

October 15, 2013

Dear friend of CCS:

***Look well to the growing edge* —Howard Thurman**

Churches on the edge seek purpose and relevance
Youth on the edge Start economic justice and environmental movements
Aboriginal people on the edge shed colonialism to grasp existing strength

The Centre for Christian Studies is on the edge

CCS is a place of growth, spirit, and energy where women and men are learning to work at the boundaries—the places where things need to begin or to change. With 120 years of experience educating people for ministries of compassion and justice-seeking, CCS has found ways to give voice to groups and perspectives that are often ignored, thanks to the generosity of donors like you.

We have a life-changing, community-building program of study, shaped in response to shifts in the church and in the world around us.

CCS students and graduates have an impact in the communities where they are

Joan's education at CCS propelled her work with men and boys in the Male Allies against Sexual Violence Program at the Sexual Assault Support Centre in the Waterloo region. "How I do things is modeled on the CCS way of doing things," Joan says. She uses her facilitation skills every day and teaches a reflection process to invite male participants to see how violence is portrayed as normal in the music and sport around them.

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Awareness grows as men begin to have open conversations with female coworkers, who tell of experiences of harassment and violent behavior. They learn how to co-lead groups that challenge and educate other men and boys to create a safe place for everyone.

The result? A growing network of men who want to end violence against women.

We celebrate our students and what they are doing to enlarge space for people at the margins. At the same time:

CCS is on the edge we're stretching and want to do more.

To widen the appeal of our programs
To employ another program leader
To reach students across Canada

But we can't grow without you.

Educating students is expensive. If Joan were a student now, the full cost of tuition for her education would be \$4850 per year plus travel and living expenses for two learning circles in Winnipeg. Luckily tuition isn't that high. We give bursaries and grants to decrease the burden borne by students.

Unfortunately, tuition alone doesn't cover the cost of educating them. AND we are losing up to 30% of our denominational support this year. That affects how much help we can give to our students.

Your donation matters, now more than ever. You can give students a way in to cutting-edge education. You can help them respond to new needs.

We can't do it without you.

Your gift helps students.

Students help people clinging to the edge.

Some people think we are "edgy". It's true. We are still not the norm and we probably never will be. But we believe our students become the leaders the world and the church needs. **You can ensure we can educate these leaders on the cutting edge.**

Thank you for all of your support so far. Please, consider increasing your gift or becoming a monthly donor, if you haven't done so already.

Blessings,



Carolynne Bouey-Shank
Co-chair, Central Council



Jim Boyles
Co-chair, Central Council

P.S. Please send your gift by **December 31st** so we can continue to offer our students a transformative educational experience.

P.P.S. For more stories about the impact our students are having on the edges, subscribe to Common Threads <http://ccsonline.ca/blog/common-threads/>



Please complete and return with your gift in the enclosed pre-addressed envelope.

**Yes! I want to help students on the cutting edge
with my gift to the Centre for Christian Studies!**

Enclosed is my gift of: \$50_ \$100_ \$200_ \$300_ \$500_ Other \$_____

Cheques can be made payable to the Centre for Christian Studies

OR charge my Credit Card

VISA_ Mastercard_ Card Number _____ Expiry Date _____

OR I would like to make a monthly gift of \$_____

Please send me information about signing up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) ____
Monthly donors will receive a consolidated tax receipt at the end of the calendar year.

Thank you for your gift!

Information is correct Changes required (please mark changes)

I wish to remain anonymous

Please add me to your e-mail list: _____

(e-mail address)