

2020/2021 ANNUAL REPORT

GROWTH



REACH
A CHILD.
RAISE
A LEADER.
RESTORE
COMMUNITY.



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

There are two words that come to my mind when I think about last year, “Ubuntu” and “Koinonia.” The word “Ubuntu” is a South African word that means “I am because we are.” It is rooted in the ideal of one’s interconnectedness with others. We ‘are’ because of the relational impact others have on us. I see many examples of this in our ministry. I walked into camp one day and witnessed a child upset with his knees curled, tucked away in the corner of a room sitting on the floor. Unsure of what happened, I watched our StreetLeaders be ever so gentle and patient with him. By the end of the day, he left camp happy, feeling loved and accepted. I have watched our staff encourage each other to be resilient and persevere through constant change and uncertainty. They have supported those in our communities, building trust and openness in times of isolation.

The second word is Koinonia a Greek word that the Apostle Paul uses for partnership or fellowship. Paul writes to the Philippian church with expressed joy and thankfulness for their partnership in the gospel (Philippians 1:3-9). Our church partners stepped up, some did prayer walks for UPT, pastors rallied their members to help fundraise, and financial partners gave of their time, talent, and treasure.

In this, our first Annual Report, I pray you will see “Ubuntu” and “Koinonia” expressed giving glory to God for all the great things He has done.

Grateful for your partnership
in the Gospel,

Shawn James



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

UrbanPromise Toronto has been a light in Toronto Community Housing neighbourhoods for over two decades, loving and sharing God's love with children, youth, and families.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is an honour to express how proud and amazed we are of the remarkable UPT team we support. It truly is a privilege to work alongside this selfless team and their volunteers as they remain single-focused to reach a child, raise a leader and restore community.



LOIS TULLO
LECTURER, SCHULICH
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

More than ever, amid everything that 2020-2021 brought, the staff's resiliency, passion, and focus were evident. They boldly showed up in how they loved, led, and supported their communities while raising their own salaries.

We are grateful for our faithful and new donors who generously gave of their resources to help equip the team to continue the work that began decades ago.

And to my fellow board members, thank you for the wisdom, talents, skills and new partnerships you brought forward as we navigated the past year.

Eyes bright and hearts thankful as we celebrate last year's growth.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021

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

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NATALIE BLAKE-NOEL, Professor, Humber College

KATHERINE ISAAC, VP of Customer Success, Carbide

CALVIN QUEK, CEO, Brightmark

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Serving Toronto Community Housing
neighbourhoods SINCE 1998

OVER 3,000 CHILDREN reached and
over 300 young leaders making an
impact in their community.



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.

OUR COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY DIRECTOR REPORTS



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

CAMP TRUTH

We continued our momentum of growth in the Glamorgan neighbourhood by reaching children through virtual programming from January-May 2021. In June, Jeffrey Ng joined Camp Truth as Ministry Supervisor. We assisted a local food distribution initiative to families in 6 & 7 Glamorgan, which two women from the community launched. Our numbers grew exponentially for Summer Camp, hiring six youth from the community & serving thirty children. We began our AfterSchool Program in September with outdoor activities, then partnered with another local agency that had access to the recreation room of 6 Glamorgan. The AfterSchool Program has provided meaningful employment to four StreetLeaders and a welcoming & safe environment for them to lead. On average, 15 kids ages 4-13 years participate in activities such as reading, science, cooking/baking & play. In October, we had several women from the community support Run for Promise by walking 5km together & raising money towards our team goal. (Two neighbourhood officers also joined in our 5km!)



COMMUNITY DIRECTOR REPORTS

(continued)

CHRIS "MC" JONG
COMMUNITY DIRECTOR



CAMP VICTORY

Although last year was one that gave us unexpected twists and turns, we were able to reach the community of Mount Olive and Rexdale through both virtual and in-person platforms. In times of lockdown, we provided families with support with online schooling, took kids for walks during their lunch breaks, and used virtual platforms to host camps and play video games to continue to build relationships. When in-person, we provided a program that provided kids and youth with much-needed community, socialization, and engagement. We were able to provide meaningful work for our high school students by coaching and discipling them in leadership opportunities. We poured into them spiritually through things like sharing meals, overnight camping trips, and weekly bible studies.



