

# SUPER MANS

*What began as a Sabbath School class experiment has emerged as SUPER MANS—a program and “superhero” that’s encouraging kids across Alberta to use their power to do good.*

# Takes Off

**By Myken McDowell**

It started with the Edmonton South Church, when primary/junior division leader Linda Greaves brought a project proposal to Pastor John Murley. The idea was simple: to provide her Sabbath School class kids with \$20 apiece to invest, trade, sell or otherwise grow into something bigger for the benefit of Mamawi Atosketan Native School (MANS). “I had heard of this type of thing being done in another Church many years ago,” says Pastor Murley, “we were looking for a way to teach children how we can trust God with our money, and that He will cause the money to grow if we trust Him.”

The kids of Edmonton South Church took that message to heart. Then eight-year old Nakita Greaves, for example, took her \$20 and purchased ingredients to make her own “Temple Fuel” granola that she sold in personalized boxes at various church functions. Other kids made organic cookies, granola bars, cinnamon buns, chocolates; even Argentine specialty cakes were available for sale. Still others sold crafts like hand-beaded hair clips, ceramic piggy banks and homemade soap.

“It was a tremendous project,” Pastor Murley reflects, “God took \$320.00 invested from the Church funds, and the kids turned in just over \$5,000.00 in just a few months.” The mission funds were donated in support of MANS.

## **REACHing Out**

When the families of the Edmonton South Church asked to have the program expanded so that all ages could experience the fun and spiritual excitement of partnering with God, the Alberta Conference took note. The concept fit perfectly with the REACH strategy recommended by the North American Division (NAD) to keep Conference projects focused on church mission:





The “Education for discipleship” component was clear; kids (and their parents) were experiencing stewardship principles in an exciting and fun way.

“Alignment within the Church” was also key; everyone in the group was working toward benefitting a Conference mission, so whether an individual makes a lot or a little, the cumulative impact was far greater and they experienced the joy of being “comrades” in advancing a church project.

The recipient of the proceeds is a school designated as a mission by the NAD, so the “Community outreach and evangelism” component was clear.

Why not give every Alberta Adventist kid the opportunity to experience hands-on Adventist values?

## Super Kids, Super Heroes in Training

Building on Edmonton South’s success, SUPER MANS was launched—Small Useful People Expanding Resources for MANS. By giving kids an opportunity to use their creativity and talents to help other kids get a good education, learn about God, and have a better life, every Alberta Adventist child can participate in an experience that has the Faith Heroes Hall of Fame as its goal.

We know from *Christ’s Object Lessons* the most effective way to teach is to connect the lesson to real life. That’s what SUPER MANS does. SUPER MANS connects real Seventh-day Adventist values to a real Seventh-day Adventist mission situation. The following are just a few of the examples of what can be achieved when super kids (and their adults) get involved:

### The Boutcher Family

When Mark and Shirleen Boutcher, parents of Kaylie (7) and Brenna (10) first heard about the project in 2012, they were eager to get involved—eager, in part, because they are passionate about the cause. Having taught for a year at one of the band-operated schools on the Maskwacis-Cree Reserve, Shirleen experienced first-hand what is reputed to be the toughest reserve in Canada. “It’s a different world,” says Shirleen, “really, a different world.”

For the children of Maskwacis, MANS represents sanctuary and hope in a community that, unfortunately, is probably best known for its high incidents of gang violence and drug trafficking. Getting involved with the project meant the Boutchers could work together to make a difference in that community. In 2012, they did it by making and selling granola bars and handmade bath salts. This year, the Boutchers are offering childcare services on Saturday nights in the church basement so that busy parents within the church can go out for the evening (“Date Night,” smiles Shirleen, who got the idea from a Bonnyville news item in the last Alberta Adventist News—September 2015 edition).

“It’s a chance to work together as a family,” says Shirleen, a professional childcare worker and certified teacher who also heads one of the children’s Sabbath Schools. Brenna is particularly excited about the idea, as she has a special talent for entertaining pre-school age kids. Kaylie looks forward to playing with other kids and showcasing her artistic talents at the arts and crafts table—she loves to draw. Mark’s role, as steady support, is to fit in where needed.

Shirleen, Brenna, Mark and Kylie.



