



Affinity Mentorship Foundation

2023 Summary





“Thriving youth belonging and contributing to safe communities”

Over the past year, Affinity Mentorship Foundation (AMF), has continued to offer mentorship opportunities and life-skills training to empower youth at-risk of justice-involvement.

23 Youth
**participated regularly in the
mentorship program in 2023**



**Youth
Ethnicities in
2023**



Youth Survey Findings

Results from 23 youth

- **100%** of youth felt that their mentor is happy when good things happen to them
- **100%** felt that their mentor cares about them
- **92%** try to follow their mentor's advice



"I appreciate it a lot when my mentor takes the time out of his week to talk to me; I look forward to it"

– AMF Mentee

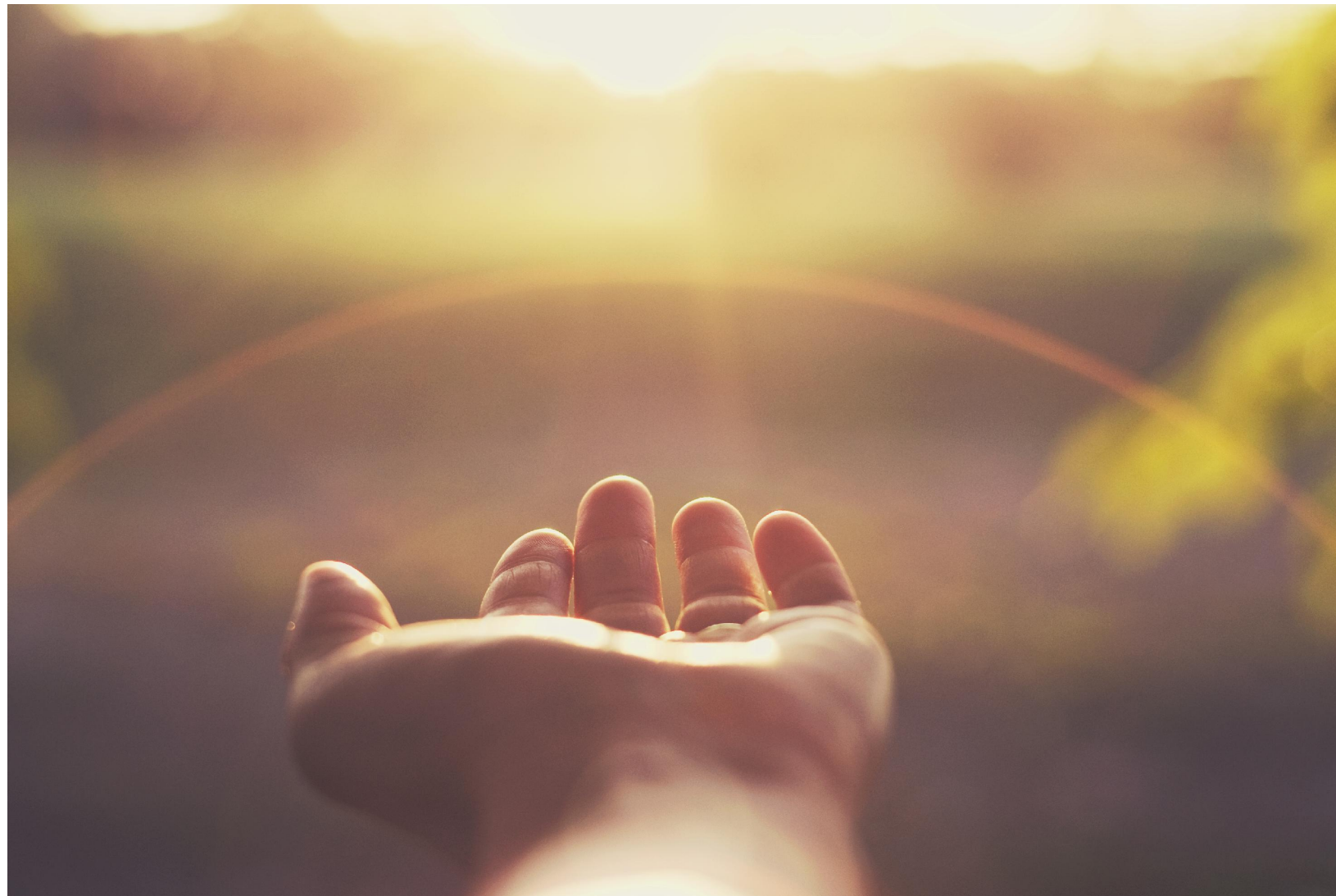


Youth Survey Findings

Results from 23 youth

- **96%** felt that their mentor cares about them, even when they do things s/he does not approve of
- **100%** look forward to the time they spend with their mentor
- **100%** said that their relationship with their mentor is important to them





