



REACH  
A CHILD.

RAISE  
A LEADER.

RESTORE  
COMMUNITY.



2021/2022 ANNUAL REPORT

# RESILIENCE



**"The Lord has done great things for us;  
we are glad." —Psalm 126:3**

My two highlights of this past year were our StreetLeader Summer Training Retreat and our end-of-Summer Camp picnic. Our team was excited about having these events after being unable to gather in large groups for 2 years.

The retreat focused on bringing our StreetLeaders from our three communities to prepare them to plan and lead 6 weeks of summer camps. However, it became more than that; I witnessed StreetLeaders forming new relationships, diving deeper into what it means to follow Jesus and developing the confidence to impact their community.

Our Board members attended what we call our Promise Tables, where StreetLeaders had the opportunity to sit with them around a meal and engage in deep conversations about life, faith and their careers. We had past StreetLeaders come out and lead, and I remember asking one of them, "why

would you drive across the city to be here?" He said, "it's like coming back home; this is family."

Our picnic was held at a local park bringing together over 100 children travelling on the TTC. Our young leaders ensured safety while travelling, set up for the picnic and ran the day's activities. They applied what they learned and worked together to make it a successful day.

These events were celebratory and showcased our resilience as we made steps to bring our communities together after 2 years apart. We know that well-supported, educated, and resilient children and youth are integral to the future of our society. We are grateful for the things God has done through our staff, StreetLeaders, and you—our volunteers, prayer and financial partners.

Grace & Peace

Shawn James

**OUR MISSION:**

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

**OUR VISION:**

A generation of young leaders from Toronto Community Housing who love Jesus and serve their community.





**I'd like to honour the UrbanPromise Toronto team for demonstrating remarkable resilience in 2021-2022.**

Many of their challenges could be directly linked to a 'post-pandemic' world. The rules in place due to public health mandates resulted in space and facility issues. However, despite the lack of consistent space, capping camp numbers due to the rules of the facilities they use, and insufficient staffing levels,

this team remained committed to the organization's mission and worked tirelessly to continue providing support and resources to the children and youth they serve.

Whether it was hosting camp in tents on a hot summer's day or taking on multiple roles with everything that needed to get done, their efforts have helped ensure that the organization can continue serving the youth of Toronto.

The leadership team fostered a culture of resilience and support, resulting in the team not just surviving but thriving in the face of challenges and change.

It is a true honour to support this amazing organization.

**Board of Directors**

**Lois Tullo**, Chair, Lecturer, Schulich School of Business

**Joline Bradbury**, Treasurer, CA, Norton McMullen & Co.

**Jessey Njau**, Secretary, Farm Manager, Zawadi Farm

**Peter Dobrowolski**, Co-Chair, VP, Bee-Clean Building Maintenance

**Walter Jong**, Financial Management Executive (retired)

**Will Jin**, Executive, Venture Capital

**Natalie Blake**, Professor, Humber College

**Katherine Isaac**, VP of Customer Success, Securicy

**Calvin Quek**, CEO, Brightmark

# OUR COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY DIRECTOR REPORTS

VICTORY



**CHRIS "MC" JONG**  
COMMUNITY DIRECTOR

This year, in many ways, was a chance to bring back a lot of the culture and traditions we have at Camp Victory that were put on pause during the pandemic. Some of the things that we regained consistency on were programming for the kids and youth, working in partnerships with other agencies in Rexdale, and holding our StreetLeader team to the highest of standards. Some of the things that, before the pandemic, we had recently taken for

granted were reintroduced back into our culture with a new sense of gratitude, such as eating around a table together with our families, visiting and sitting in homes, and doing overnight retreats and camping trips. Most importantly, this year was a reminder that the Spirit is moving in our community, and he is building something bigger than we can ever anticipate. We are constantly moved by God's love for the neighbourhood of Mount Olive and, through his affirmation, that UrbanPromise Toronto has a role to play in the mission He has for restoring it.

