



COMMUNITY CONTEXT

North Central Regina is made up of predominately First Nation families. Many residents in this community have not completed high school and the number of families living in poverty is high. Housing is inadequate with the lowest vacancy rate in Canada and a high percentage of homes needing major repairs. In this community, gang presence and high drug use means it is not safe for children to play in neighbourhood parks. As a result, families in North Central Regina have expressed a need for Saturday programs that include transportation for their kids. Parents in North Central Regina have the same dreams for their children as other communities – to complete secondary education and go on to post-secondary.

OUR APPROACH

CityKidz Saturdays is an experience where kids feel safe, cared for and loved unconditionally. Each week,

kids aged 6-12 years ride the bus to **CityKidz** where we feed their minds and their souls with wonderful songs and stories, and where we also feed their hungry tummies with a nutritious snack, a meal and a drink. At **CityKidz**, our hope is to instill positive values in the children we care for and to create strong moral foundations to support their dreams and aspirations. We believe God has a plan and a destiny for each child and through *CityKidz Saturdays* we inspire children to dream beyond their circumstances in order that one day they will reach their full potential. Building on the success **CityKidz** has seen in Hamilton, *CityKidz Saturdays* is now being replicated in Regina.

OUR RESULTS

60%

of the children have increased their ability to thrive in the midst of adversity and increased their faith in God

80%

of the children are accessing positive peer relationships

80%

of the children are making better choices since attending **CityKidz**

MATTHEW'S STORY

My name is Mathew, I am 12 years old. I have been attending **CityKidz** since I was 9 years old. I had lived in foster care for a while, prior to attending **CityKidz**. I was back home with my mom and family for about eight months when my friend invited me to join him at **CityKidz** one week.

I am a boy living in North Central Regina, a community that has a high crime rate and lots of gangs. About eight months ago as I was walking to the store I was being followed by three girls, I tried to ignore them and just kept walking, remembering what I had been taught at **CityKidz**, "with God I can be brave." All of a sudden one of the girls jumped in front of me and started pushing me around, wanting my money. The girls were calling me names and saying I did not belong in their community. They pushed me down and I hit my head on something, cutting it open. I was



bleeding from the head and had a nose bleed. Someone from a nearby restaurant saw this and came to my rescue. Even after the attack, I feel safe in my community because I have learned at **CityKidz** to not be afraid.

I know I can be brave because at **CityKidz** they teach me that God will take care of me, with God we can be brave, not afraid. From the first time I went to **CityKidz** at The Playhouse Theatre, I knew there were adults there that loved me. I knew I would be accepted and this is a safe place to be. **CityKidz** has taught me how to respect each other and that no one will be left out. **CityKidz** lets me go to camp during the summer. This is important because I have something to do while my mom works. My favorite memory moment at **CityKidz** is "CityKidz is the place to be... 'cause they love and care what happens to me!"

OUR GOOD PRACTICES

After almost four years of replication in Regina, **CityKidz** has discovered these good practices:

- ✓ Consistently completing weekly home visits builds trust among children and adults and shows a child that they are loved.
- ✓ Door-to-Door transportation is important for children arriving safely at the Playhouse.
- ✓ When a child knows that there is one significant adult in their life their self-esteem increases.
- ✓ It is important that children have an environment in which they feel safe and have fun at the same time.

WHAT'S NEXT?

If you want to be involved in impacting children like Mathew:

- ✓ Sign up for our Saturday program as a Playhouse and/or bus volunteer
- ✓ Join one of the home visits teams
- ✓ Contribute financially by becoming a monthly sponsor

To find out more and get involved, please go to:

www.citykidz.ca/branches/regina

city**i**kidz

We are grateful to World Vision Canadian Programs for the seed funding to start **CityKidz** in Regina.