***“You go into a program thinking you're going to make a difference in your youth when in reality you learn so much from them, it's a two-way relationship”
- AMF Mentor***

Youth Survey Findings

Results from 23 youth



- **100%** enjoy talking with their mentor
- **88%** trust their mentor
- **100%** reported feeling comfortable with their mentor



96% of youth would recommend the mentoring program to their friends

545

of times youth attended life skill program sessions from October 2022-September 2023 (this includes AMF youth as well as youth from other programs, CYOC, and the community)

154

of Life Skill Program offerings from October 2022-September 2023

Life Skills Program Collaborators:

October 2022 – September 2023

Calgary Young
Offender Centre
(CYOC),

ExCel Discovery
Program (Enviros)

Passages (Enviros)

Calgary Public
Libraries

Miskanawah
(Oskâpêwis, Diamond
Willow Youth Lodge,
reVISION etc.)

YMCA

ITL-CYJS

Boyle Street
Education Centre

Buffalo Lodge

The Uncle Mike
Foundation

The Calgary
Foundation

LinkAGES

Centre for
Newcomers

The Doorway





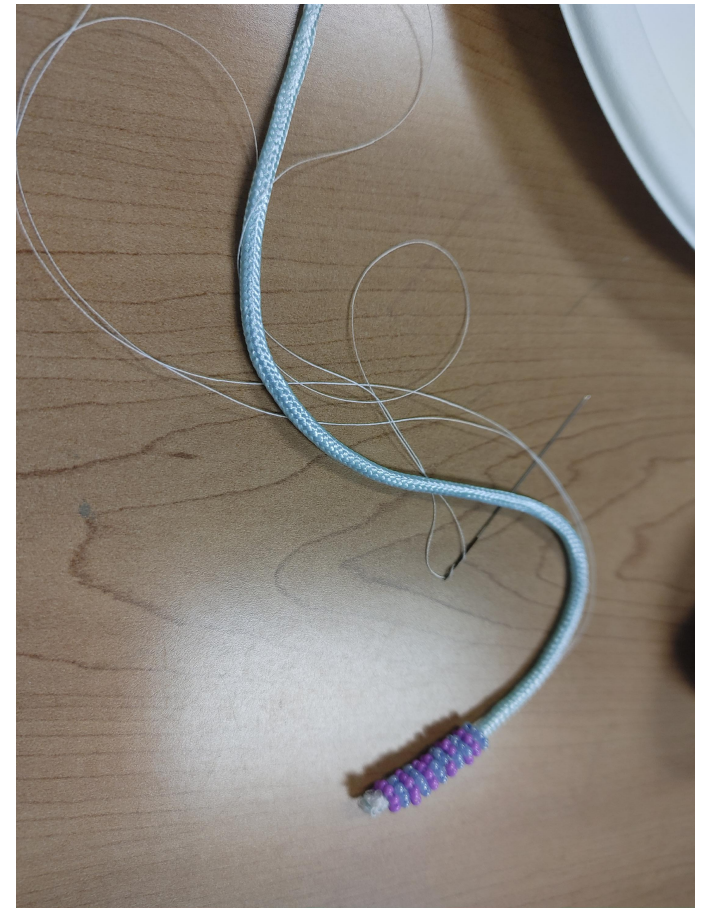
Life Skills Program Volunteers

23

of **unique volunteers** who
contributed to this project
from April – September 2023

