



Say **Yes!** to Kids



Saint George's YouthNet's teen program provides a safe, supportive place for vulnerable youth in Halifax's North End in a neighbourhood that has high rates of crime and poverty.

## BACKGROUND

Since 1957 the Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC) has been a champion for diverse ministries across Canada. We have helped to strengthen our church by serving vulnerable communities, encouraging the growth and development of dynamic leaders, giving life to buildings old and new, and increasing the church's capacity to pursue community-based ministries that are creative and compassionate.

### AFC's Funding Impact Zones



As AFC's capital assets have increased so have the number and size of its gifts. Over the years AFC has disbursed grants and loans totaling more than **\$37,000,000** in support of church initiatives from coast to coast.



Gemma and her mother, Amanda, at Canuck Place in Vancouver. Canuck Place has been a 7-time KHK grant recipient.

## AFC'S COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND YOUNG ADULTS

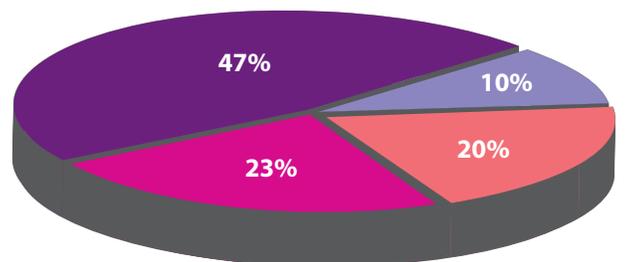
Since 2011, and the launch of the Kids Helping Kids Fund (KHK), AFC has championed the cause of children, youth, and young adults in Canada with investments totaling over **\$1,087,000**. This support has been made possible by the generosity of Canadian Anglicans and has come from legacy gifts, annual donations, coin drives, a youth-focused membership campaign, and the ongoing sale of Hope Bears and children's books in the AFC store.

From birth to early adulthood, the lives of young people are marked by a rapid succession of milestones where enriching experiences during key developmental stages can shape a person's future.

For the past decade AFC has met young people at the intersection of challenge and opportunity: Where there is a cycle of hardship to be broken, or a life of unlimited potential waiting to be lived to the fullest, AFC says Yes!

### Funding for Children, Youth, and Young Adults over the last decade has included:

- **Education and leadership: \$246,000**
- **Enrichment through music and the arts: \$218,000**
- **Health and well-being: \$116,000**
- **Outreach to vulnerable communities: \$507,000**





# Say Yes! to Kids

In response to a challenging year, spent in the shadow of a global pandemic that has wreaked havoc on the lives of children and families, AFC will begin an ambitious new program of support for children, youth, and young adults.

This spring, AFC will use the 10th anniversary of the Kids Helping Kids Fund (KHK) to launch *Say Yes! to Kids*, a grassroots national fundraising initiative to support post-pandemic programs for children, youth, and young adults in Canada.

 AFC will be a leader in the future success of a pandemic-impacted generation by vigorously funding outreach that is creative, courageous, and compassionate.

## The impact of COVID-19

AFC has heard the growing concern about COVID-19's potential long-term impacts on children, youth, and young adults and will take a leadership role in mobilizing Canadian Anglicans to respond to emerging needs.

Of particular concern are those young people from vulnerable populations whose families may struggle with the financial resources to mitigate pandemic-related disruptions to school and recreational activities. Among the hardest-hit communities are Black, Indigenous, or People of Colour (BIPOC), those living in poverty, children with special needs, new Canadians, children from single parent homes, and those living in remote rural settings.

The economic impact of the pandemic has increased rates of food insecurity, especially among households with children. The mental and emotional drain of COVID-19 fatigue has contributed to dramatic increases in rates of anxiety, depression, and video game and substance use.

The combination of lockdowns and fear of contracting the disease have given rise to opting-out of normal activities. For too many young people this has diminished the depth and variety of in-person relationships with peers, extended family, and caring adults in the community.

 Building resilience, restoring lost connections with the wider world—indeed, helping children and families to find ways to opt back in—is AFC's post-pandemic call to action.



The St. James Town Homework Club welcomes approximately 25 school-age children each week from one of Canada's most densely populated high-rise communities in downtown Toronto. Staff and volunteers provide recreational activities, healthy snacks, learning support and other enrichment activities. Most of all, these students receive the compassionate support of caring adults at a key life stage when growing connections in a safe, supportive environment is so critical to a child's development.



AFC has assisted in making it possible to purchase recording equipment to make "heartbeat songs" for palliative children and their families at Philip Aziz Centre for Hospice Care / Emily's House in Toronto. Through music therapy, children and families write a song incorporating the child's own recorded heartbeat into the music. It is a beautiful, and meaningful legacy in the years following a child's death.



This innovative Play Park in the Parish of the Nerepis & Saint John, is used by hundreds of families, where there are opportunities for social interaction and play that have a vital role in children's healthy growth and development.

## The church's role in restoring lost connections

Even as the losses for children, youth, and young adults continue to be counted by health and social policy experts, AFC has a vision for the role the church can play in developing creative, courageous, and compassionate programs that address emerging needs in a post-pandemic world.



Joshua Abbott from Clarenville, Newfoundland, on his adapted tricycle. Joshua was AFC's inaugural KHK grant recipient in 2013.

A decade of funding for impact through some of the church's most innovative ministries has shown where the church can fill gaps in a labyrinthine sea of social services. From hospice care, to breakfast programs, to homework clubs, and so much more, AFC has a unique view of the church's capacity to meet community needs. So much good work is done across Canada by faith communities who mobilize caring volunteers for compassionate service.

