



VULNERABLE YOUTH REPORT



DID YOU KNOW?

The actual cost to society of each person who drops out of school is estimated to be \$15,850, per year, every year, throughout their lives.

– 2011 Vulnerable Youth Report

WHY ARE SO MANY CALGARY YOUTH FALLING THROUGH THE CRACKS?

The transition from youth to adulthood is a time when young people are building their future economic, social and physical well-being while pursuing opportunities related to education, employment and personal development. These experiences shape their own lives as well as affect the well-being of the broader community. How youth navigate the transition period will have lasting effects for years into the future.

Most of Calgary's youth successfully make the transition. But there are many who struggle and fall through the cracks. These are our vulnerable youth.

There are an estimated 27,000 vulnerable youth living in Calgary. These young people are those most likely to struggle as they move towards independent adulthood. They often miss out on opportunities to pursue healthy development and the education and training that would help them avoid or move out of the cycle of poverty, forever.

In the summer of 2010, to better understand this issue and the challenges of Calgary's vulnerable youth, United Way of Calgary and Area conducted research into the particular challenges and barriers vulnerable youth face in our city.

The research report, released in April 2011, identifies the primary challenges vulnerable youth face and makes a series of recommendations. **View these in the full report at www.calgaryunitedway.org/vulnerableyouth**

PRIMARY CHALLENGES FACED BY VULNERABLE YOUTH:

1. A lack of family supports
2. Difficulty staying engaged in school
3. A lack of employment opportunities
4. Chronic stress
5. Limited community integration
6. Poverty
7. A combination of these and other issues

Like all youth, vulnerable youth have incredible potential and important aspirations just waiting to be realized. The Vulnerable Youth report clearly shows that they want to be in school, find meaningful employment, have a safe place to live, support their own families and be active members of the community.

Change starts here.