COMMUNITY DIRECTOR REPORTS

(continued)



JULIUS "KUYA" NAREDO
COMMUNITY DIRECTOR

CAMP HOPE

It was a challenging yet rewarding year after seasons of patience and perseverance. We adapted as needed between virtual and in-person programming in our three communities of Cاتاqui, Firvalley and Leyton. It took families some time to return and adjust to our in-person programming. We're grateful for the momentum we experienced with our culture of discipleship, as some veteran leaders made room for the next generation to lead. The rewards of continually being present and providing activities such as cooking, workouts, video games, eating together and prayer were evident. Families felt supported, youth & young adults were given opportunities to lead themselves and others and children had a safe place to gather as a community, speak life and gratitude, pray for each other and learn many (practical and educational) skills while playing.



MPP of Scarborough Southwest, Doly Begum, presented the **Scarborough Southwest Good Neighbour Award** to recognize our Camp Hope community leaders. This award acknowledged Camp Hope's relentless efforts throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and the significant impact the team had on the lives of many across Scarborough. We're thankful for MPP Doly Begum and her team's recognition and her advocacy for us when reporting to the Legislature Assembly of Ontario.



OUR IMPACT

GROW: /grō/ (verb):
to spring up and develop
to maturity

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. —ISAIAH 61:11 (NIV)

During a season when much of Toronto, Canada and the world was at a standstill, we're grateful for the growth we witnessed despite the reality that was before us.

Studies have shown losing access to in-school services, such as healthy eating programs, counselling and learning supports, resulted in worse mental health outcomes for children and youth.

“School represents more than just academics for children and youth. For many, school and its in-person interactions and activities form the cornerstone of their lives.”

—Dr. Daphne Korczak, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist at SickKids

We were able to impact our communities and fill the gaps created by lack of access to other supports. To God be the Glory for the numeric growth in our program numbers, emotional and leadership growth of our StreetLeaders and spiritual growth we witnessed at camp.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY

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 & leaders in their communities.



OUR IMPACT *(continued)*

OUR IMPACT *(continued)*

2020/21



2019/20: REACH—88, RAISE—38, FAMILIES SUPPORTED—50

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

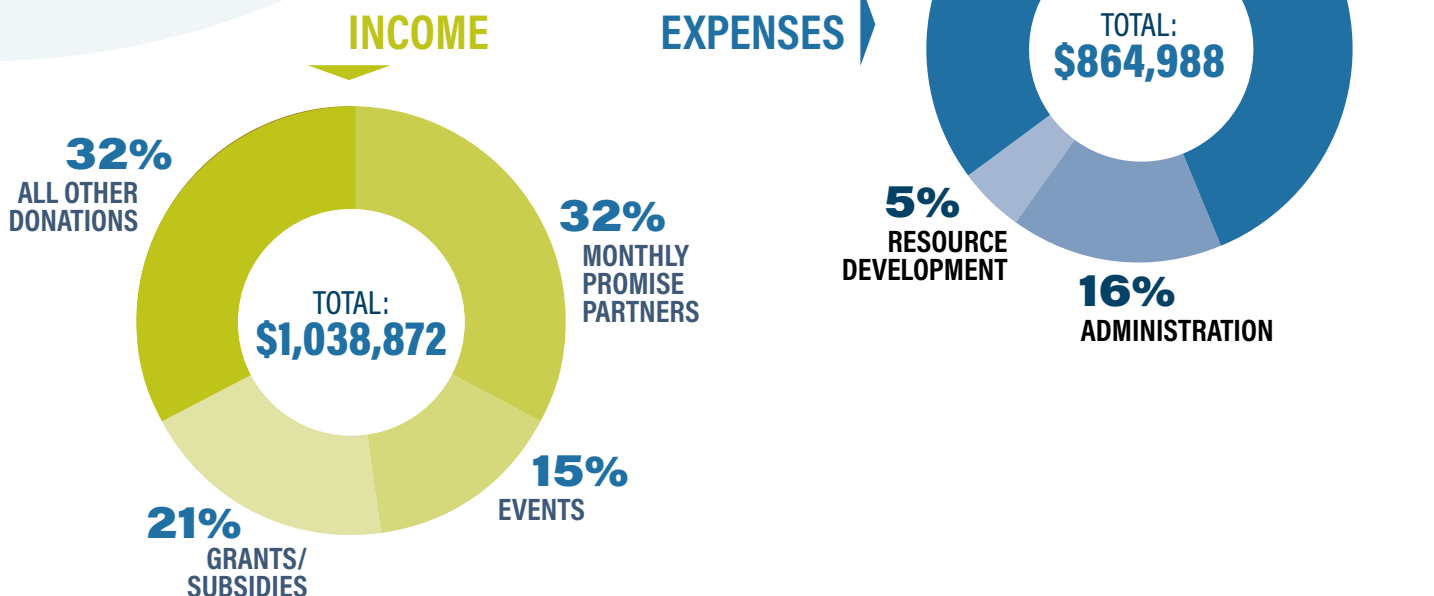
On average our teams spend about 5 hours weekly on spiritual growth at our camps. This time includes WordUP Bible teachings that involve everyone who attends camp and small groups sessions with our StreetLeaders.

