

2022/2023 IMPACT REPORT

ROOTED





SHAWN JAMES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.” —Colossians 2:6-7

In early 2020, we launched our three-year strategic growth plan, aiming to expand our reach, amplify our impact and secure the people and financial resources to support our ministry.

Fast-forward to 2023, and God has moved beyond our expectations. In the final year of our strategic plan, our theme was ROOTED. We focused on our team being rooted and built up in Christ, enhancing our programs, increasing our staffing, and commemorating our 25th anniversary.

One of my many highlights for the year was the key partnerships that enabled us to provide intentional experiences that fostered growth in our children and young leaders.

During one of my camp visits last summer, I observed a partnering organization teaching our youth how to paint and attach wheels to their skateboards. Four words caught my eye on the classroom’s whiteboard: comfort, fear, learning, and growth. After that session, I learned the meaning. Each session, our youth wrote their

name on a Post-it note and placed it on the word representing their feelings.

These four words reflect the progressive growth in our children and StreetLeaders. They step out of their comfort zones, conquer fears, learn new things, and experience spiritual, academic, social, and leadership growth.

I am excited to share this year’s report and to have you join us in glorifying God for all the great things He has done.

Looking ahead, we will take time this year to prayerfully discern our next strategic plans and focus on stabilizing our ministry for continued growth.

Grace & Peace

Shawn James



LOIS TULLO
CHAIR

On behalf of my fellow board members, I am delighted to share the achievements of the past fiscal year.

2023 marked a significant milestone - 25 years of UrbanPromise Toronto serving Toronto Housing Community neighbourhoods. As we reflect on the impact God has allowed us to make over these years, we are grateful for His provision through generous gifts from you, our partners in this ministry.

Under Shawn James' leadership, the UPT team continued to innovate and create new programs to ensure relevance and enhanced service to the communities. Programs like UPward Leadership and the Community Intern Program speak volumes about their dedication to holistic development and fostering spiritual formation among program participants.

A heartfelt thank you to the commitment of the entire UPT team for their diligent work and service, as they aimed to be more 'Rooted' in the communities they serve.

Board of Directors

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
WALTER JONG, Financial Management Executive (retired)
WILL JIN, Executive, Venture Capital
NATALIE BLAKE, Professor, Humber College
KATHERINE ISAAC, Head of Customer Success, Flare Systems
CALVIN QUEK, CEO, Brightmark



STAFF CARE AND DEVELOPMENT



STEPHANIE MCBRIDE
DIRECTOR,
STAFF CARE & DEVELOPMENT

In 2023, we welcomed seven new team members - three Ministry Supervisors and four Community Interns - resulting in fully staffed camps.

Adding these three Ministry Supervisors allows our Community Directors to concentrate more on coaching their teams and building community partnerships.

We also introduced our Community Intern Program, a year-long paid internship that prioritizes spiritual

formation, growth and hands-on training. These young adults, three from our communities and one from UrbanPromise Wilmington, aspire to have a future in ministry in their local area. Having these interns serve alongside our team has been impactful, as the benefits are many when individuals who are intimately connected to their neighbourhoods participate in restoring community.

Thank you for your generous support, which allows us to provide opportunities like our Community Intern Program.



UPWARD LEADERSHIP

Led by Ayesha "Champion" Madden and Janelle "Jello" Jong, Leadership Development Coordinators

In January 2023, we launched UPward Leadership, an immersive program for young leaders to further develop self and team leadership skills through experiential learning, workshops, and mentorship.



Participants attended leadership development retreats at Muskoka Woods Leadership Studio, engaged in virtual mentorship calls, explored colleges and university options, and delved into discipleship experiences.

This program brought together current StreetLeaders and UPT alumni, who served as mentors and leaders. Relationships were formed, and noticeable growth was observed as we focused on spiritual growth, leadership development, establishing church connections, exploring college and career options and fostering community leadership.

100%

reported growth in their self-confidence,
communication and time management skills

90%

reported growth in their
understanding of teamwork and
their ability to work as a team

80%

said positive progress in conflict
resolution and self-regulation

90%

reported increased knowledge
and understanding of Jesus
and the Gospels.

**Here's what our first-year
participants had to share:**

"It has helped me become a better person for myself and the people around me. I've learned how to lead and be led."

