

UPDATE

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PEACE in our city

Recently our team received news of a stabbing at a local high school that many from one of our communities attend. When that camp's ministry team heard the news, they went to the school to offer support. Once the hold and secure was lifted, they took some StreetLeaders for pizza. That day, their presence at the school was comforting. The shared meal offered some peace after the incident that they witnessed.

I wondered what the word, peace, means to our StreetLeaders, so I asked a few of them. Some responses were "to feel safe and comfortable," "being in unity," and "clear mind, no stress, no interruptions." A child in our program was listening as I spoke to the StreetLeaders, so I asked him too. He

said, "when you get into your bed, and it feels soft," we all know that feeling.

I asked them one final question 'what does it mean that Jesus came to bring peace on earth?' One young lady answered, "Jesus came to the world full of sin and to bring us to God, to give us a new path to follow." Great answer!

According to Luke 2:14, the angels appeared praising God and saying **"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."** Jesus also said **"my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives."** (John 14:27)

It is a privilege for our team to be deeply involved in our StreetLeaders' lives, engaging in meaningful conversations in communities where peace is often hard to find.

Thank you for partnering with us to reveal the true peace in our city. As one of our staff rightly put it, there is no peace without Jesus.

Merry Christmas



Shawn James
Executive Director

Camp Hope

We at Camp Hope are thankful for our partners. One of the many that come to mind is a group from Richmond Green Secondary School. They always come during our special occasions to serve and play with our kids. This Fall, they hosted 'Fall Fest' for our camp. We decorated and carved pumpkins, made s'mores on fire pits, and Hope Cafe was open with loads of hot chocolate for all who attended. Many of our kids showed up, and some invited their friends and other families. **This event was a great reminder of the value of community and why we do what we do in Warden Woods.** While access to space continues to be a challenge in this community, Fall Fest was an opportunity to gather and serve. —Julius Naredo, Community Director



Camp Truth

As of November 1st, we received our permit for use of space and keys in the 6 Glamorgan Avenue recreation room for our After School Program! This is a huge milestone for us at Camp Truth! It has been quite a journey the past 4 years in pioneering and launching this new community site for UrbanPromise Toronto. **It was because of persistent prayer and the amazing work of our beloved parents & community partners.** They advocated and gave their voice in support of the work we have been doing in Glamorgan throughout the past several years that helped our permit get through! When I messaged one of the moms in the community about the good news, she showed up with a celebratory cake for us and the kids to share INSIDE our space for this After-School Program year!! —Kelly Stouffer, Community Director

At Camp Victory, intentionality is at the core of everything we do. We, as missionaries, know that we're called to pour our hearts into those we serve and point them toward a better picture of themselves, their community, and the victory that comes from God. Our activities, whether baking a cake or learning a sport, are designed to give our kids the courage to, and sense of awe in, trying new things. Our homework times reinforce that kids are capable of reading, writing, and learning. Our times of worship and Bible studies point our kids to the idea that God loves them and is never far from them. In our StreetLeader program, we walk alongside young men and women, empowering them to be the leaders and role models our community desperately needs.

When it comes to our kids, StreetLeaders, and families, we are present at every meal, purposeful in every conversation, and cheering them on in every high and low of life. —Chris Jong, Community Director



Camp Victory

We wanted to share one of our faithful volunteers, Lesline Alleyne, aka Ms. Nice Homework (her camp name)

Tell us a little about yourself. How long have you been volunteering with UPT, and how did you get started?

I'm a retired nurse; I work part-time and attend Thistletown Baptist Church. Four years ago, there was a request for assistance at UrbanPromise, and I started then. I believe God puts up the road signs, and it's up to us to follow them. The very few hours I'm part of the camp are a huge part of my life.

What motivates you to give back to the community?

When I came from Guyana some 40 years ago, we didn't have the resources for tutors, and there was no parent at home in the afternoons. So the needs of the kids resonate with me. My high school teacher saw that I needed assistance to improve my reading and encouraged my mother to have me join a tutoring/mentorship-type reading program. Since then, I've never stopped reading.

Tell us about a time that was especially meaningful for you while volunteering at camp.

A few weeks ago, we went to the library, and when we were getting ready to leave, one child was upset because they couldn't read another book. PURE heaven...that's why the library trips are so meaningful to me.

What has been the biggest surprise? How completely honest the children are. It is amazing when I hear that it was a hard day at school and nothing went well or their day was really good. Camp feels like it's a safe place for them, and they like sharing in that safe



place. I have learned that a patient adult who listens to them is often what children need. I may not always have an answer, but I think validating through silence is underrated.

If you could encourage someone else to volunteer at our camps, what would you say? I told a friend that the commitment is only a few hours each week, but the rewards cannot be measured. I'm hooked for as long as God graces me with good health.

To learn how you can get involved in our communities, email tricia@urbanpromise.com.

RUN FOR PROMISE 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



3rd place for overall funds raised on the TWM leaderboard



\$123,287 Raised!

7 CHURCH TEAMS - The People's Church - Caribbean Fellowship, Milliken Christian Community Church, Chinese Evangelical Alliance Church Of Toronto, Markham Chinese Baptist Church, Toronto Chinese Methodist Church, Toronto Chinese Mennonite Church, and Trinity Life Church.





Give from the heart instead of a store this Christmas

INVEST IN A STREETLEADER:

- > \$80 employment for one week of the school year
- > \$320 employment for one month of the school year
- > \$2880 employment for the school year (9 months)

When Toronto's youth succeed, Toronto succeeds. Will you support a young leader from Toronto Community Housing today?

Give the gift of leadership this year.

Partnering with us and our StreetLeader program gives young leaders (15-19 years) access to year-round employment opportunities, hands-on leadership development, and a continued focus on mental health, social growth and discipleship.

Our ultimate goal is to journey with and provide the necessary resources to become leaders in their communities.

Give your gift at
urbanpromise.com/streetleader

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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