

Fall 2021

UPDATE

URBANPROMISE.COM



We're
Back!

You know that feeling you get when you have been away from home a long time, and as soon as you arrive, there is excitement, joy and relief? Now imagine that feeling for our missionaries, children, StreetLeaders and parents on the first day of summer camp. Our summer camps have been buzzing with excitement since we started back in-person.

Your support has helped us provide 6 weeks of free summer camp for 100 children and employment & volunteer opportunities for 32 youth across our three communities.

With safety guidelines in place, children visited the Toronto Zoo, Treetop Trekking, played crazy games, grew in their knowledge of Jesus and built relationships around a meal or ice cream.

I am always amazed at our young leaders, our youngest being 15 years to the oldest at 25, and their responsibility and leadership growth in such a short time. For many of them, working at our summer camp offers a lot of firsts. It's their first job, first time opening a bank account, learning to budget and what it means to be a leader in

their community, even when they are not working.

We are grateful to be back; one of our StreetLeaders said it best "Camp is like a home. The leaders are like your parents. They take care of you, love you and teach you."

Thank you for joining the UPT family. Together, we look forward to unleashing our children's potential during the upcoming after-school program season.

Grace and Peace,



Shawn James
Executive Director



Camp Hope

Warden Woods was buzzing again with activity. This summer, they piloted a discipleship program that wasn't only focused on roles and responsibilities, but also walking alongside leaders and exploring possible career/education options and their walk with Jesus. Out of this, we noticed maturity and growth among our StreetLeaders and celebrated one StreetLeader who accepted Christ!!

Camp Truth

Year One (in-person) for Glamorgan was a success! Other than reaching our goal for capacity, we saw StreetLeaders step up to the challenge of being true leaders at camp and in the community. Walk-homes have also been a great opportunity to get increased recognition in the community.



Camp Victory

Our camp in Mount Olive cared for a rabbit over the summer and had a weekly book club with each of their groups. Each book was appropriate for kids' ages and stages of life and focused on real-life issues surrounding their identities and what it means to overcome.



RAISING A LEADER: SID'S STORY

Hi, my name is Sidneymoor Egharevba; I am a grade 11 student attending Father Henry Carr in Rexdale. I currently work with UrbanPromise Toronto at the Camp Victory location.

My journey at UrbanPromise Toronto started the summer I graduated from Grade 4. It was my first time attending a summer camp, so the whole experience was all new to me. I remember really enjoying camp. I liked going on trips, my leaders were so supportive, and I made many amazing friends.

I feel like that year at camp changed my life. I felt so loved and supported by everyone at Camp Victory. After that summer, I attended the after-school programs, and as soon as I was able to, I decided to apply to be a StreetLeader. Being a StreetLeader didn't come without its challenges. Not everyone in my friend group at school understood my decision, so I faced a lot of peer pressure. They weren't always up to good things and often would pressure me into joining them. But I had made a commitment to lead at camp.

Even though I was a StreetLeader, I was having anxiety of my own. My supervisor and co-workers were always there for me and helped me learn strategies to overcome my anxiety. In 2020 my mom was facing a

removal order from immigration, which caused a lot of stress on my entire family. She asked MC (Chris Jong, Community Director) to help her write a letter to immigration. MC helped, and that letter helped us stay here in Canada. It wasn't only me that felt supported but my entire family.

Attending camp has helped me grow in my confidence by helping me understand my purpose on this earth. Being a StreetLeader helped me pick a career I possibly want to do in the future, which is being a nurse.

I often say that attending camp that very first year was one of the best decisions of my life. Because of all that I've received, I now want to support others the way my leaders supported me.

As a leader, I hope everyone would feel loved and find their purpose as I did.



SUMMER CAMP DONATIONS!

This year we received so many donations from local churches. Our camps were well stocked with masks, sanitizer, art and craft supplies, reading club books, Freezies, McDonald's gift cards and more! **Thank you to all the churches that generously donated.**

Richmond Hill Christian Community Church
Richmond Hill Chinese Baptist Church
Grant African Methodist Episcopal Church
Morningstar Christian Fellowship
Markham Chinese Baptist Church
Scarborough Chinese Baptist Church

Toronto Chinese Methodist Church
Milliken Chinese Community Church
Thistletown Baptist Church
Broken Bread Church
Cornerstone Chinese Alliance Church



RUN FOR PROMISE 2021

We desire to unleash the God-given potential of the kids we serve and allow them to **see the world of possibilities** that are before them.

Run for Promise is a tangible way for supporters like you to support our work financially. Like last year, the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon has organized a Virtual Race with the following distances: 42K, 21K, 10K, 5K, and options for a Marathon Relay as well as a youth category.

This year, our goal is to have **over 100 participants partnering with us to raise \$100,000.**

These funds will help support kids aged 5-14 with tutoring, numeracy and literacy skill development, experiential learning, opportunities for sport and other recreation and most importantly, Biblical teaching and retreats.

One hundred participants is one runner for each child that's a part of our programs. Are you in?

Who will you help create 'possibilities' for?



Dear older me,
remember when you
wanted everyone to
be treated fairly?

Dear older me,
remember when
you wanted to make
everyone feel better?

Register at
UrbanPromise.com/Run

OUR MISSION >

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



REACH
A CHILD.

RAISE
A LEADER.

RESTORE
COMMUNITY.

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