

# UPDATE

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## Partnerships

We have often quoted an African proverb: "If you want to go fast, go alone and if you want to go further, go together."

In conversations with other organizational leaders post-COVID, I learnt that although they had great programs, they experienced decreased participation due to lost connections during COVID. That's when a light bulb went on for me, "Partnerships." I said to these leaders, "You have great programs, and we have deep relationships with our children and youth in our communities, let's partner."

This summer, we partnered with various organizations to provide our kids with amazing experiences in sailing, reading, skateboarding, playing baseball, learning Muay Thai, and even a weeklong overnight camp in Muskoka.

We also partnered with local churches as we welcomed back Mission Teams to serve in our camps, supporting our team and helping to teach our WordUP (Bible lessons). Using a Super Mario Bros theme for six weeks, we took kids on a journey to reach God's Kingdom, exploring different 'power-ups' tied to relevant Bible stories. Kids learnt about God's promises, faith, hope, courage and more.

With your financial partnership and prayers, we provided exciting trips, fun daily activities, and new experiences to a deserving group of kids and youth living in Toronto Community Housing.

The writer of Ecclesiastes said it best, "two are better than one, because they

have a good return for their labor" Ecclesiastes 4:9.

Together we had a greater impact in our communities, providing kids with new experiences they would not have had outside our partnerships.

Thank you for partnering with us, and we look forward to how the Lord will work in the lives of our kids and youth during our AfterSchool Program ministry this fall.

Grace & peace



**Shawn James**  
Executive Director

## Camp Victory



One of the joys of our ministry is being able to journey with our kids for a long time. Our summer camp comprises mainly of AfterSchool program participants, and mostly all of our leaders grew up in our program and now give back. We prioritize sowing seeds of hope and wonder through activities like Treetop Trekking, raspberry picking, and exploring nature, museums, and art galleries.

One day a camper was having a tough day, and one of our staff took the opportunity to remind him that Jesus and his leaders love him very much. Tears turned to smiles as walls broke down and negativity lifted. Later that week, during morning devotions, kids received encouraging letters from our staff, and this camper received a handwritten note from the same staff, again reminding him that he is loved. These small things are just everyday occurrences with significant impacts.

—Chris Jong, Community Director

7

PROGRAM  
DIRECTORS

36

STREET  
LEADERS

135

KIDS

## SUMMER CAMP NUMBERS

Our summer goal was to offer our kids diverse experiences, both in and outside of camp. Through partnerships with Clinch Culture (Muay Thai), Chill Foundation (skateboarding), Jays Care Foundation (baseball), and local Glamorgan tenants (painting and crocheting), we bought memorable experiences for our campers.

My highlight was Chill Foundation's build-a-board skateboarding program. Leaders taught our YMADs valuable lessons in patience, perseverance, and trust while learning skateboarding skills and designing and creating their unique skateboards. We aim to provide experiences like these to broaden our youth's understanding of the world, inspiring them to dream big and explore with open minds. We believe that this exposure further empowers them to discover, explore, and serve.

—Kelly Stouffer, Community Director



## Camp Truth

In partnership with Broad Reach Canada, we provided 11 YMADs with a transformative 5-day sailing experience. They learned sailboat theory and practiced their skills, on the water, with experienced sailors daily. Initially hesitant due to their fear of lakes and unfamiliarity with sailing, they found the courage to participate with support from our StreetLeaders and sailors.

By the end of the week, it was clear they didn't regret it. Most felt confident in steering the boat, handling sails, and even napping while sailing. One YMAD explained that she enjoyed the experience because it was an opportunity to rest, and she shared that she instantly felt a sense of calm on the water. Others agreed, appreciating the opportunity to rest, reflect, and bond with peers and leaders while stepping outside their comfort zones.

—Ayesha Madden, Leadership Development Coordinator

## Camp Hope





# WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT...

Thank you to the following churches, organizations and individuals for supporting our summer camps

## CHURCHES

- **Thistletown Baptist Church** - Host church Camp Victory's kids' summer camp
- **Logos Baptist Church** - Hosted a yard sale and donated funds for Summer Camp
- **C3 Church** - Donated the meal for our last day of summer camp BBQ
- **Royal York Baptist Church** - Host church for our Mission Teams
- **Waverley Road Baptist Church** - Host church for our summer training retreat and week 6 Mission Team.

## COMMUNITY SPACES AND ORGANIZATIONS

- **Rexdale Community Hub**
- **Glamorgan Jr Public School**
- **Jays Care Foundation**
- **Chill Foundation**
- **Clinch Culture**
- **Broad Reach Canada** (Ships2Shores)
- **United for Literacy**

## SUMMER MISSION TEAMS

Harbour Fellowship Church, C3 Church, Richmond Hill Christian Community Church, Chinese Evangelical Alliance Church of Toronto, Emmanuel Barrie, Richmond Hill Chinese Baptist Church...*thank you for your investment.*



(CAMP NAME: DRIZZLE, SUMMER PROGRAM  
DIRECTOR @ CAMP VICTORY)

### What were you most looking forward to?

I was really excited to start my Program Director position as it involved working with an age group that is a little older than I am used to and with new staff that I have never gotten the chance to meet yet. My goals were to build a bond with the kids and the team.

### Can you share a challenging moment and how you overcame it?

One of our youth was having a rough day and was triggered by something that eventually escalated into a fight. The other leaders and I quickly worked together to de-escalate the situation, ensuring everyone was safe. We also took guidance from MC (Chris, our Community Director). After camp that day, our team reviewed and debriefed the day and incident to ensure everyone involved felt cared for and supported. This specific incident reinforced the importance of quick thinking, teamwork, and seeking guidance in challenging moments.

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

My hope for the children and youth in our Mount Olive community is for them to feel that UrbanPromise is one of the places they can go to truly be loved and accepted for who they are in Christ. I hope that they understand to be content in every circumstance, as they can do anything through the strength that is provided to them by Christ (Phil 4:11,13).

### What inspired you to apply for this position?

One of the many reasons I decided to apply for this position was to give back to the community that played a large role in raising me and creating the person I am today. Seeing the kids that I worked with in previous years now as young teenagers remind me of how much of an impact I will have on their development. Just as the leaders who raised me greatly influenced my character development.

# RUN

## WITH PURPOSE WITH PASSION FOR PROMISE

We're  
Back!

5K, HALF MARATHON  
& MARATHON

1

IN-PERSON  
OCTOBER 15

2

VIRTUAL  
OCTOBER 1-31

Whether you're a seasoned runner or taking your very first strides, together, we can make a difference for children who live in Toronto Community Housing.

Register to join our team and help us raise \$130,000 to support our work in TCH neighbourhoods.

**STEP UP, SIGN UP & LACE UP**  
VISIT [URBANPROMISE.COM/RUN](https://urbanpromise.com/run) TO  
REGISTER OR DONATE TO OUR GOAL.



**Purpose:** To support UrbanPromise Toronto's outreach to the children and youth living in the Toronto Community Housing neighbourhoods.

**Passion:** We know that these children and youth have amazing potential. And we desire to unleash their God-given abilities.

### 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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