

UPDATE

URBANPROMISE.COM



A TIME TO Grow

For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

Just as the plants take hard work, care and intentionality to have healthy growth, our desire is to provide the same environment for children and young leaders to grow. We know that God will raise up a generation of young leaders that love Him and serve their community.

Thank you for your partnership and continue to pray that the lives of children and youth would be impacted by the gospel message.

Grace & Peace

It's garden season, and I appreciate the hard work, care and intentionality it takes to grow plants or vegetables. A few months ago, all our staff were given a plant to grow, to symbolize our strategic planning process. Some of their plants have changed colors, grown taller and unfortunately mine just withered away.

Our team has taken time to slow down, reflect, and discern how God might be leading us to envision growth for every child and young leader we serve in the Toronto Community Housing. We believe every child deserves the opportunity to flourish and every youth to know their potential as leaders in their

community. To this point we are working on increasing our impact to foster healthy development in children and further provide meaningful employment and leadership experiences for our young leaders.

While we go through this process of planning, prayer and discernment, we are focussing on the hope found in Isaiah 61:11



Shawn James
Executive Director



**REACH
A CHILD,
RAISE
A LEADER,
RESTORE
COMMUNITY.**



COMMUNITY UPDATES

We are amazed at how God is working through our virtual programs.

For the past few weeks our team has been leading innovative activities, tutoring, and building relationships. We have been teaching children in our WordUP (bible lessons) on how they are created in the image of God, loved, forgiven, and have purpose.

“At the end of each program day, “I like to end with a moment of thankfulness. One of my StreetLeaders said, “I’m so thankful for this week and the fun that we all had, and I’m thankful for my Camp Truth *family*” It’s so great for me, to hear them speak about UPT as their family! It means they feel loved, they trust us, and they recognize the closeness we are cultivating, even in this time of virtual programming! —*Kelly Stouffer, Community Director*

“More children are signing up for our online program. One of our newest children from Mount Olive is in grade 7, and everyone knows him. He loves coming out, and we see him as a leader in the future. —*Wynter Macfarlane, Ministry Supervisor*

“All mothers are having a challenging time during this season, and camp has created a break for them. One mother shares how staff at Camp Hope has made her life just a bit less overwhelming. She said without the staff she would have nobodyshe also stated that Jeff is a saint. —*Christine Lee, Church Relations*

FRONTIER COLLEGE

We are grateful for our partnership with Frontier College. They generously donated 500 new books and provided tutoring training for our StreetLeader.

WE ARE CELEBRATING THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY AT OUR NEW OFFICE ADDRESS AT:

502 - 685 Sheppard Ave. E
North York ON M2K 1B6

Please remember to **recycle and dispose** of any old return envelopes which would have our former office address on it so we do not lose any of your correspondence. Thank you!



DAMILOLA'S STORY

JOURNEY TO RESTORE COMMUNITY

I grew up near Mount Olive, a Toronto Community Housing neighbourhood in Rexdale, with a reputation of gang activity and violence.

I was somewhat of a follower. My 'cool' friends had connected with some people with funny names who provided cool activities at an UrbanPromise program. I joined in the fun and loved being there.

One day, the leaders taught how the choices of sin miss the mark. This helped me realize the impact sin has on us, however, it also caused me to hope and believe that things could be different.

I was given the opportunity to serve as a leader in the Summer. In training, the director shared how Christ died for our sins and the message was so simple, but it wrecked me! In that moment I made the decision that I wanted to live for Christ.

UrbanPromise taught me to understand that God had always been present in my surroundings. His presence helped me to know I was never alone through all my experiences in university as I persevered and graduated as a nurse.

After graduating, my comfort zone was stretched when I served with Mully Children's Family on a mission's trip to Kenya. The presence of God was evident through the medical professional's demonstration of love and care in the name of Jesus. Little did I know how this important lesson would prepare me for my present mission field – the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at SickKids.



Many ask how I can work as a nurse in a place where the hardship of watching babies struggle for their lives is constant, however, God prepared me for this calling. He taught me to look for Him in the most unlikely places. I know that God is present in the NICU.

I still volunteer with UrbanPromise to help youth know that Christ is really present in their community.

