

# FOUNDATION IN FOCUS

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the Anglican Foundation of Canada



*The Anglican East NL team, captained by Bishop Sam Rose, exceeded its goal of \$5,000 in support of a variety of youth ministries.*

## 4th Say Yes! to Kids Campaign Raises \$130,000

The Anglican Foundation of Canada's (AFC) 4th annual *Say Yes! to Kids* (SYTK) campaign was a great success, with 33 fundraising teams in 22 dioceses having raised more than \$130,000. Nearly half of the SYTK teams reached or surpassed their goals, and the remaining half achieved between 50% and 80% of their targets.

"*Say Yes! to Kids* is a hopeful and ambitious program that aligns with AFC's vision to increase community connectedness and fund transformational ministry across Canada," says Dr. Scott Brubacher, Executive Director. "On an almost weekly basis, AFC receives another impact story of how SYTK initiatives have revitalized ministry and created new opportunities to engage youth and young adults with mentors, their peers, and the church."

Brubacher says he was impressed this year by the level of engagement from dioceses who are actively involved in camping ministry, some with as many as three summer camps. "We had 10 dioceses rallied around 16 camps, and most were raising funds for bursaries to sponsor campers to have an 'unplugged and unforgettable' summer in God's creation. It was wonderful to get a big-picture view of camping ministry across the Anglican Church of Canada."

New to the 2024 campaign was a *Say Yes! to Kids* Sunday liturgy, which served as a spiritual focal point for campaign teams and other churches across Canada who simply wanted to support the SYTK movement.

Archbishop Anne Germond, Acting Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, welcomed the liturgy. "I was so pleased to have such a comprehensive, user-friendly liturgical resource to recommend to parishes."

**"I especially loved the Prayers of the People and the litany inviting us to hear God calling us to new forms of ministry with children and youth and the suggestions for involvement of children and youth in the liturgy."**

**The Most Rev. Anne Germond**  
Acting Primate, Anglican Church of Canada

Since 2021, the SYTK movement has raised over \$700,000 for youth-focused ministry and outreach across the Anglican Church of Canada. In addition to the local beneficiaries, these combined efforts have also provided \$40,000 in funding for national Indigenous youth programs. ✦



*The Diocese of the Arctic exceeded its campaign goal of \$3,500 for the Teens Encounter Christ program.*



**Dr. Scott Brubacher**

## Message from the Executive Director

Community ministries are a challenge and blessing in the church. Planting seeds and not knowing if they will bear fruit is an exercise of faith. At the Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC), when we challenge Canadian Anglicans to *imagine more*, we are asking the church to take risks: to trust a new parishioner with a brilliant but novel idea, to recruit volunteers who may be passionate yet untrained, to balance creative tensions with community partners, and to serve as bridge-builders with fellow parishioners where old and new ways of doing things often collide.

And yet, community ministry—serving as the hands and feet of Christ in the world and taking risks along the way—is precisely what our faith calls us to do.

At AFC, we know what it takes for community ministries to flourish. Now in our 67th year supporting ministry and mission across the Anglican Church of Canada, AFC has become a vital partner in equipping the church for transformational ministry, expanding the resources available to create an ecosystem where outreach can thrive.

Whether it's funding a food bank, seniors' outreach, campus ministry, or youth drop-in program, AFC is committed to supporting churches that are reaching beyond their walls, growing a more compassionate and sustainable church in the process.

To that end, last November AFC's Board of Directors launched a new Community Ministries Fund with a capital investment of \$2 Million. We are nearing the one-year anniversary of the establishment of this fund and can already see these seeds bearing fruit. By continuing to grow this fund, we hope to ease the financial burden on those parishes who courageously engage in the challenge and blessing of this mission field.

We hope you will be inspired by the community ministry stories in this *Foundation in Focus* feature. It's important to remember that the greatest benefit of AFC membership is knowing that you are helping to ensure that those who accept the call to *imagine more* will not labour alone or in vain.

Your membership donation is a demonstration of your support for fellow Anglicans engaged in community ministry from coast to coast to coast. May we continue this faith journey together, helping one another to plant seeds that will bear good fruit in the years to come. ✦

## Camp Huron Raises \$25,000 for Bursaries in Say Yes! to Kids Team Effort

“As the summer drew near, I was very grateful to know that we had surpassed our \$20,000 fundraising goal for camper bursaries in this year’s *Say Yes! to Kids* campaign,” says the Rev. Canon Gerry Adam, Director, Camp Huron. “It was wonderful and quite encouraging to know that our camp ministry had so much love and support from across the diocese.”

Like many diocesan camps, Adam says that Camp Huron has continued to feel some of the pandemic fallout. “It was timely to partner with AFC this year and reignite parishes and camp supporters in not only celebrating the beauty of our camp but reminding people that Camp Huron has a long history of reducing financial barriers to attending camp, but the demand grows every year.”