COVID-19 has harmed an entire generation of children and families. It is time for faith communities who are working with children, youth, young adults, to *imagine more*.

As both funder and convenor, AFC will strengthen those who are already reaching out while bringing others who seek to launch new initiatives into a collaborative community of youth focused initiatives.

AFC has established a goal of \$100,000 for the Say Yes! to Kids campaign. The Foundation will play a leadership role in energizing the church to help meet the needs of children and youth in a post-pandemic world.

The Say Yes! to Kids campaign will launch on April 5, and run until June 30, coinciding with International Children's Day. Plans are underway to cultivate broad-based support for the campaign. Grassroots fundraising activities include:

- A special appeal to existing donors in our Spring 2021 newsletter.
- An advertising campaign with our national and diocesan newspaper partners.
- Outreach to new donors through a first-ever peer-to-peer social media fundraising program.

OUR GOAL  
\$100,000

# SAY YES! TO KIDS AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

AFC will partner with the General Synod's Youth Secretariat and other Children, Youth and Family ministry leaders across the church to expand the funding parameters for KHK and issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) in fall 2021 to support post-pandemic programs for children, youth, and young adults.

After five RFP cycles awarding an average of \$50,000 each in grants,<sup>1</sup> AFC has demonstrated the power of catalytic philanthropy in action. Through this process we have learned that seed funding for special initiatives works: It is both responsive and generative and can stimulate creativity and innovation across the church.

In achieving our \$100,000 goal for *Say Yes! to Kids*, this next round of seed funding will be doubly more impactful than any of AFC's prior RFPs. A twofold increased investment that puts the right money in the right hands, coupled with a grant program that is powered by more than 50 faithful volunteers, will ensure a transformative nationwide investment. AFC will help children, youth, and young adults to reach their full potential by funding initiatives that help them:

- Grow faith and deepen community connections.
- Participate in a variety of enrichment activities.
- Experience improvements in health and well-being.
- Overcome cycles of poverty and hardship.
- Achieve better learning outcomes.



By engaging widespread support for *Say Yes! to Kids*, from groups and individuals, AFC will be able to maximize the transformational potential of this campaign. Your support for *Say Yes! to Kids* will be an investment in a more vibrant future for children, youth, and young adults in a post-pandemic world.

## For more information please contact:

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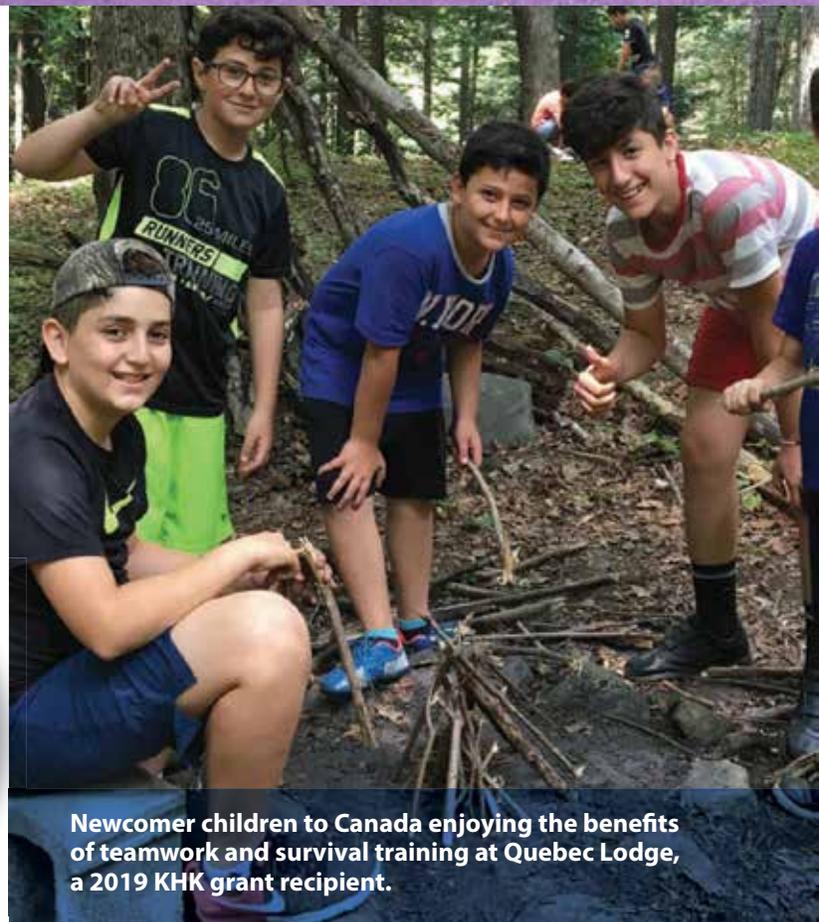
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1. Beginning in 2014, as part of its strategic plan, AFC approved \$250,000 for a total of five rounds of Requests-for-Proposals (RFPs). Funding themes included: youth leadership (2014), interfaith initiatives (2015), the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2016), innovative ministry projects (2017), and climate change (2020). This \$250,000 innovation infusion has resulted in some of the church's most innovative and compassionate ministries.

Four years ago, AFC purchased a wheelchair for 10-year-old James at St. Mark's Anglican Church in St. John's, Newfoundland. New positioning components and modifications, thanks to the Kids Helping Kids Fund, have made it possible to "grow" a new chair for James.



Newcomer children to Canada enjoying the benefits of teamwork and survival training at Quebec Lodge, a 2019 KHK grant recipient.

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