Our WordUP lessons were developed using **The New City Catechism**. And our small group sessions with StreetLeaders utilized a variety of Biblically sound resources such as **Alpha Youth Series** and **The Bible Project**.

We celebrated 1 baptism and 1 StreetLeader accepted Jesus!

OUTREACH/COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

FoodShare (Glamorgan), **Second Harvest** (Warden Woods & Rexdale), and **CHUM FM Christmas Wish** (Rexdale).



Urbanpromise Toronto proudly accepts the seal of organizational integrity and accountability.



Complete audited financial statements available on our website.



TESTIMONIALS AND STORIES

UrbanPromise Toronto's Camp Hope is so important to my family because it gives my children a sense of belonging somewhere other than at home and they learn so much at camp that they might not learn at home. Camp Hope leaders also help keep my kids out of trouble and off the streets which is so important that I cannot even express. Thank you Camp Hope, you do so much to help our community and my kids specifically.

—Emma Luck (Parent)

UrbanPromise Toronto's AfterSchool program and seasonal camps help many working parents who otherwise would not have access to opportunities to enhance their children's lives. The staff go above and beyond to ensure 'their kids' have activities that are creative, educational and fun while providing much-needed attention and guidance the kids crave.

—Kwende Kemba-Gayme, Community Peace Engagement Team | Youth Violence Prevention Initiative

We are grateful that we can be in partnership with UrbanPromise Toronto. Our church strongly believes that one of our missions is to provide support and care for communities in need. When we were invited to support UPT's Summer Camp and Run For Promise 2021, our Community Concern Committee was excited about the opportunity. It was beyond our imagination that over 160 brothers and sisters (including our pastoral and leadership team) would participate in a 5KM walk (despite the rain) to raise over \$18K for UrbanPromise Toronto. Praise the Lord! We pray that they will continue to be the light and salt of the communities and continue to make a big impact on the children and youth.

—Paul Ng, Markham Chinese Baptist



I feel like this year has been a relatively good year for my personal growth at camp and as a person all around. I have started to pray for other people's safety and success instead of mine alone. At camp I believe that I've started to speak out more during debrief and meetings. I led my first ever devotional and WordUP last year which was really scary for me, but taught me a lot about leadership and speaking the word of the Lord. I feel like I have also developed better patience skills not only at camp but in my own personal life as well. I plan to continue growing as there are never-ending ways to better myself and the camp experience.

—Mathias (StreetLeader, Camp Hope)

I feel like, as a neighbour myself...I believe this is how the community works. So when we were thinking of the (Good) Neighbours Award, it was to recognize how incredible you all are (at Camp Hope) and we wanted to make sure that we recognize that through a scroll from the Provincial Legislature and to just kind of say, "Thank you for being community leaders, continue to do what you do!"

—MPP Doly Begum of Southwest Scarborough

TESTIMONIALS AND STORIES *(continued)*





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.



REACH
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RAISE
A LEADER,
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