

SANCTUARY YOUTH CENTRE NEWS & STORIES



OCTOBER 2025



WHAT A SUCCESS!

Fun tunes, colorful faces, families of all ages – what a day! The October 4th, 2025 Ride for Refuge was a huge success with 91 participants who cycled or walked the course, 11 teams, 40 volunteers, and over \$50,000 raised to support vulnerable and at-risk youth in our community! This incredible event came together thanks to our amazing committee, whose hard work made it all possible. The Ride wasn't just about fun – it was about community. The heart of Sanctuary and our wider community came together to make a lasting impact on the youth who need it most.



Help us Keep Youth Warm and Equipped - Backpacks, Warm Shoes and Coats are Basically the Pumpkin Spice Lattes of Sanctuary Season!

As beautiful as this time of year is, it can be especially tough for those facing homelessness, financial struggles, or a lack of consistent warm space.

Sanctuary is currently in need of warm coats, shoes (particularly men's sizes 10-13), gloves, and toques. Please keep in mind age appropriate styles.

We're also already looking ahead to our annual December Backpack Giveaway, so donations toward that are greatly appreciated too! We fill the backpacks with:

- Deodorant
- Mini Shampoo/Conditioner
- Mini toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Hairbrushes
- Mini Body Wash
- Mini Shaving Cream
- Reusable shopping bags
- Wet Wipes
- Lip balm/chapstick



Volunteer of the Month



Shelby Anduschuk

I wanted to volunteer with Sanctuary because I am deeply passionate about the purpose of the center and what it does for the youth. Having a safe place for them to go and know they can be themselves is hope giving. As I was once in their place, I feel a kinship with the youth and wish I had a place like Sanctuary when I was younger.

What I most enjoy about sanctuary is the friendly environment. No judgement or hostility. Just friendly banter, family feeling and really compassion. Seeing how comfortable a lot of them are there and how it doesn't take I love Jesus and my sweet little baby Nova, my Boston terrier. I love to be outside in nature and go for runs in the forest. I love to read and bake. And one day I hope to open up an animal sanctuary on an acreage in Alberta.

EXPLORING FUTURE POSSIBILITIES: OUR YOUTH AT A JOB FAIR

At Sanctuary, we're all about supporting youth in healing, growth, and healthy choices. This month, Andrew Blanchard and Jen Myers took our youth to a job fair — and it was incredible to see their excitement as they explored future possibilities and imagined all the opportunities ahead! It's been encouraging recently to see some of our youth get jobs, and apply and get into college. We look forward to seeing more of our youth grow their skills and embrace new pathways to shape brighter futures.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

This time of year is typically a challenging time for non profits as giving normally takes a dip in the summer months. Combined with a few less contributions and increased wages costs, we are finding ourselves in a bit of a challenging time. We are asking our regular donors if they would consider increasing their regular donation and looking for new contributions to get us through the next month when we expect giving will increase. Please let us know if you can help us or if you have any questions!

Darin Reimer

ROCK STARS AT WORK!

When we discovered rocks being thrown into the Church of Our Lord Sanctuary, our team jumped into action! Darin, Logan, and several of our amazing youth rolled up their sleeves to clear the outdoor area— removing an incredible 1,500 pounds of rocks!

It was hot, heavy work, but the teamwork and positive attitude made all the difference. A special shoutout to Logan for his dedication and hard work throughout the cleanup.

Together, they turned a messy situation into a great example of community care and teamwork!



THANKSGIVING AT THE CENTRE



Thanksgiving can be a tough time for many of our youth who are facing homelessness, addiction, or the pain of broken family connections. That's why we do our best to make Sanctuary feel like family—a place filled with warmth, good food, and belonging. This year's celebration brought together over 30 youth, staff, and volunteers for a full turkey dinner with all the fixings—Andrew's famous stuffing, pumpkin pie, whipped cream, and a chance to share what we're thankful for. It was truly a day of full hearts and full plates.