Three Guys Sweets and Treats Score Big on Taste and Ambition: Mac Smith, Ethan Wutzke and Christian Wutzke tested various flavours of their homemade ice cream at an Edmonton South Side Church movie night. The break-away favourite ice cream flavor is raspberry ice cream made with raspberries from the Wutzke garden. The fourth guy is Ethan Christian’s dad, Rich Wutzke (quality control and delivery).



### Three Guys Sweets and Treats

What’s more fun than three boys banning together for a good cause? Ethan Wutzke, Christian Wutzke and Mac Smith put their heads together and became the founders of a new ice cream company, Three Guys Sweets and Treats. The three guys are making one-of-a-kind ice cream flavours and selling it by the pint. They are all confident the project will raise lots of money—who wouldn’t like a pint of homemade ice cream made with raspberries from the Wutzke garden?

As they got a taste of popular success in pre-selling their ice cream at a church event that showcased participant’s products, one of the friends got excited about continuing the company after the fund raising is done—maybe even running the company while going to middle school!

“If it were that easy, eh?” smiled Mac’s mother, Edmonton lawyer Shelley Smith. Shelley was motivated to participate with her son by the important life lesson she saw presented by the opportunity. “This is a good lesson for Mac to learn,” she says, “that when it is for God, amazing things happen.”

There are practical lessons too. “They sold many pints at a recent church movie night,” says Shelley. “Now to make the ice cream!”



## Sport Your Support

### To participate in SUPER MANS

Request your Seed Grant by going to [www.mans1.ca](http://www.mans1.ca) and send your name, home address, phone number and T-shirt size to [TheBridge@mans1.ca](mailto:TheBridge@mans1.ca). Also include the name, phone number and e-mail address of the adult who has agreed to assist you. Don't worry grown-ups! You can support SUPER MANS too! If not actively engaged in the grant program, you can support SUPER MANS by sporting the T-shirt: \$25 long sleeve, \$20 short sleeve (size hint: SUPER MANS sports on adult size medium in the photo).

### Photo Ops

SUPER MANS will be appearing around Alberta along with a "transforming" cut out. Sign up for updates on where SUPER MANS is headed next [www.freshalbertayout.ca](http://www.freshalbertayout.ca). In between, you can catch SUPER MANS at the Alberta Conference office in Lacombe (5816 Hwy 2a) and get your picture taken there. Send photos to [TheBridge@mans1.ca](mailto:TheBridge@mans1.ca) and we'll post it in our SUPER MANS Gallery at [www.mans1.ca](http://www.mans1.ca). When you take a selfie with SUPERMANS, please post it to social media with the hashtag #SUPERMANS.

### SUPER MANS Appearances

SUPER MANS will be appearing at an event near you.

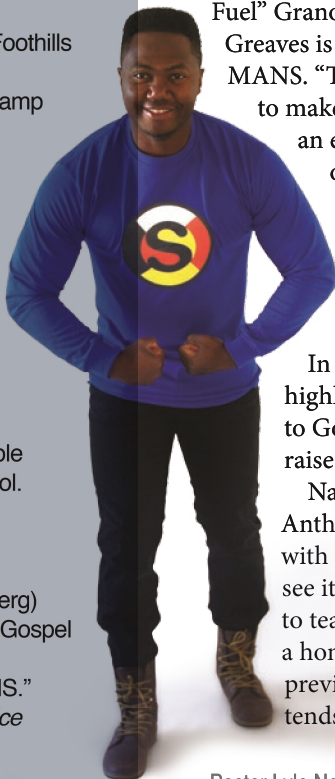
- **Pathfinder Winter Retreat**, Foothills Camp (January 29, 2016)
- **Teen Youth Rally**, Foothills Camp (February 26, 2016)
- **Adventurer Family Camp**, Foothills Camp (May 6, 201)
- **Canadian Adventist Youth Summit**, Burman University (May 11-14, 2016)

### A Message from SUPER MANS

Everyone loves a good super hero story where good overcomes evil. Help save the world today by investing in the lives of young people at Mamawi Atosketan Native School. By helping out today you are helping save a life for eternity!

Thanks to Dean Brent (Van Rensberg) and the students at the REVIVIFY Gospel Concert who gave a spontaneous offering in support of SUPER MANS."

—Pastor Lyle "SUPER MANS" Notice



Pastor Lyle Notice wearing a SUPER MANS t-shirt.