Located in historic Bayfield, Ontario, Camp Huron provides an overnight summer camp community where children and youth gather to enjoy fun activities and make lifelong friendships. The *Say Yes! to Camp Huron* campaign raised a total of \$25,000, with \$10,000 coming from the Diocese of Huron Anglican Church Women (ACW).

Left: Diocese of Brandon youth enjoying the fall “Survival Weekend” at Camp AMC, located in Riding Mountain National Park, MB.

“2024 proved to be an exceptional partnership between AFC, the Diocese of Huron, Camp Huron, and the Diocesan ACW,” says Diane Dance, AFC’s Diocesan Representative for Huron. “Huron Anglicans have given generously to *Say Yes! to Kids* since it began in 2021, and I am so pleased that this was our best year ever—and that we were the top fundraising team nationwide!”

Camp Huron was one of 16 diocesan camps represented in SYTK 2024. “It was very exciting to learn more about all the camps,” says Michelle Hauser, AFC’s Development and Communications Officer, “and to see how meaningfully involved Canadian Anglicans are in this summer ministry.” ✦

Top Right: Trust and teamwork are part of the adventure at Camp Huron in Bayfield, ON, where the development of the next generation of leaders starts early.

Right: A young camper receives a helping hand while learning the ropes at Canterbury Hills Camp, Dundas, ON, in the Diocese of Niagara.

**“Our Diocesan ACW has been a major supporter of both *Say Yes! to Kids* and Camp Huron. Many of our members have fond memories of sending our own children there. We were thrilled to have the capacity to make such an impactful gift.”**

**Pam Walters**  
Diocesan ACW President

Bottom Left: The St. Michael’s Youth Conference—one of three camps in the Diocese of Fredericton—supports prayer, study, and recreation at McKee’s Mills, NB.

Centre: A summer of “active, unplugged and unforgettable fun” leaves youth leaders starry-eyed at Camp OAC, Kelowna, BC, in the Diocese of Kootenay.

## Expanding Community Connections in Gibsons, BC

It is hard to imagine a poverty “crisis” on British Columbia’s Sunshine Coast, but that is the word many experts and community advocates use when describing the situation in Gibsons, a community of about 15,000 people, where researchers estimate that one in five children live in poverty.

This does not come as a surprise to Wendy Francis, Vicar’s Warden at the Parish of St. Aidan & St. Bartholomew in the Diocese of New Westminster. The parish received a \$9,000 grant from AFC in 2023 to expand a three-pronged outreach ministry that includes a monthly food bank, hot lunch, and a nightly cold weather emergency shelter.



Hot lunches at St. Bart’s in Gibsons, BC, are a truly magical experience where organizers say, “the positive energy is palpable.”

“We see increasing need in Gibsons and want to do our part to grow and enhance the supports to people who are vulnerable, food insecure, and living without adequate shelter,” says Francis. “With the support of a part-time

Outreach Program Liaison, St. Bart’s is able to provide additional services that are a logical expansion of our food and shelter offerings, which are now essential components of social programming in our community.”

Since 2010, approximately \$500,000 in grants have been awarded in support of food security and poverty reduction programs. “These kinds of outreach programs are so widespread in the Anglican Church of Canada,” says Michelle Hauser, AFC’s Development and Communications Officer.

**“From north to south, east to west, rural and urban, Canadian Anglicans are not shying away from serving the hungry, the hurting, and those experiencing homelessness.”**

**Michelle Hauser**

AFC, Development and Communications Officer

Hauser says that as these programs grow, and as the level of training they need to provide to volunteers to do this kind of outreach work increases, she expects AFC will see more applications to support this kind of program expansion.

“Like the program in Gibsons, churches across Canada are increasing both their compassion and their expertise: prioritizing dignity of choice, increasing community collaborations, and providing robust volunteer recruitment and training programs.” ✦

## Supporting Adults with Cognitive Impairment and their Caregivers

If you ask the Rt. Rev. Stephen London, Bishop of Edmonton, to talk about what’s new in his diocese, you are going to hear about community ministry—and you are likely to hear about music.

Since 2020, more than one third of AFC grants to the Diocese of Edmonton have supported innovative community ministries, which has included three music-related projects. The most recent of these, the *Music Mends Minds* (MMM) program at St. George’s Anglican Church in Edmonton, received a grant of \$5,000 from AFC in 2024. MMM is a program of Rotary International, with chapters in the United States and Canada. Trained music leaders engage people with cognitive impairment and their caregivers in the universal language of music.

“The MMM participants explore everything from Elvis to Ed Sullivan,” says London, “and share all the stories and memories that arise from familiar songs.”



Familiar tunes and lyrics spark joy for music therapy participants at St. George’s Anglican Church, Edmonton, AB.

**“The program at St. George’s is a wonderful example of how we can explore innovative uses for churches, in addition to traditional Sunday morning worship.”**

**The Rt. Rev. Stephen London**  
Bishop of Edmonton

“St. George’s is small and aging, but we have a huge amount of spirit,” says the Rev. Madeleine Urion, Incumbent. “We’ve been recognizing

more and more that, rather than to start our own groups, our call as the church is to help groups that are already formed to flourish.”