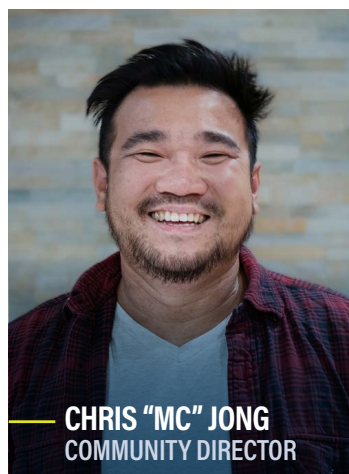
"It has allowed me to fellowship with other younger believers. Not only did I share my experiences and faith with them, but they did as well, allowing me to learn things I didn't know and helping to strengthen my relationship with Christ."

"Overall, the leadership program didn't only elevate my skills, but it transformed my approach to life. It instilled in me a sense of purpose, empowering me not just to lead but to inspire and support others on their journeys as well."



OUR COMMUNITIES

CAMP VICTORY



CHRIS "MC" JONG
COMMUNITY DIRECTOR

At Camp Victory, our community partners' support confirms that it does take a village to raise our kids and youth. Last winter, our Neighbourhood Community Police Officers introduced YMAD (Youth Making A Difference) participants to ice fishing on Lake Simcoe. And in the spring, we teamed up with Zawadi Farms to teach kids about urban farming. These unconventional 'classrooms' expanded the horizons of our youth. Prioritizing academic growth, we provided one-on-one reading support

and outdoor reading tents (in the summer), thanks to the support from United for Literacy.

At Christmas, we brought the whole community together for a dinner party with the support of Encounter Kingdom Ministries Toronto and Toronto Community Housing. Camp Victory remains known to be a safe place for children and youth, which is possible because of the support of Thistleton Baptist Church and the Rexdale Community Hub, who generously provide free program space, ensuring our ongoing commitment to serving Mount Olive.

Community Partnerships: Toronto Community Housing, Toronto Police Services, Engage #416, United for Literacy, InnerCity Outreach, Chik-fil-A (Yonge & Bloor), St. Andrews' Catholic School, Second Harvest, Kids Up Front Toronto, Zawadi Farms, Rexdale Community Hub, 23 Division Community Police Liaison Committee

