



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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YouthHQ Celebrates 50 Years of Strengthening and Supporting Central Alberta Youth 1976-2026

Red Deer, AB — YouthHQ is proud to announce its 50th Anniversary in 2026, marking five decades of empowering, supporting, and mentoring young people and families across Central Alberta. Since its establishment in 1976, YouthHQ has grown into a vital community pillar, serving as the umbrella organization for key local youth-serving agencies, including Big Brothers Big Sisters of Red Deer, BGC Red Deer & District (formerly Boys and Girls Club of Red Deer), the 49th Street Youth Emergency Shelter, Camp Alexo, and the Centre for Social Impact (CSI).

Over the past 50 years, YouthHQ and its partner programs have provided essential mentorship, safe spaces, shelter, recreation, leadership development, and life-changing support to thousands of children, youth, and families. Through strong community partnerships (FCSS, United Way and Alberta Children Services) and the dedication of staff, volunteers, business supporters and donors, YouthHQ continues to offer opportunities that inspire confidence, growth, resilience, and belonging.

A Legacy of Impact

What began in 1976 as a small group of committed youth advocates with the support of the United Way of Central Alberta and the Red Deer Kinsmen Club has grown into a network of services that address diverse needs—from prevention and early intervention to crisis support and long-term youth development. The Red Deer Rotary Club also had a tremendous impact on the evolution of YouthHQ over the years, particularly with respect to the establishment and development of Camp Alexo. Today, YouthHQ stands as the region's most comprehensive youth support hub.

“As we celebrate 50 years, we reflect on the generations of young people who found connection, safety, and encouragement through YouthHQ programs,” said Rob Lewis, Executive Director of YouthHQ. “This milestone is not only a celebration of our past, but a call to continue building a brighter future for youth in Central Alberta.”

Year-Long Celebrations Planned for 2026

YouthHQ will mark its 50th Anniversary with a series of community events, storytelling initiatives, volunteer and alumni engagements, and fundraising activities throughout 2026. More details will be announced in the coming weeks.

About YouthHQ

Youth HQ empowers youth by fostering a community of support. Our network seeks to instill young people with confidence in their unique identities and abilities, providing them with skills for life through knowledge, healthy relationships, and quality experiences while providing safe environments to learn and grow. Youth HQ coordinates programming for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Red Deer and District, BGC Red Deer & District, 49th Street Youth Shelter, Camp Alexo offering numerous programs and services that support children, youth and families.

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