**Community Partnerships:** Toronto Community Housing, Toronto Police Services, Zawadi Farms, Toronto Star, Second Harvest, Kids Up Front Toronto, St. Andrew Catholic School



HOPE



Our key goal at Camp Hope has always been to provide a safe and engaging space for children to grow, learn, and have fun. The biggest challenge we face is having access to a consistent and safe location to host camp. Despite this challenge, Camp Hope was successful in providing a positive impact on the children, youth and community. Children were excited to be part of camp, StreetLeaders were ready to serve and showed growth

and maturity, while advocates supported us with resources.

AfterSchool Program looked different from previous years as we focused on small group activities, connecting with children and providing more focused attention and support. Summer Camp created a new partnership with Clairlea Park Presbyterian Church, as they welcomed us to their space, baked, shared treats and even played games with the children.

We're grateful for the ability to collaborate and unite with agencies with common missions and be a bridge builder in the amazing community of Warden Woods.



**Community Partnerships:** Toronto Community Housing, City of Toronto, Second Harvest, Kids Up Front Toronto, Food Share, Feed Scarborough, Lamoon Thai Cafe, Harm Reduction, Toronto Police Services, MPP Doly Begum, Councillor Gary Crawford, TDSB Trustee Malika Ghous, Richmond Green S. S, Taylor Creek P. S., Oakridge Jr. P. S., Warden Woods Community Centre, Toronto Star, MoveIn

TRUTH



**KELLY "MAMA  
KELLS" STOUFFER**  
COMMUNITY DIRECTOR

We continue to grow in the Glamorgan Community. In 2021/2022, we had our largest participation numbers in our short time serving the neighbourhood at Camp Truth. This past year, we solidified a key partnership with Toronto Community Housing Corporation and were approved for our own 'use of space' permit in the community. Maintaining visibility in the community has been essential to our growth. Word of mouth among

the families in Glamorgan has also contributed to our numbers. Parents often stay to talk to our staff as they feel welcomed by our presence and trust us with the care for their children. The parents in the community have become our biggest advocates by supporting our programs, partnering in hosting outreach events, and telling others about the program. We're grateful for these partnerships and relationships.



**Community Partnerships:** Toronto Community Housing, Toronto Police Services, Dorset Park Community Hub, Frontline Connections, Kids Up Front, Sweetz & Co (events)

UrbanPromise Toronto has served children, youth, and families in Toronto Community Housing neighbourhoods since 1998. In November 2020, under the leadership of our Executive Director, Shawn James, an initiative was launched to create a plan to grow the ministry over the next 3-5 years.

Despite the pause that COVID-19 placed on organizations globally, in 2020-2021, we experienced growth both in programs and resources as we innovated new ways to reach children and raise leaders amid many restrictions. As those restrictions lifted in 2021-2022, we entered recovery mode.

**Resilience:** the capability of a strained body to recover its size and shape after deformation caused especially by compressive stress

*(Merriam-Webster Dictionary)*

Our communities, staff and you, our partners and donors, together displayed amazing resilience as we set out to recover after COVID-19.

This is only a small glimpse into our impact in 2021/2022.



# OUR IMPACT



## REACH A CHILD

**5-14 years**

Relationships are cultivated with children through AfterSchool Program, seasonal camps, and experiential learning opportunities.

## RAISE A LEADER

**15-19 years**

High school-aged youth who were once participants of our programs are now coached in leadership by focusing on academic, social and spiritual growth.



## RESTORE COMMUNITY

**20-25 years**

As these youth become young adults; they are released to multiply the impact of UrbanPromise Toronto and become positive influencers and leaders in their communities.



STREETLEADER QUOTE :

"I want to be out and having fun, that's how I know something is going right at camp. Camp will stay with me forever because it is my first job. It's weird because, as a Muslim, I know it's not the same as my family's religion. I didn't even really talk to or work with my sisters until I came to camp. Being at camp is very different from being at school because I can be myself and not be judged."

—Fatima, StreetLeader

# OUR IMPACT



PARENT QUOTE:

"Positive role models in a child's life are so important. UPT staff builds relationships with kids, taking them on excursions and doing fun things. They help to enhance their quality of life overall. I really appreciate the staff even walking kids home after and allowing my son to be part of a community that accepts him and shows him love."