Bishop London says partnerships like the one between MMM and St. George’s are central to community ministries. “So often people come to me with creative ideas that have come out of the relationships they have developed. And those relationships lead to pilot projects, which in turn form part of the ‘knock-on effect’ of community ministry, where the action of each new ministry invariably triggers other new ideas and initiatives.”

London says that even if what we might think of as success is not readily apparent, “the knock-on effect kicks in, and we are led to other unexplored territory on the mission field.” When it comes to funding these ministry projects, London says AFC is increasingly viewed by people in his diocese as a key partner. “More times than not, AFC says yes.” ✦



## The church is stronger when we work together.

At AFC we work with donors and grant recipients to unite generosity and passion for ministry. It's a winning combination! Together, we are raising the level of compassion across the Anglican Church of Canada.

**Give generously today and join us on this journey!**

## Calgary and Ottawa: Leaders in Campus Ministry



*The Rev. Michael Garner dons his apron and extends a generous heart for hospitality to University of Ottawa students through a new campus meal program.*

Separated by more than 3,000 km, the university campus ministries happening in the Dioceses of Calgary and Ottawa share a great deal of common ground. Both are championed by Anglican priests who possess a deep understanding of the realities of

student poverty and loneliness, the skills to work in a multi-faith chaplaincy setting, and hearts for hospitality that never fail to motivate community and parish volunteers to join them in reaching out.

After nearly 30 years as ecumenical Chaplain to four educational institutions—the Universities of Calgary and Lethbridge, as well as Lethbridge College and Medicine Hat College—the Rev. Canon Erin Phillips says her focus is to “build bridges and make connections.”

Central to the chaplaincy’s bridge-building efforts is the Kerber Friendship Program, supported by an AFC grant of \$7,500 in 2021, named in honour of Yvonne and Dick Kerber who helped set the program in motion.

In our nation’s capital, the Rev. Michael Garner, Rector of St. Albans Anglican Church and member of the Multi-Faith Chaplaincy team at the University of Ottawa, is working with members of his congregation to establish a regular campus meal program at residences that have been identified as having high rates of food insecurity.

“It’s hard for people to imagine that a university student can go hungry,” says Garner, who describes himself as having “the heart of an Italian grandmother.” Indeed, Garner’s love for cooking, coupled with his knowledge of the realities of student poverty, helped to kickstart the campus meals program for which St. Albans received a \$5,000 grant from AFC in 2023. The St. Albans crew hopes to expand the frequency of the meal program for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Whether helping international students who are homesick, mobilizing community volunteers to provide hospitality, or responding to the realities of student poverty, these campus ministries represent some of the most impactful young adult outreach in the Anglican Church of Canada today. ✦

**What began as an informal matching of community volunteers to isolated students who couldn’t go home for holidays has blossomed into a thriving program that supports the physical and spiritual well-being of hundreds of students.**

## Say Yes! to Kids Connects Anglican Donors to Indigenous Youth Leadership

This past May, the Sandy-Salteaux Spiritual Centre in Beausejour, Manitoba, was home to the second *Sacred Beginnings* gathering, which brought together a dozen youth from Indigenous communities in Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The event was supported in part by a \$15,000 grant from AFC, representing the national proceeds of the 2023 *Say Yes! to Kids* (SYTK) campaign.

This was the second significant grant to a national Indigenous youth initiative from *Say Yes! to Kids*. “When combined with the \$25,000 grant resulting from the 2022 campaign, which sponsored Indigenous youth to attend CLAY 2023, *Say Yes! to Kids* has provided \$40,000 in funding for national Indigenous youth programs. In fact, every donor to SYTK is part of this story because of the unique partnership fundraising approach,” says Dr. Scott Brubacher, Executive Director, AFC.

“It is certainly our hope that the 2024 campaign will prove similarly impactful, and that AFC’s national youth-centred campaign can continue to fund the priorities of Indigenous youth within



*The second Sacred Beginnings gathering brought together an inter-generational delegation from Indigenous communities in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.*

the Anglican Church of Canada.” Brubacher says that it was heartening to see St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Peterborough, choose *Sacred Beginnings* as the beneficiary of their 2024 SYTK team effort, which raised more than \$5,000.

“Be it at *Sacred Beginnings*, CLAY, or other event, when these youth gather, they network and share teachings and songs, laugh, and grow in faith and Identity,” says the Most Rev.

Chris Harper, National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop, and Presiding Elder of Sacred Circle. “These meetings include new experiences, challenges and blessings for those who attend.”

Archbishop Harper says he is grateful for the financial support and encouragement that grants from the *Say Yes! to Kids* program have provided to Indigenous youth.

**“These events have opened the doors for our Indigenous youth to participate in wider faith programs where they might have never been able to join and celebrate with other youth of their age groups.”**

**The Most Rev. Chris Harper**  
National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop  
Presiding Elder of Sacred Circle

The next *Sacred Beginnings* gathering is tentatively scheduled for 2026. Organizers hope they will be held every two years thereafter. ✦