

# UPDATE

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## “A FATHER TO THE FATHERLESS”

**This summer** we started identifying and unpacking some of the traps that inner-city youth succumb to: the drug life, thug life, shrug life, and harmful love life, to name a few.

We wanted to talk openly with our junior high youth about the real challenges they will encounter as they enter their high school years. As we prepared our discussions an overriding theme emerged: fatherlessness.

It was staggering to learn the ways that fatherlessness contributes to destructive patterns in youth. Take in a few of these statistics with me:

- > Children who grow up in a home without a father are 5 times more likely to be poor
- > Youth without fathers are 711% more likely to have babies in their teenaged years
- > 85% of youth sitting in prisons grew up without a father
- > 71% of all high school dropouts are from fatherless homes



**Brett McBride**  
Executive Director

> Drug and alcohol abuse is twice as likely in youth who haven't known the love of a father

In Psalm 68:5 we read that God is “A father to the fatherless”. I've come to realize that this is not a mystical concept. God demonstrates this verse using completely unimpressive, normal people like us. God fulfills his promises through His church at work in the world.

*Brett*



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

# “WE WANT TO CHANGE THE COMMUNITY...”

## Danhenrie’s Story

*Danhenrie (or DH) has been coming to Camp Victory since he was 5 years old. He was a StreetLeader for all 4 years he was in high school. This summer DH has had the amazing opportunity to become a Program Director. He has worked hard planning, leading and organizing summer camp at Victory. He has a good and honest heart for the kids and his community, a strong desire to make a positive change amongst his peers, and a personal willingness to grow deeper in his relationship with God.*

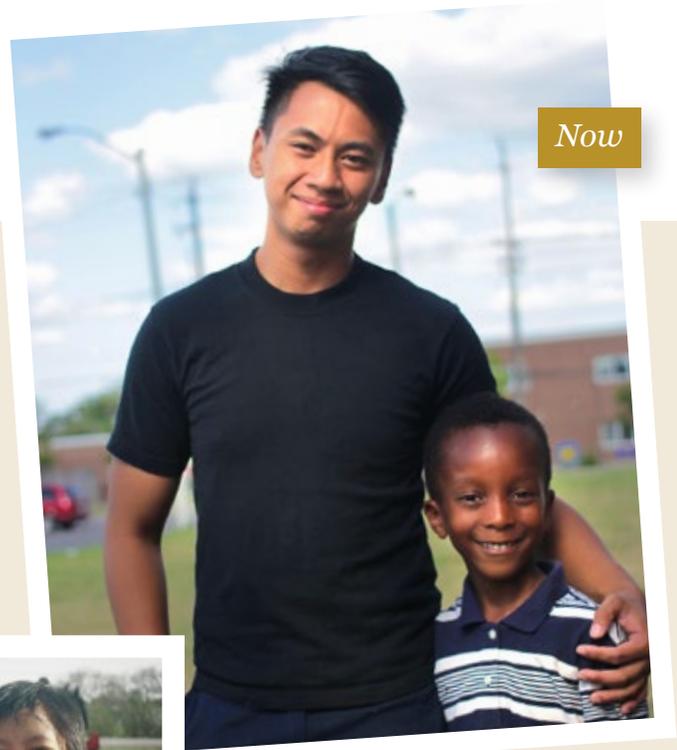
The best part of camp is leading with some of my childhood friends. As a Program Director I have been able to see younger leaders grow and develop their skills.

It’s been exciting to see the program that my friends and I designed come to life. It is a good feeling when the kids and leaders enjoy it! It’s also been exciting to lead a new team- we had many new people this summer and it was overwhelming at first. However, I now understand how to lead in my own way so that I can grow as a person and help my team grow as well.



Before

Sometimes we forget about why we’re doing this job- it is full time with low pay, and the kids are out of control a lot of the time. It can be both mentally and physically exhausting. But we do it because we want to change the community through Christ, and we start by teaching young children about God.



Now

I am currently studying Chemical Engineering at the University of Toronto. I have always been interested in chemistry and I am hoping to be able to use my knowledge to contribute to the chemical industry on a whole.

***Camp Victory has shaped and molded me into the person that I am today.*** Veteran leaders and supervisors have watched the growth in me, and I love being able to now do the same with other leaders.



10-18-15

## RUN FOR PROMISE is your opportunity to take action and support UrbanPromise Toronto.

We run because we love children, we see potential in youth and we have hope for our city’s future. Please join us in the Charity Challenge at the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon.

5K, Half-Marathon, Full Marathon—  
**there is something for everyone!**

[URBANPROMISE.COM/RUN](http://URBANPROMISE.COM/RUN)



## “Growing Compassionate Communities”

The Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI) was founded by the Toskan Casale Foundation, the original Canadian creators of MAC Cosmetics. YPI grants \$750,000 to social service charities across Canada each year, with a twist: 100% of the decisions are made by high school students who have been informed and empowered through their multi-award-winning philanthropy project. Since 2002, YPI students have taught over 1.5 million Canadians about social issues affecting their communities, and have directed over \$8 million to local charities.

**From the 2014-2015 school year, we were 1 of 150 charities to receive a \$5,000 grant!**



▲ Wanda Ofori and Miriam Lawal

We have been familiar with this initiative over the years, but this year was very special for us. Not only because we received a substantial grant, but also because the students who successfully advocated for UrbanPromise Toronto were actually youth we’ve known since childhood—they were participants in our After School Program.

We are humbled to receive this honour, and moved that UPT made such an impact on both the presenters and their classmates who voted. *It’s obvious that the students’ personal connection to what we do had quite an impact. We’re truly touched by their bravery, and the generosity demonstrated in their desire to give back.*

## “Light Up the Night”

Toronto Hydro is teaming up with City of Toronto Community Crisis Response Program, Toronto Community Housing, Toronto Police Services and local volunteers to help make neighbourhoods in Toronto safer – with the help of a light bulb! The objective of the Brighter Nights program is to brighten neighbourhoods and help make them safer by installing compact fluorescent light bulbs and encouraging residents to leave them on overnight.

**In the spring we joined the Brighter Nights team in Warden Woods!**



# “SAVED IN THE SIX”

The Six is a nickname for the city of Toronto; it represents the area codes 416 & 647.



“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost” —Luke 19:10



We are selling ‘Saved in the Six’ shirts for \$10! Contact [info@urbanpromise.com](mailto:info@urbanpromise.com) with your request. Stock is limited!



## 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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