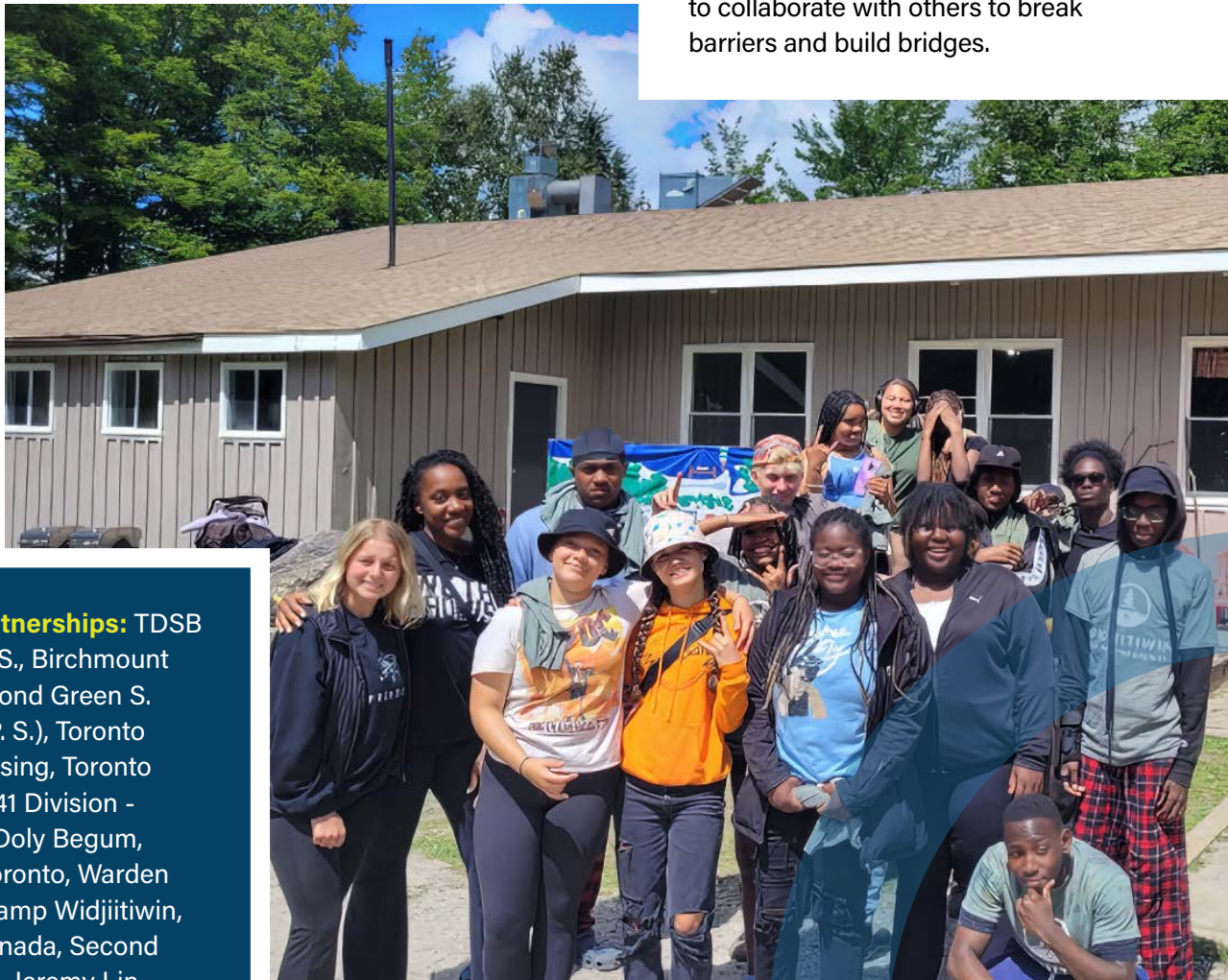


CAMP HOPE



Our partnerships have been an incredible blessing and a constant source of encouragement for us at Camp Hope. Last summer, we had a few great opportunities to intentionally invest in some of our camp's YMAD (Youth Making a Difference). Partnering with Ships2Shores (a 5-day sailing experience) and Camp Widjiitiwin (a 6-day overnight camp), we continued to provide experiences that foster their development in teamwork, resilience, self-care and self-confidence.

In Fall 2023, we deepened our connections with local schools, sports, and arts organizations, resulting in a more robust AfterSchool. A new outreach program was formed through our partnership with the Canadian Chinese Youth Athletic Association (CCYAA) and Jeremy Lin Basketball School with Purpose Driven Training. "Hoop with Hope" is a 24-week program offering participants high-quality basketball instruction and training. We're blessed to be able to collaborate with others to break barriers and build bridges.



Community Partnerships: TDSB (Taylor Creek P. S., Birchmount Park C. I., Richmond Green S. S., Oakridge Jr. P. S.), Toronto Community Housing, Toronto Police Services 41 Division - Oakridge, MPP Doly Begum, Kids Up Front Toronto, Warden Underground, Camp Widjiitiwin, Broad Reach Canada, Second Harvest, CCYAA, Jeremy Lin Basketball School, Purpose Driven Training and Chick-fil-A (Yonge & Bloor).

CAMP TRUTH



For summer 2023, our goal for the children in Glamorgan, especially our YMAD (Youth Making A Difference) group, was to create unforgettable experiences. Partnering with CHILL Foundation (skateboarding), Jays Care Foundation (baseball), and Clinch Culture (Muay Thai) brought unique opportunities to do just that. Over the six weeks, CHILL Foundation instructors guided YMAD in building and painting their own skateboards. Witnessing them develop baseball and Muay Thai skills was also a highlight, considering many were new to these sports.

Continuing the momentum of growth in our numbers from summer, in September, we expanded our AfterSchool Program, enabling us to reach even more children in this beloved neighbourhood. With a new Ministry Supervisor, Kimberly, joining our team and the use of the rec rooms in both 6 & 7 Glamorgan, we now have dedicated safe spaces and leadership for our younger kids and YMAD. The growth in participant numbers and our expanded facilities reflect the positive momentum in Glamorgan, and we're grateful for these opportunities.



Community partnerships: Toronto Community Housing, Jays Care Foundation, Clinch Culture, CHILL Foundation, Second Harvest, Frontline Connections, Rosalie Hall, TDSB (Glamorgan Jr Public School), Seneca College (Placement Student), Kids Up Front Toronto

OUR IMPACT

CHILDREN
210

REACH A CHILD

5-14 years

Program focus: growth in spiritual awareness, academic achievement and respect for self and others.