—Kadaesha, Mom  
(previous program participant)

**FAMILIES SUPPORTED**



## What we heard from parents and caregivers



say they always feel supported by our team



say they've seen growth in their children's communication and interactions with others



say they've seen improvements in their children's academic learning and work habits

PARENT QUOTE:

"When my family found ourselves in a crisis, the staff were really supportive. The staff provided my children and me with support by giving them a safe place to talk through and understand their emotions. In addition, the staff checked in with us as parents ensuring that we understood that they were interested in what was happening and were open to ways they could help to support us."

—T.M., Parent

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Spiritual growth is important at UrbanPromise because we know that Jesus is the true source of hope. Each of our camps has WordUP sessions (Bible lessons) for children and group discipleship and deeper Bible studies with youth and StreetLeaders.

What our staff has observed about our youth (15-19)



show interest in knowing Jesus and growing spiritually

# CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS



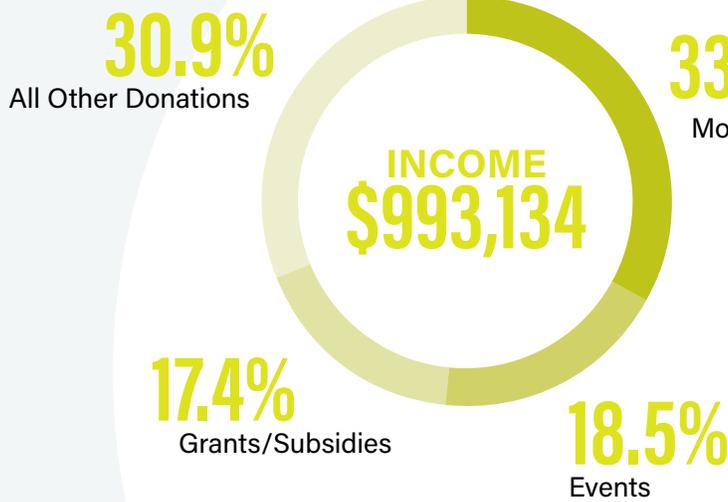
**Restoring communities requires strong partnerships. We're grateful for these churches and their support for our mission in the form of space, resources and/or volunteers.**

Bayview Glen, Clairlea Park Presbyterian Church, Christ Emmanuel Community Church, Chinese Evangelical Alliance Church of Toronto, Cornerstone Chinese Alliance Church, Crosspoint Fellowship, Ekklesia Kingdom Ministries, Fair Havens Community Church, Fallingbrook Heights Baptist / REACH, Forest Brook Community Church, Garrison Road United Brethren in Christ Church, GracePoint Baptist Church, Gospel Heights Ministries, Hallelujah Fellowship Baptist Church, Honey Harbour Community Church, Ivy Presbyterian Church, Logos Baptist Church (Milliken), Malvern Christian Assembly, Markham Chinese Alliance Church, Markham Chinese Baptist Church, Milliken Christian Community Church, Milliken Gospel Church, Mercy City Church, Morningstar Christian Fellowship, North York Chinese Baptist Church, Parkway Bible Church, Richmond Hill Christian Community Church, Richview Baptist Church, Scarborough Chinese Baptist Church, The Bridge, The Peoples Church, The Village Church, Thistleton Baptist Church, Toronto Chinese Methodist Church, Toronto Chinese Mennonite Church, TrinityLife Church, Westney Heights Baptist Church, Windmill Point Church, Zion Alliance Church.

**Two are better than one**, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

*Ecclesiastes 4:9-10*

# FINANCIALS



UrbanPromise Toronto proudly accepts the seal of organizational integrity and accountability. Complete audited financial statements available on our website.



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"When I was about 12 years old and my brother Jack (3 years younger) was about 9, our father abandoned us and our home, never to return. We grew up without him. For the rest of our lives as children (from about 1955 on), our mother was our parent and provider.

If we had grown up in today's Canada instead of 1950s New Jersey, we might have lived in a Toronto Community Housing neighbourhood.

I was particularly impressed with UrbanPromise Toronto's Leadership Pathway, geared towards helping children overcome the problems that poverty creates and become leaders who serve the next generation. It's an honour to support this organization."

—William Hayes, Donor

## THANK YOU!

Your support made an incredible impact on the communities we serve. Because of your generosity with your resources and time, we were able to effectively achieve 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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A CHILD,  
RAISE  
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RESTORE  
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