

URBAN PROMISE

2023 CHRISTMAS GIFT CATALOGUE



GIFTS THAT GIVE BACK



UrbanPromise
TORONTO

REACH
A CHILD,

RAISE
A LEADER,

RESTORE
COMMUNITY.



SHAWN JAMES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The foundation of our mission is to reach children with the love of Jesus. We seek to express and share Jesus' love through intentional programs that focus on academic achievement, social development and spiritual awareness & knowledge. As we teach the Bible, we desire to demonstrate Jesus' love by caring for each child holistically by supporting their physical, emotional, and educational needs.

As one of our staff recently remarked, as missionaries, we are simply 'doing life' with our children & youth, even beyond our formal programs. We do this by showing up at their school sports events, attending parent-teacher meetings, having a meal together, visiting their homes and being present during their most difficult times. It is a 20-year journey with a child and their family, and as we do these foundational things, we will raise them into leaders who love the Lord and restore their community.

As a team, we recognize that we cannot do this work in our own strength, and we certainly cannot demonstrate God's love without first abiding in Him and experiencing His love for us.

"⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4: 9,19)

During this Christmas season, we desire to share with our community that this time is not about the material gifts given but rather the greatness of God's love towards us by sending His Son.

As we enter the Christmas season, our prayer for you and our team is that we will experience God's love and be able to pour it out to others. Thank you for your partnership and prayers.

Merry Christmas,

Shawn James



As we approach the Christmas season, we are excited to share our first Christmas Gift Catalogue. Each gift featured in this catalogue represents an opportunity to **make a tangible difference in the lives of children and youth living in the Toronto Community Housing neighbourhoods we serve.**

This Christmas, embrace the true spirit of giving by offering a gift that goes beyond material possessions. Instead of traditional gift exchanges where items might end up unused or forgotten, we invite you to consider a more impactful and purposeful approach to gift-giving this year.

As you browse the catalogue, know that these gifts are more than just presents; they represent an investment in our mission to reach children, raise leaders and restore community.

As you select your gift, we pray you'll experience the joy of knowing you're making a lasting impact, helping children and young leaders discover their potential, embrace faith in God, and develop the passion to serve their community.



WHY URBAN PROMISE?

Children growing up in Toronto Community Housing want what any kid wants. They want to feel safe & secure, loved and connected to others, while dreaming about a future full of opportunity and to be anything they want!

Toronto Community Housing (TCH) is Canada's largest social housing provider, with buildings in 106 of Toronto's 158 neighbourhoods. TCH is home to over 105,000 diverse tenants who live on a low median household income of \$19,831 per year. 35% of residents are youth under 24 years, and single parents lead 80% of the households with children.

Poverty is more than insufficient income. It also includes, but isn't limited to, a lack of access to basic human needs, meaningful employment, adequate and affordable housing, safe neighbourhoods and social services.

We at UrbanPromise Toronto understand the reality of children who live in TCH. **We are committed to helping children, and youth reach their full potential** as we know that well-supported, educated, and resilient children and youth are integral to the future of our society.



My son started camp at age four and is now six. At camp, he learned to make new friends and cooperate with others. His interactions at camp with different age groups have given him a sense of belonging, knowing that there are older kids who care and look out for him. As a mom, witnessing his kindness and empathy to others at home and within our community is beautiful. Camp doesn't only help his social, emotional and cognitive skills, but they also create memories that are going to last a lifetime." —Sue M, mother



SPONSOR A CHILD

Relationships are cultivated with children through our AfterSchool Program and seasonal camps. This gift covers the program expenses for one child for one month.

In 2023, we had more than 100 children across our three camps.