86%

of children said they enjoyed learning about Jesus

88%

of children said they learned how to treat others with respect at camp

90%

of children said they feel loved and belong at camp

Jesus

be
kind

dancing

math

wordup

don't
hurt
others

Baseball

hula
hoop

don't
lie

football

bible

games

respect
others

be
nice

These are the words most frequently mentioned by children when asked to share what they learned during our programs.

CAREGIVER QUOTE:

"When my family found ourselves in a crisis, the staff were really supportive. They provided my children and I with support by giving them a safe space to talk through and understand their emotions. In addition, they checked in with us, ensuring that we understood that they were interested in what was happening and were open to ways they could help support us. Support came in the form of prayer, words of encouragement, and helping us to understand how the children felt as they journeyed in their own ways."

RAISE A LEADER

15-19 years

Program focus: spiritual growth & maturity, leadership development and community service.



of leaders said they believe in or are growing in Jesus (learning Christian disciplines, sharing faith)



of leaders said they've improved in their self-leadership (incl. initiative, teachability, responsibility and self-regulation)



What our StreetLeaders say— How are you impacting your community?

- "Giving more than what is expected."
- "I find that I am able to connect with kids I work with in my community not only through camp but outside of camp as well."
- "I'm making a safe place for the next generation."
- "I'm impacting my community by being a walking testimony and an example of his grace."
- "Leading the kids in my community in a positive way."



RESTORE COMMUNITY

20-25 years

Program focus: build strong foundations in church connection, college and career path, and community leadership.

COMMUNITY INTERN SPOTLIGHT

MIYA “MOCHI” ISABELLA GORTHY-GRANADA COMMUNITY INTERN

Why did you decide to join the community intern program?

I decided to join the community intern program because I really enjoyed what I was already doing at UPT as a StreetLeader and Program Director. I wanted to continue working at camp and felt I needed more of a challenge beyond being a StreetLeader, but I wasn't quite ready to be a supervisor. I wanted to improve my leadership and administrative skills; so when this opportunity was presented to me, I could not let it pass by.

Can you share a particular moment or accomplishment that stands out to you?

Observing the growth in my StreetLeader's leadership skills, like their punctuality, communication, and responsibility, stands out to me. Also, seeing how hard they work on their relationships with the kids and YMAD and how much respect they get in return. Both of these show me that our mentoring and coaching are working and the time we invest in StreetLeaders is fruitful.



What kind of support have you received from UPT during your internship?

I've received a lot of positive support in many aspects. One example would be the encouragement and tools I've received to grow in my faith and knowledge of what it means to be a Christian. It's great to be surrounded by people who are fellow believers and willing to have open conversations where my thoughts and questions aren't judged. Our staff meetings have also been a safe place for me.

How do you think this program contributes to the overall mission of UPT?

This program is directly linked with the 'Restore Community' phase of UPT's leadership pathway. It's an opportunity to learn ministry work and be challenged because it's a preview of what a Ministry Supervisor position is like. I've gained so many new skills while continuing to serve the community.

CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS

One of our highlights was the return of Mission Teams at our summer camps.

We welcomed five youth and young adult groups to participate in a week of service alongside our ministry teams. Thank you - Harbour Fellowship Church, C3 Church, Richmond Hill Christian Community Church, Chinese Evangelical Alliance Church of Toronto, Emmanuel Barrie, and Richmond Hill Chinese Baptist Church - for being 'co-labourers' with our teams last summer.

"For we are co-workers in God's service..."

1 Corinthians 3:9a



How would you describe your mission team experience?

