



# TORONTO CITY MISSION

2019 - 2020

# ANNUAL REPORT

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as your trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

It is fascinating to see the connection between hope, peace and joy in this verse. All three are seen as flowing from trust in God and an openness to His power working in us. But even more, God is described as the God of hope! He is the source and sustainer of this optimistic and life affirming perspective.

We can look to the future with hope (and peace and joy) as we know that the God who guides us is trustworthy and loving.

Hope was, in many ways, the contour of the past year for Toronto City Mission. The opportunity to continue the ministry on the new structure was met during the past year. A deeper sense of calling guided the rebuilding of Toronto City Mission. Staff are sensing the call of God to join the mission as evidenced by the commitment to raise their support.

Hope guided the leadership provided by Elliott Shin and shaped our response to the changed world caused by the COVID 19 reality. It was and continues to be challenging times, but the God of hope gives us courage and energy.

Our volunteers and outreach staff are learning that they can bring Christ's hope to communities impacted by poverty by spending time and building positive and loving relationships with the children and families.

The families in our communities are learning about the hope that can be found in Jesus Christ through the consistent support and encouragement from TCM staff and volunteers.

Our youth are learning that they can bring hope to their communities by being positive leaders.

Will you join us as we look to a hope-filled future? You can partner with us through prayer, by contributing financially and through volunteering.

May you overflow with hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.



Ken Little, Board Chair





# ABOUT TORONTO CITY MISSION

## VISION

Through God’s transformational power, we build loving relationships to bring hope to children and families impacted by poverty.

## MISSION

Families impacted by poverty will lead transformed lives.

As the Executive Director of Toronto City Mission I am happy to guide you through this annual report , just look for this symbol **ES** to read my reflections.

- Elliott Shin



Over the past year we have made every effort to live out this mission statement through our words and actions. We were overjoyed and thankful to have served the Kingston Galloway and Flemingdon Park communities, as we witnessed God at work. Our 2019-2020 year was like no other.



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# CORE VALUES

## **Compassion**

We seek to stand with those who are suffering from the effects of poverty.

## **Relationships**

We value personal relationships with all our participants, partners and personnel.

## **Dignity**

We value the unique purpose and worth of every individual and seek to help them use their God-given abilities to give back to their communities.

## **Integrity**

We seek to be open and honest in all of our thoughts, words and actions

# APPROACH

## **Transforming lives by building preventative programs:**

We help children, youth, and adults rise above poverty by providing preventative programs. Our programs are designed to equip them to make wise choices about school, friends, relationships, work, and the future.

## **Transforming lives by building relationships:**

Our desire is that every child, youth and adult in our programs will come into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. We build relationships with the community and strive to be a positive presence. We rely on the relationship with our partners in order to multiply the effectiveness and breadth of impact.

## **Transforming lives by building leaders:**

We invest in our volunteers and interns and in return these leaders give back to their city and are role models in the communities in which we serve. We intentionally mentor and equip children, youth, and adults to become leaders in their own communities through programs such as Teens Leading Communities.

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# Spark | Purposeful Giving



## PRAY

Praying is foundational to a believer's life; it sustains, protects, encourages, and leads us. It is relational rather than telling God what, when and how we want something. Prayer is becoming more intimate with God in order to understand His desires and passions for us and those we pray for.

**"Now devote your heart and souls to seeking the Lord your God."  
1 Chronicles 22:19**



## VOLUNTEER

Volunteering is the action to our faith; we serve God through serving others. God has given us gifts and has called us to use these gifts to be active witnesses for His glory in service to others. Regular volunteering builds relationships that last.

**"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."  
1 Peter 4:10**



## GIVE

Giving is an act of obedience to God. God expects us to give, and give cheerfully to the Church so that the Church can be generous with giving to others who need it. In return, God is faithful and we receive His blessings in abundance.

**"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow."  
1 Corinthians 3:6**

# BOARD



**Ken Little**  
Chair



**Steve Chu**  
Vice Chair



**Nesa Gulasekharam**  
Treasurer and Secretary



**Maureen Pryce**  
Board Member



**Stephen "Steve" Mitton**  
Board Member

We also had noteworthy changes to Toronto City Mission's Board of Directors. Ken Little, Steve Chu, Maureen Pryce, and Stephen Mitten joined Nesa Gulasekharam on our board. It was wonderful welcoming each new board member! For me it has been an encouragement and delight serving under our new board. They have much to offer and bring a wide variety of gifts and experience.

