

# UPDATE

URBANPROMISE.COM

## Great News, All the Time

**Christmas came early this year in my home.** One evening in October my 6 year-old chose a Christmas storybook off the shelf to read together at bedtime. My initial response was, “What? It’s not even December yet!”

But my daughter carried on like I was the crazy one, and flipped to the page she wanted.

“An angel appeared in the darkness and a great light filled the air. ‘Do not be afraid,’ the angel said. ‘I bring you great news!’” And the angel told them of the arrival of Jesus.

**At that moment I was reminded that this *great news* should be shared all the time.**

Our desire is to share the hope and joy that Jesus brings with children living in Toronto Community Housing neighbourhoods all year

round, year after year. For us, this looks like a 20-year journey with a child and their family. Through meaningful relationships we focus on academic, social and spiritual growth. We are beginning to see the emergence of a generation of young leaders who have purpose and hope.



**Shawn James**  
Executive Director

I pray that you may be filled with joy as you read the Christmas story this season, and that you too will want to share the great news with everyone you can, all the time.

On behalf of the UPT staff and Board of Directors, I want to thank you for your partnership and wish you a very Merry Christmas.



**REACH  
A CHILD,**

**RAISE  
A LEADER,**

**RESTORE  
COMMUNITY.**



# RUN FOR PROMISE

## 2018

### 67

Ran

### 560

Gave

### 250

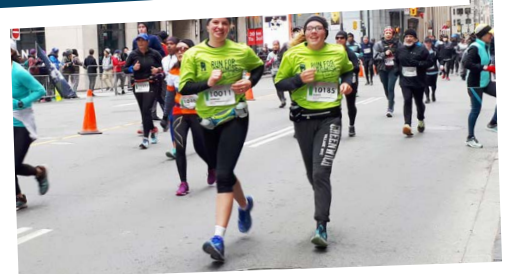
New Donors



It was a record-breaking year,  
and we cannot say it enough: **Thank you!**



# \$66,933 Raised!





# Leadership Growth

*Our vision is a generation of young leaders who love Jesus and serve their community. Our model is that young adults are launched with a team of support to flourish in church connection, college and career path and community leadership. Along the leadership pathway, we identify stages of character growth and maturity so that we can effectively develop our leaders. We call them Stage 1, 2 and 3, with 3 being the most mature.*



Each of these leaders was paired with 2 younger StreetLeaders, to intentionally connect with this year. Mentoring gives established leaders a starting point in serving their community, and provides emerging leaders with a role model they know personally.

As one participant puts it, "I wish I could go back and talk to my younger self and give him advice, warn him about mistakes he could avoid, and share some of the wisdom he knows now. Working with two grade ten students is a way I can do that."

Watching them serve alongside one another and begin to develop intentional relationships is beautiful. These young leaders will have a restoring influence throughout the city of Toronto, across Canada and around the world.



This fall we hosted a retreat for some exceptional 'Stage 3' young adults—all past StreetLeaders from the Mount Olive community. As we focused on discipleship, we heard their fears and uncertainties, and affirmed their abilities and gifts. There were meals, Bible studies and dance parties shared.

**Save the  
Date**

# RISE

COFFEEHOUSE & AUCTION

**is back this spring!**

**April 27, 2019**

More details to come.



# MAKE A PROMISE THIS CHRISTMAS

We have been celebrating 20 years of ministry all year long—and we have **gained 80 new Promise Partners!**

There is still time to help us reach our goal of 100—will you become a Promise Partner?

The word 'promise' is defined as "a commitment which causes hope, expectation and assurance."

Your promise of \$36/month causes hope for the future, stirs expectation for healthy development and assures children they are safe and loved.

**Become a Promise Partner today!**

[urbanpromise.com/multiply](http://urbanpromise.com/multiply)

## OUR MISSION >

To reach children in Toronto Community Housing with the love of Jesus, and raise them into leaders, who restore their community.