young friends and pray as we continue to point them to Jesus.

KATE'S UPDATE:

Dear friends and family,

There are little signs that God is working on something big, and I am eagerly following his lead in anticipation (and, occasionally, impatience!).

Our drop-in program was on hold over the holidays, but exciting things are happening! One student started attending a church youth group on a regular basis, and we've had some new faces. Our mini "Christmas party" was a really joyful experience. These teens are starting to understand that we genuinely love them, and that drop-in is a place where they belong.

I keep feeling like God is instigating change in the way we do things, and pointing us to something new. In this season of waiting, I've been turning to the minor prophets. They were calling people back to God, and reminding people that his promises will be fulfilled. Now, we are looking to Jesus as both our past and future hope. This chapter of Joel is especially encouraging to me in this season of anticipation:

"I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions."

Joel 2:28 ESV

This year, I am seeking more monthly financial partners to strengthen this ministry going forward. If you want to become a financial partner or increase your monthly support, →



Kate continued

will you fill out and return the enclosed form? To donate online, please go to: www.yfcstratford.com/donate.

Please pray for our youth, as God draws them closer to himself. Please pray for our team, as we faithfully press forward in ministry. If you have questions, please get in touch with me using the contact information below! Thank you so much to all of you – we could not do this work without you!

Love in Christ,
Kate Heyen

GRANT'S UPDATE:

Dear Friends,

There's been all sorts of different things on the go with me, my family, and my ministry with Youth Unlimited YFC that I want to catch you up on!

First off, family! In December, my family and I made the move to our new home. This beautiful spot has been a great new location for our family, and we are getting more and more settled in with each passing week. Please be praying for us as we continue to get settled.

Things with Youth Unlimited YFC have been busy, with lots of great stuff happening! Below is a snapshot of some things that I'm excited about!

- Basketball Coaching: Once again, I've had the honor of being an assistant coach for the Junior Boys basketball team at Stratford District Secondary School. This group of 12 student athletes who are in grades 9 and 10 have been working hard, playing great, and have won the championship for our school board, and will be playing for the regional championship next week. It's been a blast getting to work with these guys on growing and developing, both on and off the court!
- "The Drop" Drop In Program – This amazing initiative, spearheaded by Kate Heyen, is an awesome way to connect with students after school and at lunch, at North Park Church, right across the road from the high schools!
- Staff Support and Supervision – As my role has evolved over the years, I've been able to take on more of a leadership role with our chapter of Southwestern Ontario YFC, and as a result, there are a number of staff that I get to connect with regularly to support and supervise. It's a real joy and privilege!

Thank you so much for all your support and partnership in ministry with me and our team, we couldn't do what we do, without amazing people like you!

Phil. 1:3-6

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

Peace. Grant



Tour For Teens

Want to spend some time cycling through the countryside of Wellington County, while also raising funds for valuable programs for teens? Mark your calendar for the annual Youth Unlimited YFC Tour For Teens, happening Saturday June 10th. Riders can choose from either a 25 KM, 50 KM, or 100 KM route, and are asked to raise a minimum of \$300 to participate. To register or for more information, call 519-272-1614, email us at info@yfcstratford.com.



Ministry Celebration Banquet Alternative

Mark your calendars for our annual fundraising banquet, happening Saturday April 29th, at 6:00 PM at the Arden Park Hotel. We're excited to gather with you to share exciting ministry updates, a silent auction, and a delicious meal! Please join us for this wonderful annual event! For tickets, call our office at 519-272-1614, or email us at info@yfcstratford.com.



Wanted: Silent Auction Donations

Every spring, we have a silent auction to specifically raise funds to assist with the programming, retreats, and camps we do as part of our work to serve and support the youth of our community. This spring, our silent auction will once again be happening! If you, your family, your church, or your business has a great item or service that you'd like to donate for us to auction off, please reach out to us.