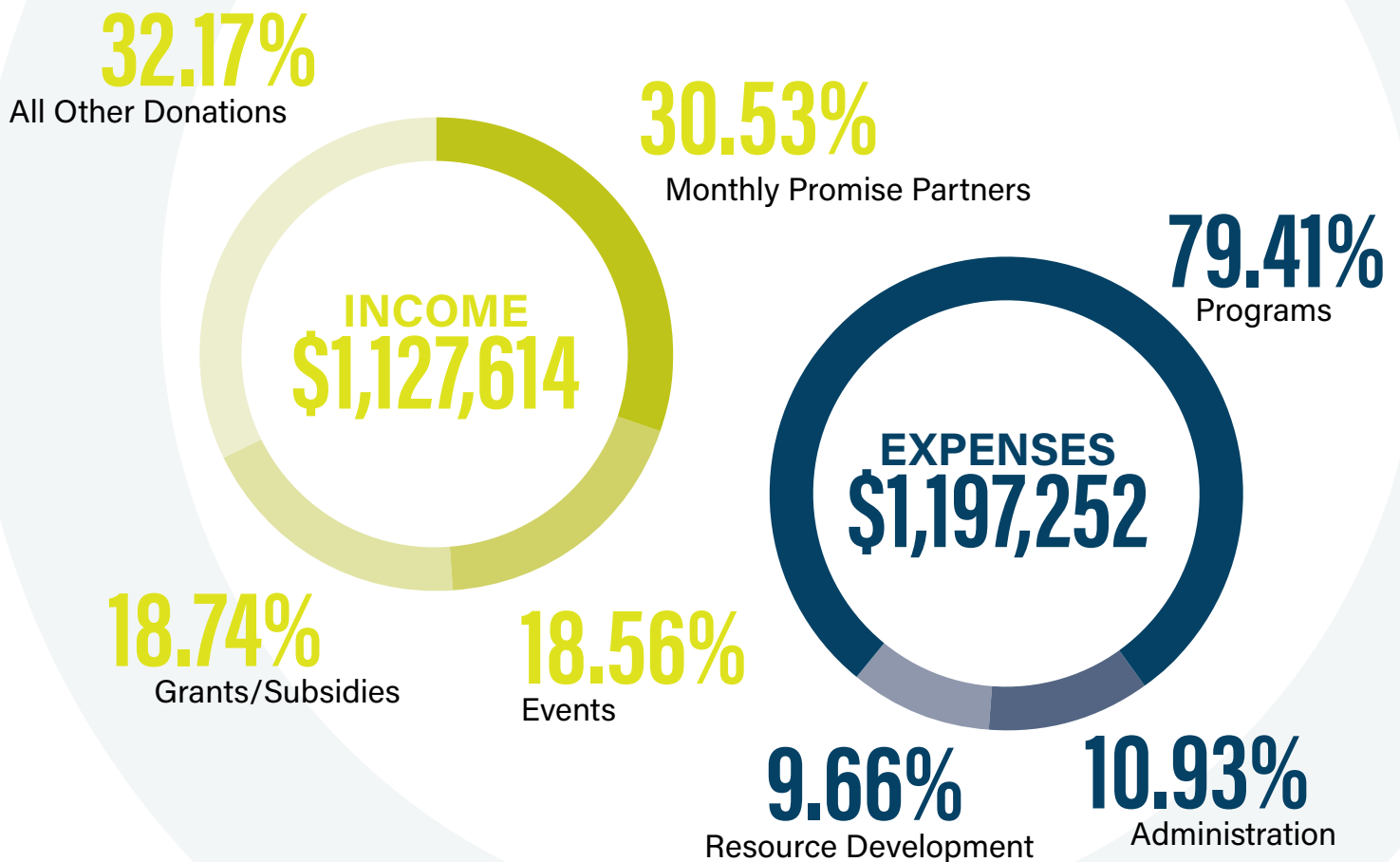
"Eye-opening. For our team, who have only served in the church, it helped them to see that ministries outside of the church are important and look very different from what they are used to." —Sarah



We're also grateful for the participation of the following churches in our Run For Promise 2023:

Thistletown Baptist Church, Toronto Chinese Methodist Church, The Peoples Church—Caribbean Fellowship, Toronto Chinese Mennonite Church, Milliken Christian Community Church and TrinityLife Church

FINANCIALS



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.



Canadian Centre for
Christian Charities
ACCREDITED MEMBER

*Completed audited financial
statements available on our website.
UrbanPromise Toronto proudly
accepts the seal of organizational
integrity and accountability.*



REACH
A CHILD,
RAISE
A LEADER,
RESTORE
COMMUNITY.

MAILING ADDRESS:
UrbanPromise Toronto
502-685 Sheppard Ave E
North York ON
M2K 1B6

Tel: 416.516.6121
Email: info@urbanpromise.com
 @UrbanPromiseTO
 @urbanpromiseto