

Summer 2024

UPDATE

URBANPROMISE.COM



As we wrap up our 2023/2024 AfterSchool Program, our focus now shifts to summer camp. On July 8th, we'll kick things off as we welcome 160 children across all three communities. The highlight of these 6 weeks is the quality time we spend with our campers and StreetLeaders. Our teams have planned 72 hours of engaging Bible lessons and 1,080 hours of exciting activities including: trips, sports, experiential learning and a focus on literacy. We're offering children experiences they'll love and never forget.

We're excited to offer employment and volunteer opportunities to nearly 50 StreetLeaders, who will

collectively spend 12,000 hours positively impacting children.

Our summer camps benefit not only the children we serve but also their families and the rest of the community. A parent in our community shared, *"I know my son is safe at UrbanPromise and it helps me a great deal, especially as a single mother. It's very comforting to know that besides myself, there is essentially a family my son belongs to where he is treated fairly and exposed to different experiences..."*

A community outreach worker shared, *"I've noticed increased confidence and connection to the programs UrbanPromise provides, specifically during the summer months with their camps. The young people who attend the program seem to have a renewed*

commitment to their community and overall well-being."

As the saying goes, "The most precious gift you can give someone is the gift of your time and attention," and we look forward to doing just that this summer.

Thank you for investing in our ministry so our team can spend time reaching children with the love of Jesus and raising leaders who restore their community.

Grace & peace



Shawn James
Executive Director

OUR COMMUNITIES

CAMP VICTORY

—Chris “MC” Jong, Community Director

Camp Victory has always felt like a family for our community, and this year was no exception. There’s a feeling of trust and safety, as we know we can be real with each other. Celebrations are a big deal, whether it’s great test marks, making a team, passing their driving test or getting accepted into their preferred university/college. And when things don’t go as planned, we are there to offer comfort and reassurance. In times of sharing meals, dance battles, laughter and tears, we offer support in the big and small moments.



We’ve found this to be the perfect ‘soil’ for our StreetLeader program. Our expectations for our young leaders are as high as our belief in their potential. We aim to raise “24-hour people,” leaders who are consistent in their faith, character, and behaviour. It’s an honour to see our StreetLeaders, who were once kindergarteners in our program, confidently believing they can change their community, which starts with God changing them.



CAMP HOPE

—“Kuya” Julius Vincent Naredo, Community Director

For many years, we have served our Camp Hope families with donated food from Second Harvest. Recently, several mothers from our community have stepped up to help unload, organize and distribute this food to their neighbours. God orchestrated, as only He can, an opportunity for us to pray with these moms. That moment has since grown into a weekly prayer group, where they now invite other moms to join.

Whether in a program or on a basketball court, our focus is to introduce children and youth to the One who gives hope. Our “Hoop With Hope” outreach, provided high-quality basketball instruction while emphasizing that basketball is “MORE THAN A GAME” and challenging our youth and their leaders to fix their eyes on Jesus both on and off the court. We’re grateful that two young girls and one teenaged girl committed to following Jesus during our AfterSchool Program. And this spring, one of our StreetLeaders outwardly proclaimed his faith by being water baptized. We thank God for the work He’s doing in our community.



CAMP TRUTH

—Kelly “Mama Kells” Stouffer, Community Director

With 4 years under our belt, Camp Truth experienced a growth spurt in 2023-2024. We hired a new Ministry Supervisor, Kimberly, welcomed a Community Intern, Darnell, and hired 6 StreetLeaders. Having access to the recreation rooms in 6 and 7 Glamorgan, allowed us to expand our programs to serve the community in greater ways. The additional space made way for us to increase our numbers for our Y.M.A.D. (Youth Making A Difference) middle school group while maintaining a consistent attendance in our AfterSchool Programs.

One of our key advocates and community partners, received funding from City of Toronto and TCH grants, which facilitated outreach to high school students in the Glamorgan area. Each week, these youth gathered for dinner, participated in workshops on topics like financial literacy, conflict resolution, managing relationships, and even recorded a podcast about issues in their community. Our team was excited to support these efforts and enjoyed building relationships with the youth.

URBANPROMISE TORONTO MEETS URBANPROMISE WILMINGTON

*Ayesha "Champion" Madden,
Leadership Development Coordinator*

In April, we accompanied eight leaders from our UPward Leadership program on a mission trip to UrbanPromise Wilmington in Delaware. With lots of enthusiasm and a willingness to serve, these leaders embarked on a journey of service and self-discovery.

With hearts open and minds prepared for the unknown, our team immersed themselves in the daily operations of UrbanPromise Wilmington. Mornings were spent assisting in classrooms at either UrbanPromise Academy or the UrbanPromise High School, and in the afternoons, our team served in their AfterSchool programs across three sites. Beyond these scheduled activities, our leaders participated in daily Bible studies, cooked meals together, explored the city, and even helped relocate one of the camps to its new home.

Over the week, our leaders were exposed to new and diverse teaching methods, deepened their faith, and stepped out of their comfort zones. Though it was hard to say goodbye, many expressed their excitement about how they would like to implement some of their learnings at camp with UrbanPromise Toronto.

By serving, they not only gave back to the community but also received invaluable lessons in leadership and compassion. Throughout the trip, personal experiences



were exchanged, enriching conversations flowed, and bonds were forged not only with the children but also among the leaders themselves.

We were grateful for this opportunity to give back to another community within the UrbanPromise family.

RUN FOR PROMISE 2024

OCTOBER 19 & 20

Learn more at
urbanpromise.com/run

Join us as we walk, run and fundraise to 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.

RUN FOR PROMISE

WALK. RUN. FUNDRAISE

HELP FUEL THE FUN. SUPPORT OUR SUMMER CAMP



As a trusted organization in Mount Olive, Glamorgan and Warden Woods, families know that our camps will be safe, fun and engaging. Many families depend on our programming to provide their kids with experiences they wouldn't have otherwise.

This year, we need to raise \$75,000 to cover summer staff and programming costs, including space permits and transportation for our day trips. Your financial support will make a huge difference, helping us to create lasting memories and positively influence the children, youth and families in our communities.

Here's the impact your gift can have:

- 1) Support a child's program cost for 1 week: **\$42**
- 2) Support a child's program cost for 6 weeks: **\$252**
- 3) Support a StreetLeader's salary for 1 day: **\$115**
- 4) Support a StreetLeader's salary for 1 week: **\$575**

Will you consider providing your best support to help us reach our goal? Thank you for your generosity and commitment to our mission in Toronto Community Housing neighbourhoods.

GIVE TODAY AT
urbanpromise.com/summer

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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