# STAFF

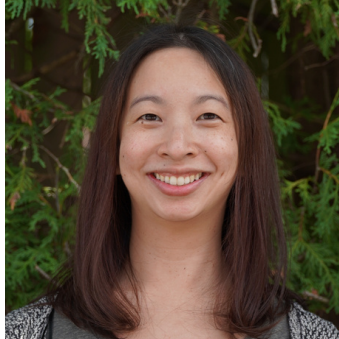
This was also a year where we had significant changes to leadership. In September of 2019, I was asked to take on the role of Acting Executive Director. I am pleased to announce that as I pen this update, the “Acting” label has now been removed.

Over the fall and early winter months of 2020 our team grew. We greeted Outreach Workers Lincoln Li and Nuri Lee (Flemingdon Park), Abigaille Alpay and Rachelle Alcazaran (Kingston Galloway) to our staff.

ES



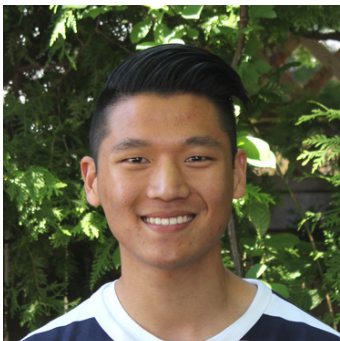
**Elliott Shin**  
Executive Director



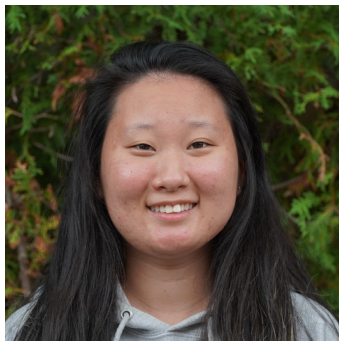
**Dorothy Wong**  
Manager of Operations



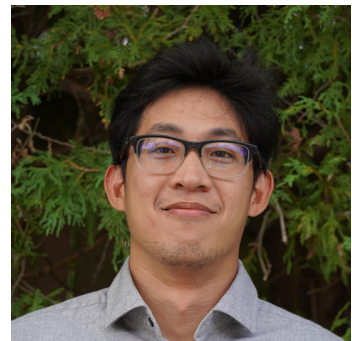
**Carol Bain**  
Manager of Finance



**Adam Ahn**  
Communications Cord



**Nuri Lee**  
Flemingdon Park



**Lincoln Li**  
Flemingdon Park



**Rachelle Alcazaran**  
Kingston-Galloway



**Abigaille Alpay**  
Kingston-Galloway



**Carmen Tan**  
Kingston-Galloway





# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019-2020

# SONSHINE DAY CAMP



Abigaille was a 23-year-old grad student when she found out about Toronto City Mission from a friend who'd been a summer intern before. An aspiring psychotherapist with a tremendous love for Christ, she began her internship at our Sunshine Day Camp last year expecting to teach kids about the gospel. But, "lessons I thought I would be teaching kids, they taught me instead," Abigaille shares, "valuable lessons such as patience, grace and forgiveness."

Over the course of her internship, Abigaille had the opportunity to lead camp-goers through activities like arts and crafts, drama, dance, singing, bible stories, and field trips. And through these activities, she was able to develop relationships with curious, energetic, and intelligent kids impacted by poverty.

For children like these, Sunshine Day Camp not only provides a fun, exciting place to be during the summer, but plants the seeds for personal and community transformation through Christ. During her internship, God worked through Abigaille to transform the heart of a camp-goer who began camp hating God and thinking that God hated her. By the end of camp, the camp-goer no longer hated God. In fact, her curiosity about God and His love had blossomed.





“[Sunshine Day Camp] allowed me to take moments of solidarity with God, to really seek and ask him for help in times of trouble, to ask for God’s patience, strength, peace of mind and knowledge,” says Abigaille. Her experience as an intern embodies the growth and transformation that God delivers through our Sunshine Day Camp. Even as an Outreach Worker, she says it’s the lessons she learned as an intern that inspire her.



Our year began by welcoming 9 interns in the summer of 2019. Over the summer months, our Outreach Workers and interns trained, planned and executed 7 weeks of day camp for our 2 communities. Through worship, bible studies, meals/snacks, music, arts and crafts, swim days, games and field trips, we were very blessed with an excellent summer of camp ministry! During the summer, we also had the difficult task of saying goodbye to David and Leon, our 2 German missionaries from the Liebenzell Mission.

# GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

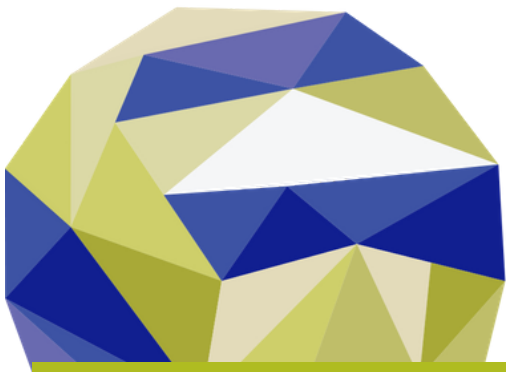
Before programs ended for the calendar year, we had the wonderful opportunity to gather with the families of the children and youth in our programs to celebrate the Gift of Christmas. We enjoyed a wonderful meal provided by friends of TCM, enjoyed songs and dance by the children, satisfied our sweet tooth by decorating sugar cookies, and heard a special message about the birth of our Lord and Saviour.



We hosted wonderful, spirit filled Christmas celebrations at each of our communities. With the addition of 4 field education students from local colleges, we were well staffed to make a positive impact in our communities.

ES





# SPIKEBACK 2020

On Friday, February 21, 2020, 14 teams came together to participate in TCM's annual SpikeBack Against Poverty indoor beach volleyball tournament with the goal to help send children impacted by poverty to TCM Sunshine Day Camp.

In late February of this year, we hosted our annual "SpikeBack Against Poverty" beach volleyball fundraiser. Although worried about being in a new venue, this event more than exceeded our expectations! We welcomed 8 new teams to this annual fundraiser, more participants, and raised more money than we hoped for! The success of SpikeBack added to the encouraging momentum we were experiencing. Everyone had an overall desire to bring hope to children impacted by poverty. We were pleased and thankful for God's blessings.

ES



Top tournament team: Ascension

Top fundraising team: Smash Brothers - \$2,035

Top Fundraiser: Pratheep K - \$785

IN 2020, PARTNERS AND SPONSORS RAISED

# \$18,842.56

IN SUPPORT OF SONSHINE DAY CAMP





Less than a month after SpikeBack, the Covid-19 pandemic hit Ontario and the rest of the world. Our city was shut down, we were told to stay home and lock down. The world around us changed. Unfortunately, this news came just a few days before March Break Day Camps.

Covid-19 created tremendous instability in our lives and also to the life of TCM, and we had little choice but to suspend all programs. In the weeks that followed, we tried our best to follow government public health guidelines. Although our Outreach Workers were removed from programs we were unwavering in our desire to share the love of Christ with our communities. So we tackled head on the challenge of figuring out how to best love, value and care for our families from a distance. This led us to the simple solution of offering online programs. With the help of generous donors, we were able to provide reliable laptops to all of our participants who required a computer. Although meeting online can never fully take the place of live, in person interaction, we were so thankful that such technology was available for us to use. For the next several months, online programs and phone calls became the lifeblood of our ministry.

It would be careless of me if I did not note some of the things we have learned through being quarantined with Covid-19. First and foremost, we learned clearly that God continues to provide for the needs of TCM. In fact, early on in the pandemic, we were receiving generous gifts from both friends and strangers. We also learned a new way of doing ministry, that building strong and healthy relationships was paramount in doing our work effectively. Although our Outreach Workers worked from a distance, this did not affect their ability to build strong, lasting, and God ordained relationships. Further, we as a staff learned to be thankful in difficult times. That even in the midst of a global pandemic, God showed us beauty, affection, and encouragement through the folks we served, from donors, from partners, and from each other.

Yes, Covid-19 hampered and hindered our positive ministry momentum, but as in any problematic times, God demonstrated and challenged us to not let Covid-19 deter and discourage us from loving, caring and reaching the communities we passionately and lovingly serve! I ask deeply that you would persist in praying with us as we all continue living through these uncertain and difficult times. TCM friends, your prayers and partnership are truly appreciated!

ES

Elliott Shin, Executive Director

# TESTIMONIALS



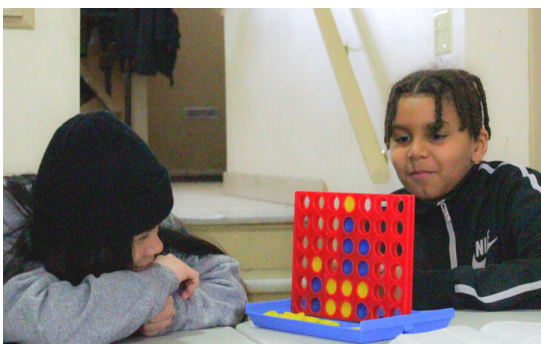
## FLEMINGDON PARK



Flemingdon Park is generally not the place our families want to be staying. Over the course of this single year of being with Toronto City Mission, both of us (Lincoln and Nuri) have heard several times from different families about their dissatisfaction with living in this community and their hopes and plans of leaving. Despite this, the families TCM has grown in relationship with in the years previous to our (employment) arrival have warmly welcomed us into their community and hearts. Even though we both held some prior experience with mission work, it was hard venturing into this new role and making it our own. Yet, the parents always had encouraging words to share with us while the children gave us no mercy.