—Damilola

RUN FOR PROMISE

October 2021

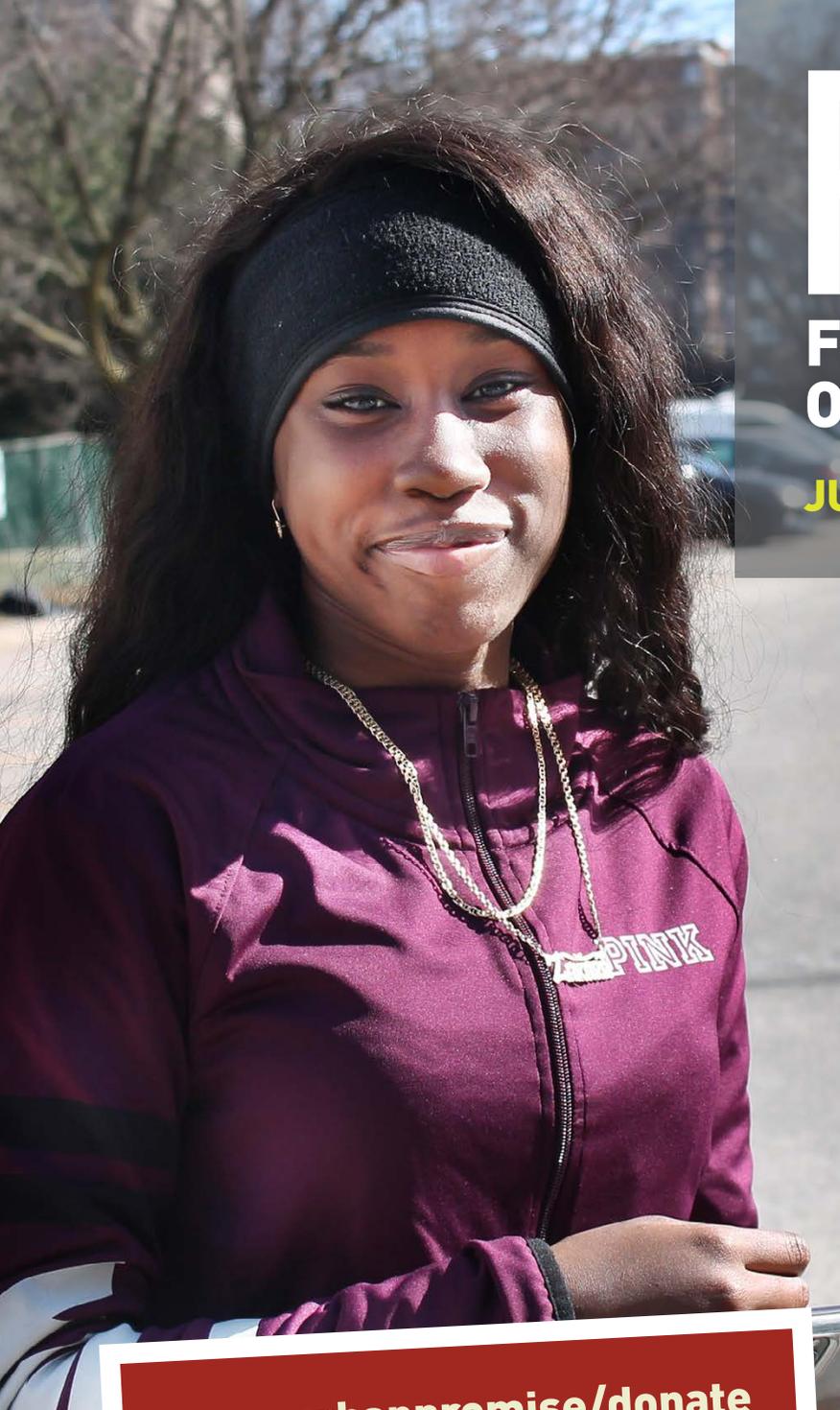


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A LEADER.
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Register:

www.urbanpromise.com/run





RISE

FOR A GENERATION
OF YOUNG LEADERS

JUNE 2021-STAY CONNECTED

Throughout the month of June, you will be notified through social media and email to watch for short video presentations highlighting our StreetLeaders and the impact they are having in their community. To learn more go to:

www.urbanpromise.com/rise

RISE is our annual fundraiser with a target to raise \$20,000 to provide support for our young leaders who sense a call to serve as missionaries in their own community.

Will you give a special gift towards RISE?

www.urbanpromise/donate

OUR MISSION >

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



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