### The Greaves Family

Following the success of her "Temple Fuel" Granola, 11 year-old Nakita Greaves is excited about SUPER MANS. "Temple Fuel was a lot of fun to make, and because I tend to be an entrepreneur, it was also a lot of fun to sell! I liked the fact that it not only tasted good, but that it was healthy too." Her customized cereal boxes were emblazoned with Corinthians 6:19-20.

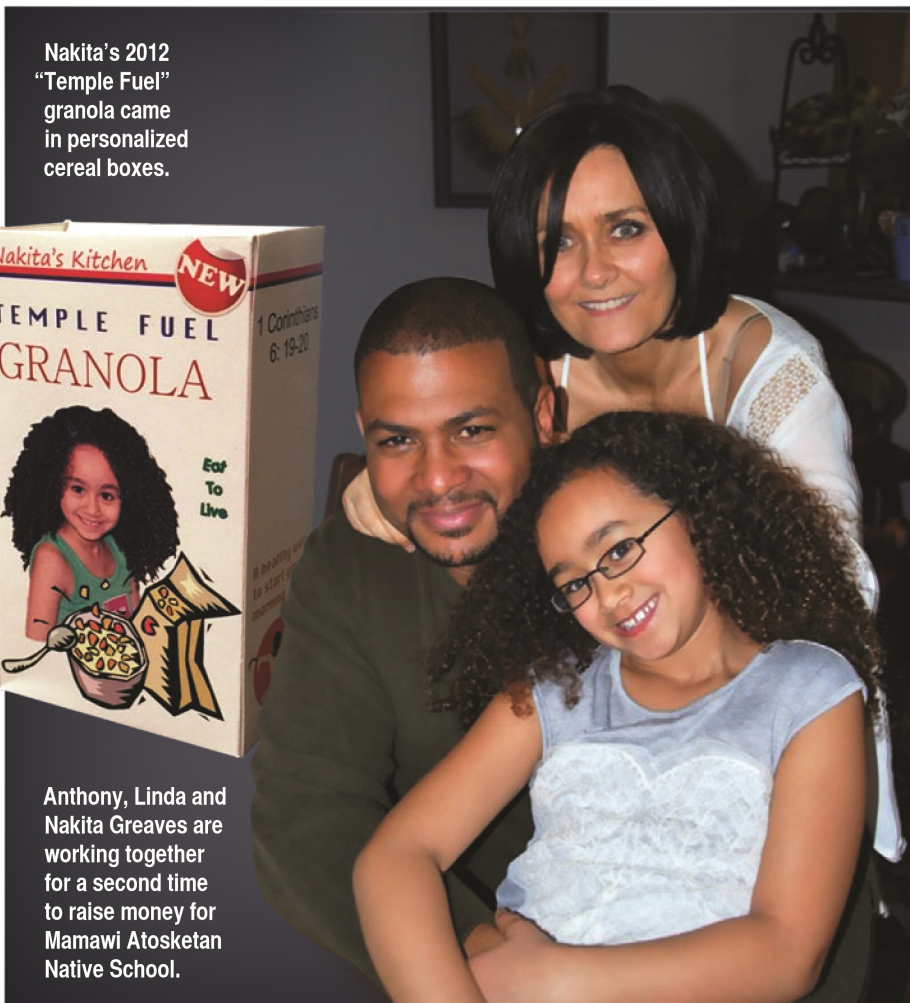
In this way, Nakita was able to highlight how our bodies belong to God, and at the same time, raise money for kids in need.

Nakita's parents, Linda and Anthony, decided to participate with their daughter because they see it as yet another opportunity to teach valuable life lessons. "As a home schooling mom for the previous five years, everything tends to become 'a lesson' in

our home! Nakita is often heard saying to me, with a laugh... 'Is this another one of your life lessons Mom?' I guess I really took Deuteronomy 11:19 to heart," Linda says with a smile. "Being part of the previous and current investment projects has become a vehicle to 'hopefully' instill some of those life lessons. My husband and I want Nakita to learn to be an empathetic, loving and giving member of the family of God, and we feel that entrepreneurial stewardship can help us advance towards those goals."

Looking ahead, Nakita has a few reasons to be excited about her involvement in the SUPER MANS campaign. "For one, because I like the name," she explains, "and because I had a good experience with the first project. I'm praying that God will inspire me and my family and we will make His new project fly!"

And that's the point: To soar with Him.



Nakita's 2012 "Temple Fuel" granola came in personalized cereal boxes.

Anthony, Linda and Nakita Greaves are working together for a second time to raise money for Mamawi Atosketan Native School.