94

total # of **volunteer hours**
contributed from April –
September 2023



Life Skills Program Summary

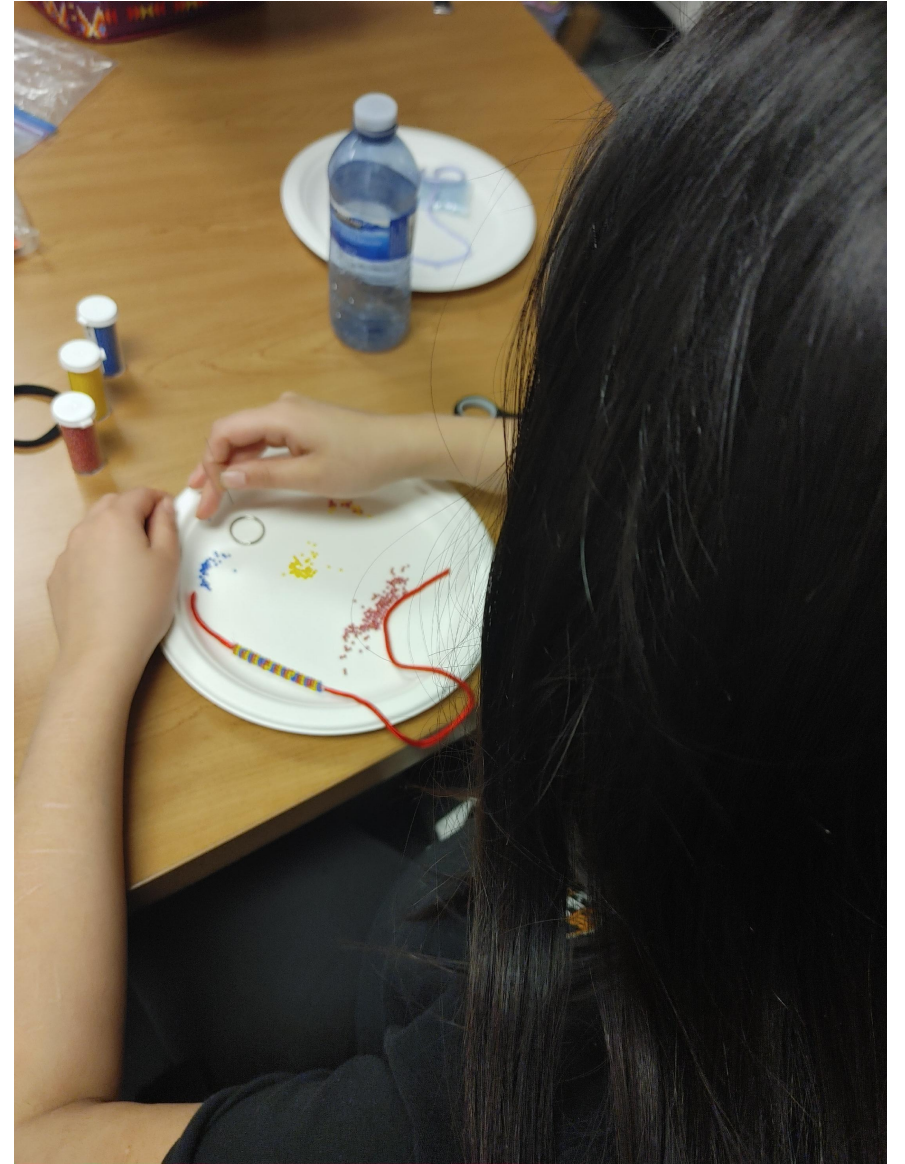
April – September 2023

Total planned sessions: 76

Average sessions per week: 3.2
(range = 1-5)

Total attendance: 185

Average weekly attendance: 7.7
(range = 0-20)



