

# UPDATE

URBANPROMISE.COM



## Creating Possibilities

When I sit around children during camp and listen to some of the things they say, I think of the TV show “Kids Say The Darndest Things.” Sometimes they say funny things that genuinely make me laugh out loud. During a WordUp (Bible study) session, the leader asked the children if they knew what a Pharisee was, and a child asked, “does it have to do with the TTC?” It was a funny answer and one that caught me and others off guard. I was so proud of our leaders as they quickly reminded the group that there were no bad questions and that they wanted to hear from everyone.

At other times, kids say surprising things that reveal their heart. Later that same day, a StreetLeader, a cup stacking champion (competes in contests and can stack 12 cups in less than 8 seconds), was teaching the camp a cup stacking challenge, and I spotted a young boy working very hard on the challenge. I started talking to him about summer camp and asked him if he wanted to be a StreetLeader one day. Without stopping what he was doing, he said, “no, I don’t think so.”

Surprised by his answer, I asked him why and again, I wasn’t ready for his response. He said, “I’m ten years old, and I don’t know how to read. Don’t you have to be able to write a resume, have some qualification?” In that moment, I encouraged him, telling him “we are here to help.”

It’s been weeks since that encounter, and I’m still thinking about what that young boy shared with me. I want to support all our children in learning how to read to ensure they have the tools they need for successful futures. I reflected on why I used to think I wasn’t qualified to lead and the many biblical leaders who also felt unqualified, all while God thought differently. Without the many people in my life encouraging me or the scripture that says, **“All things are possible for the one who**

**believes”** —Mark 9:23, I would have never tried to lead or even believed God could use someone like me.

My prayer for this young boy and all children we reach is that they believe God can save them and use them to make a difference in their community and world. I want them to have big dreams about the world of possibilities before them.

Thank you for your continued partnership and for helping us create possibilities for children.

Grace & peace



**Shawn James**  
Executive Director



## Camp Victory



This summer we had the privilege of partnering with a local farmer who felt called to bless 10 families from our Mount Olive community with weekly deliveries of fresh, organic vegetables. There was such a buzz on the very first day of delivery with moms interacting with one another, sharing recipes, learning about unfamiliar produce, and discussing how they could share some of their food with their neighbours. It got even deeper, as moms began to share some of their struggles living in the community, and what it meant to see and participate in real change. It was a great moment for me to witness and I'm grateful for the small role I played in it. At Camp Victory, we know one thing for sure: food brings people together!

—Chris Jong, Community Director

This summer we had Aaron & Melanie Mangallon, co-owners of Clinch Culture teach the basics of Muay Thai to our kids. While learning new moves, they coached the children in self-discipline & respect for others. In one session, as two boys were 'sparring' with one another, one boy connected his oversized boxing gloves to the chin of the other boy. The boy who got hit is usually short-tempered, but Coach Aaron observed him take a deep breath, lower his gloves, and say to himself, 'it was just a hit; it's part of the game; I won't get upset.' When Coach Aaron shared this with me, I was amazed! The level of self-regulation that was learned in two short sessions was incredible. Sports & play have always been important to me in my own development, and it's so great to see these disciplines being learned by our kids and applied inside & outside of sport! —Kelly Stouffer, Community Director



## Camp Truth

### SUMMER CAMP NUMBERS

7

PROGRAM  
DIRECTORS

32

STREET  
LEADERS

185

KIDS



## Camp Hope

This summer we took some of our YMADs (Youth Making a Difference) to a seniors' residence. This group worked really diligently preparing for their visit during which they performed worship songs, danced, and showed off their cup stacking skills. They also had the opportunity to share about UrbanPromise Toronto and what they learned this summer at camp. Our StreetLeaders took the lead and put the whole show together. I just had to show up to introduce the acts. I am so proud of the YMADers and StreetLeaders for taking the event seriously and interacting so well with the residents. It's been amazing, and I'm thankful to be a first-hand witness of how far these StreetLeaders have come in terms of their leadership development over the past 4 years. —Ayesha Madden, Ministry Supervisor

## THANK YOU TO THESE CHURCHES FOR SUPPORTING OUR CAMPS THIS SUMMER

### SPACE, FOOD AND FUN:

- Forest Brook Community Church:  
host church for Summer Camp Leader retreat
- Zion Alliance Church, Scarborough Chinese Baptist Church and Milliken Christian Community Church:  
meals for our training retreat
- Markham Chinese Baptist Church:  
gift cards for camps
- Logos Baptist Church:  
sponsored our final camp day BBQ

### SUMMER CAMP HOST CHURCHES

- Clairlea Park Presbyterian Church:  
host church for Camp Hope
- Grace Point Baptist Church:  
host church for Camp Truth
- Thistletown Baptist Church:  
host church for Camp Victory

*“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” —Galatians 6:2*

## MEET MATHIAS ALFRED

SUMMER PROGRAM DIRECTOR, CAMP HOPE



### How long have you been part of UrbanPromise Toronto?

I have been a part of UPT for 4 years now. I started as a StreetLeader in the summer of my grade 9 year. Since then, I’ve worked every summer, March break, and in our AfterSchool programs.

### What did you like about being a StreetLeader?

I like the bond I’m able to build with kids of different backgrounds and upbringings. I also really cherish the bond I have with my fellow leaders. When I first started,

I had to get used to the atmosphere at camp. I never worked with kids before, and I’m generally a very shy person, so it was hard to be a confident leader. But all of that changed over time.

### So what was it about the Program Director role got your attention? Why did you apply?

I wanted to give myself a leadership challenge and be stretched a bit more. I wanted to truly try to better myself, not only as a leader but in my walk with Christ as well.

### Do you mind sharing a challenging moment and how you overcame it during camp this year?

One challenge I had this year was probably my tendency to pick favourites when it came to kids. When all the kids are coming to have fun, it’s not fair to interact with only a few kids. So I’ve worked hard at getting to know more kids that I hadn’t gotten the chance to before and it’s been really awesome.

### What about a moment that inspired you or reminded you of the benefits of leading children and youth?

Well, there are so many. One really humbling moment was when one of my fellow leaders told me they looked up to me. I mean the kids are one thing, but having a peer look up to me? That’s very different. It reminded me how much of an impact I truly have.

### What is your hope for the children and youth that you lead?

I hope that they can all have fun at camp and make an honest effort to try and pursue a genuine relationship with Christ.



# RUN FOR PROMISE

WALK. RUN. FUNDRAISE

## One exciting opportunity to support UrbanPromise Toronto.

Run for Promise is part of the Charity Challenge of the TCS Toronto Waterfront Marathon and is a tangible way for you to financially support our programs in Toronto Community Housing neighbourhoods.



## TWO WAYS TO GET INVOLVED!!

We're excited to share that this year's Run for Promise is back in-person (and virtual).

- **IN-PERSON RACE:** 5K, Half Marathon, Full Marathon, The Whole Shebang - October 16, 2022
- **VIRTUAL RACE:** October 1 - 31, 2022



This year, our goal is to raise \$120,000 to help create possibilities for children and youth living in Toronto Community Housing. All funds raised will help support kids aged 5-14 with tutoring, numeracy and literacy skill development, experiential learning, opportunities for sport and other recreation and most importantly, Biblical teaching and retreats.

## WHO WILL YOU HELP CREATE POSSIBILITIES FOR?

[urbanpromise.com/run](https://urbanpromise.com/run)

## 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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