\$36

“Working at Camp Truth has helped me become more confident and comfortable taking on more significant responsibilities. Realizing that my voice and opinions have value and knowing that the kids look up to me inspires me to become a better leader. I’ve built the courage to step up when needed and learned it’s okay to step back and let others lead. I believe this is an important quality in a leader. I love that camp is a safe place, even for me as a StreetLeader. I’m encouraged to share my opinions, and I’ve learnt how to handle good constructive feedback.” —Jada, Streetleader



SPONSOR A STREETLEADER

High school-aged youth who were once participants of our programs are hired to work at camp as StreetLeaders. This gift will provide one week of meaningful employment & leadership development for one StreetLeader. **In 2023, we hired 35 StreetLeaders.**

\$80

SPONSOR A COMMUNITY INTERN

As StreetLeaders become young adults, they are released to multiply the impact of UrbanPromise Toronto. This gift will support former StreetLeaders who desire to join our team to lead the next generation of young leaders in UPT communities. **We currently have three community interns.**

\$100



“

Restoring the community of Mount Olive is like tending to a wounded family. It’s about mending broken connections, shattering stigmas, and ensuring no one feels left behind. We must embrace each person’s unique story and struggles, fostering a sense of belonging that erases isolation. We can break down the walls that keep us apart by organizing workshops, support groups, and events that encourage open dialogue, like what we do at camp. This isn’t just about rebuilding structures; it’s about rebuilding trust, empathy, and the shared humanity that binds us. In doing so, Mount Olive can become a place where everyone’s voice is heard and valued.” —Sara, Community Intern



\$55

SNACKS FOR CAMP

Snacks are vital, and arguably the most anticipated part of our AfterSchool program. After a long day at school, we provide snacks to ensure children and youth have the energy and nutrients needed for optimal learning and engagement in activities. Snack time also allows children to socialize, share experiences, fostering friendships and a sense of community. We introduce diverse and healthy snacks to teach children about nutrition, encouraging them to make healthier choices in their daily lives.

DAY TRIPS AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Day trips provide unique opportunities for experiential learning and personal development. Exploring museums, attractions, or parks exposes our children and youth to new environments and perspectives. We prioritize day trips as they encourage curiosity, critical thinking, and adaptability as children and youth navigate unfamiliar surroundings. They are brief yet impactful experiences that foster a sense of independence and broaden horizons, instilling confidence and a desire for exploration. They also break the cycle of routine, expanding their knowledge and developing skills that contribute to their overall growth and future success.

\$94





GIFTS THAT GIVE BACK

I would like to make a gift towards:

- ☐ \$36 – Sponsor a Child
- ☐ \$55 – Snacks for Camp
- ☐ \$80 – Sponsor a StreetLeader
- ☐ \$94 – Day Trips and Experiential Learning
- ☐ \$100 – Sponsor a Community Intern
- ☐ \$125 – YMAD Retreat

My donation is a: ☐ One-time Gift ☐ Monthly Gift

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

I would like to give my gift by:

- ☐ Cheque (enclosed) made payable to: **UrbanPromise Toronto**
- ☐ Preauthorized bank withdrawal (VOID cheque enclosed)
- ☐ Credit Card: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX

Card # _____

Expiry (mm/yy) ____ / ____ Signature _____

Give online at urbanpromise.com/christmas
or complete this form.

Please note that if more funds are received for a particular program, project or item than required, UPT reserves the right to use the surplus funds in a similar Board-approved program, project or item. For donations of \$10 or more, a receipt will be issued for income tax purposes. Canada Revenue Agency Registered: 88913 5810 RR0001

\$125

YMAD RETREAT

Our Youth Making A Difference (YMAD) retreat will be held during March Break 2024 for Jr High youth aged 11-14 yrs. This gift will cover the cost for one of our youth to attend. **We are planning on having 45 youth join us for this retreat.**

At this retreat we focus on developing leadership skills, deepening relationships with each other, engaging in experiential learning and increasing their spiritual awareness.

Proud to be certified by
the Canadian Centre of
Christian Charities.



**Canadian Centre for
Christian Charities**
ACCREDITED MEMBER