Life Skills Programs

Music

Self-defense
class

Veteran
mentorship

Hiking

Cooking
classes

YMCA

Dancing

Soccer

Library
sessions

Martial arts

Ribbon skirt
making

Crafts

Drumming

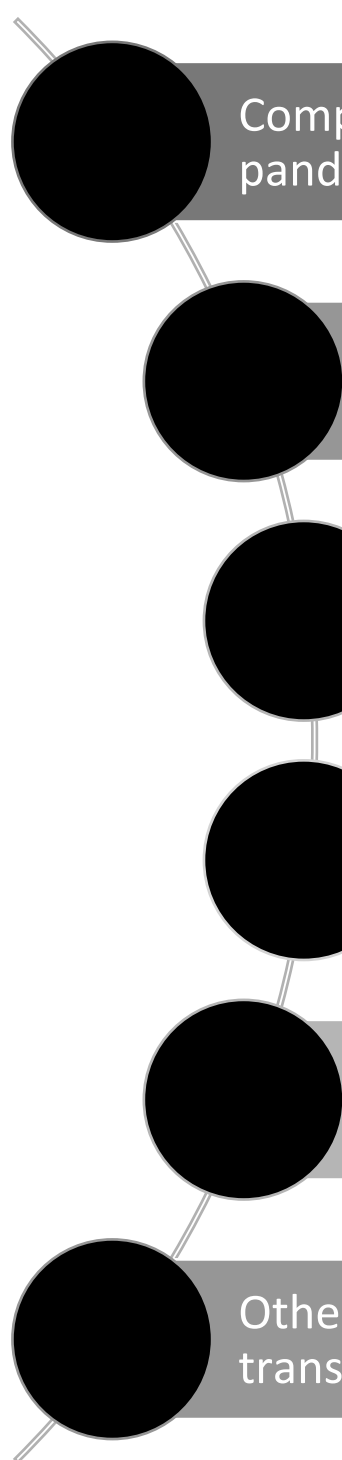
Money
management

Photography

Sweat Lodge
(Miskanawah)

Annual Stakeholder Meeting

Key Themes (June 2023)



Compared to the last focus group held, in 2022, partner agencies were less impacted by the pandemic and reported more engagement.

Major theme: growing complexity of the population. Partners continued to report mental health issues and addictions across many of their youth.

Major gap: mental health supports/services continue to not meet the needs of youth.

New theme: more diversity in ethnic groups requiring support from agencies, becoming justice-involved, and/or at-risk of justice involvement.

Programming need: programs more specific to the youth's background and/or mentors from the same ethnicity/culture.

Other topics included: a continued need for life skills, job creation, continued barriers due to transportation, basic needs of youth often not being met, more activities (e.g., athletics, art).

Program Profile: Miskanawah

- Affinity staff attend the Diamond Willow Youth Lodge weekly on Thursday evenings.
- From 5 to 8, Affinity hosts 'Affinity meet ups', which consist of drop in programming.
- This is a drop in space, which is open to community youth, with a special focus on Affinity participants.
- Because over 60% of Affinity's youth are Indigenous, this partnership ensures we are providing this population of youth opportunities to connect with cultural programming and ceremonies, including weekly Sweat Lodges.





Program Profile: Enviros

- Affinity staff facilitate weekly programs on Tuesdays at the ExCel Discovery Program – an open-custody facility.



Program Profile: CYOC

- Affinity staff facilitate weekly programs on Tuesday evenings at CYOC.
- These programs provide opportunities for Affinity to recruit youth participants, while also connecting with those youth already enrolled in the mentorship program.
- Maintaining a strong relationship with CYOC allows Affinity staff and mentors to stay connected with youth participants while they are incarcerated, which helps up strengthen relationships to increase the potential of youth continuing the relationship upon their release back into the community.



Program Profile: YMCA

- The YMCA provides Affinity matches with free memberships and staff have been facilitating weekly drop-in sessions at the YMCA with Affinity youth on Friday afternoons.



Program Profile: Calgary Public Library

- Affinity staff utilize the library's free space to offer programming.
- The weekly program was discontinued; however Affinity does continue to use libraries as needed.