

# UPDATE

URBANPROMISE.COM



**their neighborhood to creatively reach children with the love of Jesus.** They took the summer camp experience directly to children in their own backyards and nearby parks.

It was amazing to see children running with great excitement just to get to the picnic table at our new site Camp Truth, being led in worship, sports, and fun activities by our StreetLeaders. We impacted close to 80 children across our 3 communities!

We have been blessed by churches and donors who have supported

us with program supplies and financial resources through this pandemic. Thank you for bringing the transformative power of Christ to the city.

Grace and Peace,

“What are you going to do about summer camp?” was the question our team faced with great uncertainty. We knew going into summer children would be bored, resistant to virtual programs, craving relationships, and wanting the freedom to play. Faced with cancelled facility permits, COVID restrictions, limited resources and concerns for safety left our team with some unusual challenges to provide summer camp.

This summer we were able to hire, equip and disciple 21 StreetLeaders. **The challenges our team faced presented unique opportunities for our StreetLeaders to RISE up within**



**Shawn James**  
Executive Director



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



## Camp Truth

Getting a first job was particularly exciting for Jada and her family in Glamorgan. Jada's dad drove in from Etobicoke excited to drive his daughter to work on her first day of summer camp. Little did he know, her "commute" was a short walk from her building to the park beside where she lives! Jada says this about her new job, **"I want to be a leader in my community, and someone the kids can look up to."** With this job, Jada, and the other StreetLeaders are setting an example for the children, and the next generation of young leaders who will emerge from this community!  
 —By Kelly Stouffer, Community Director

We are seeing our Leadership Pathway at work right before our very eyes. Delove and Daniel both attended our programs as children, became StreetLeaders and now are Program Directors, with the responsibility of leading StreetLeaders in summer camp programming. **Delove has discovered God's purpose for her life to inspire and care for children in her community. Daniel enjoys building relationships with children and has a desire to see them know Christ personally.** These young leaders are rising up taking a stand against the negative pressures of their community.

—By Chris Jong, Community Director

## Camp Victory



## Camp Hope



In preparing for pop-up camps, I kept an ongoing dialogue with Sherry, a mother in our community with two daughters, regarding how a smaller sized camp can still be engaging. After experiencing 6 weeks of summer camp, Sherry expresses the following **"My girls have a sense of purpose and accomplishment, enjoying the interactions with their peers and leaders. I also like the fact that there is a spiritual component."** For Sherry, the importance of summer camp has been significant, particularly during these uncertain times.

—By Jeff Ng, Ministry Supervisor

# IT CAN BE DIFFICULT TO KNOW HOW TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS WE SEE IN OUR CITY.

## BIKE FOR PROMISE

Andrew Au, from Scarborough Chinese Baptist Church, usually volunteers with their missions team for a week at our summer camp. Due to COVID restrictions they were not able to serve. Andrew decided to turn his usual Sunday morning bike ride with his friends into an opportunity to raise awareness about Toronto Community Housing, and to fundraise for UrbanPromise Toronto.

On August 9th, Andrew and his friends cycled across Toronto, visiting each of our 3 communities, and raising over \$7800. Andrew shared this about their experience... **“100 km COMPLETED!!! It wasn’t easy in the heat but we made it!** We visited all three UrbanPromise Toronto sites and heard some amazing testimonies!”



## RUN FOR PROMISE

October, 2020



For the past 12 years, Run for Promise has provided a tangible way for you to get involved. This year the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon has transitioned to a **Virtual Race** with the following distances: 42K | 21K | 10K | 5K | and options for a Marathon Relay as well as a youth category.

We are encouraging you to participate on the weekend of October 17 & 18th, however, the Virtual Race allows you to run/walk your distance anytime and anywhere between October 1-31, 2020.

Our goal is to have over 100 participants raising \$90,000. Will you run for children to support their spiritual, social, and academic growth?

Register at [urbanpromise.com/run](http://urbanpromise.com/run)

# Support AfterSchool Program



Experts and educators are usually concerned about the “Summer Slide” a term they use going into the Fall school semester where they experience student academic loss. Now layered with a concern for what they call “COVID Slide.” As students have been out of school for 6 months, teachers will see academic setbacks in reading, writing, and math.

Researchers are concerned for children, particularly from lower-income communities that have struggled to adapt to remote learning and with limited resources.

Now more than ever, it is critical that we support children during this school year, serving their families and encouraging them towards academic gain.

## BECOME A PROMISE PARTNER

# \$36

a month provides sustainable funding for After School Programs during the most vulnerable hours between 3-6 pm

**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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