

Anchored Warriors – Youth Ministry
Project Evaluation
August 2023

Overview:

Anchored Warriors officially began in September 2010 as a follow-up ministry to the rapid growth of the Native Youth Conference including many who were responding to the gospel message but having no spiritual input once they got home. The initial vision was to go into selected communities and be a catalyst for starting youth ministry and then resourcing existing leaders who could carry the youth ministry baton in their community. The team quickly realized they were facing the reality of a vacuum of leadership in the communities they had chosen. Their focus shifted from being a catalyst and resource for ministry to being a relational mentoring resource for the development of leaders.

The past twelve years has shown a significant shift in the focus and shape of Anchored Warriors. All the original members of the team, both inside and outside the organization have moved on to other places of involvement. The original vision of developing local First Nations people as the leaders of youth outreach has changed to InterAct staff taking up the role of providing programming and outreach into several communities. There is still a significant need to develop local community members as the key catalyst of evangelism and discipleship of First Nations youth.

As a part of the development of younger leaders on the Canada field, Anchored Warriors and the S.A.L.T groups of northern Manitoba have begun planning towards the development of broader network of youth ministry.

Goals: Discipleship

Vision: To see community-based youth ministry involved in the spiritual discipling of First Nations youth that leads to an established community of Christ followers that also become involved in the reaching of others for Christ

Mission: To continue to build a network and connectedness between the regional communities that InterAct has local ministry focused on First Nations youth.

Objectives:

1. Build a stronger network among the staff and communities that InterAct currently serves in youth ministry.
2. Develop regional events that build on the retreats and camps that focus on First Nations youth.
3. Align the strengths of discipling materials and across the various communities that InterAct is serving.
4. Build stronger links of seeing First Nations youth grow from disciples to disciplers.
5. Build relationships with First Nations students seeking post secondary biblical education.

Activities:

1. Plan regional events that will bridge the efforts of InterAct staff across the field.
2. Connect students attending Bible Colleges in western Canada with each other.
3. Encourage the involvement of First Nations students in local ministry opportunities.
4. Encourage the use of local camp ministries as a place for growth and involvement that lead to year around discipling groups.

Outcomes:

Past:

1. The development of local community-based ministry has grown beyond the original communities surrounding Calgary. There are three communities connected in BC and Alberta.
2. Local volunteers have been identified that assist in the carrying out of the program and providing a bridge of relationship with the local community leadership.
3. Partnering relationships with local churches have built opportunities for involvement and support in the community.
4. A regional retreat has been developed in BC that works in partnership with NAIM and serves as both an evangelistic event as well as relational development across communities.
5. Strong connection and involvement continues with Native Youth Conference from four of the communities that InterAct serves. This is a broad connection of First Nations youth across western Canada.
6. There continues to be a struggle to fully give birth and transfer a program to local leadership beyond the involvement of Western missionaries.
7. The turnover of youth through the teenage years provides great opportunities as well as a short period of time to make an impact spiritually.
8. The long-term development of local representation of the church is severely impacted by the pressure of homelife and cultures of addiction.

Future: (Desires)

1. The development of local communities of First Nations people who are a representation of the local church.
2. A network of regional relationships that build the strength of First Nations Christ followers across the field.
3. Growing disciples that are developed at an earlier age and that continues into adulthood.
4. The growth and outreach to other communities among First Nations people and beyond.