The children are often faced with people coming and going in their lives so it was a challenge to gain their trust. Overtime, they would show bits of softness toward us. We've witnessed tears shed, shared a few tummy-aching laughs, inevitably disciplined individuals and whole groups; we've journeyed with the kids through a year's worth of Gospel teaching, experiencing, and learning, and have seen some genuine disinterest -- but also some genuine interest -- in Jesus Christ within their hearts.



The Holy Spirit moved when we least expected in directions we could not have seen -- like this pandemic. But above everything, God has shown us tremendous love and grace through the heart He has gifted and grown in us. We're excited to witness how God will continue moving in the times to come!

Lincoln and Nuri  
*Flemingdon Park Outreach Workers*

# PARENT TESTIMONY

## 1. How long have you lived in Flemington Park? What do you love about your community?

I've been here for 23 years. Living in this community is not easy. There are many things going on like violence and shootings. Every year there is a shooting. We do not have enough income to move out but if I had a choice I would leave. I'm not happy with the community. But even though there are a lot of not-so-great influences here, there are also some really kind people. Some of the people are very friendly (I would say about 50/50), and I have made good relationships with some of the people.



## 2. What challenges do you and your family face on a regular basis? What challenges do you see in your community?

One challenge is having our kids grow up and be influenced by some of the kids here. We don't want them to join "outside" things, like bad influences, smoking, drug dealing, marijuana, swearing. I always tell them if they have a friend who says bad things to tell me right away. We want them to learn to be children of God. Finding good friends for my children is important and also learning to set limits for them.

## 3. How would you describe the staff of TCM and the presence of TCM in the community?

I can say they are very useful and have blessed us. Finding Christians and people to talk to about God made me very comfortable. They are teaching others about my religion and the Word of God and how to behave themselves. Very amazing.

## 4. What is your hope for your family and the community?

My hope for this community and my prayer everyday is to have the kids knowing Jesus and stop the violence, that seeds would be sown and they would believe in Jesus. A lot of the kids around here grew up in the church, so they know the Word of God. It's just practicing it. Stopping people in their drug dealings -- so many kids here stop their education at high school; but we have to be light to them. People look bad at the community when I mention where I live. People describe it as a ghetto or a place of violence. They think of all the people in this way. But I am not like that. There are some good people here. I am always praying everyday to God to keep the area safe. Years ago, it was much worse but it has gotten a little less violent so God hears our prayers.

## 5. Is there anything else you would like other people to know about TCM?

It's a very good after school program. It's helpful that we don't have to pay money because these things usually cost something. And they teach children the Word of God and all of the workers have just been so kind. They also give time for kids to do homework and help them with it. It's been very good.

Brigitte  
Parent in Flemington Park



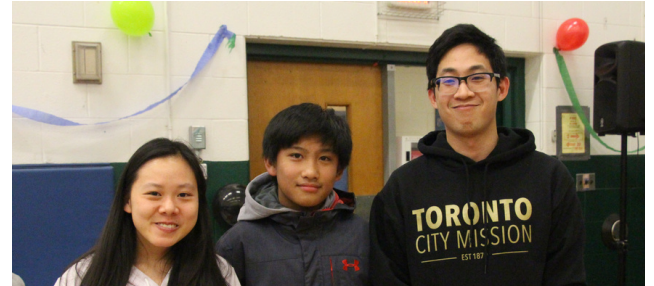
# YOUTH TESTIMONY

1. How old are you?  
How long have you been a part of TCM?

I'm 12. I'm not sure how long I've been at TCM. Since programs first started here.

2. What specifically do you like about TCM?

I like getting to know people I never knew before in this community.



3. What challenges do you face on a regular basis? What challenges do you see in your community?

I face a lot of intimidation from doing sports and video games. People are intimidating. In the community there's violence; shootings happen near my home and near the program.



4. What are two things that you have learned since coming to TCM?

How to make friends; become more open about myself.



5. What have you learned about Jesus through TCM?

God heals people. God can make people feel better emotionally or even heal something like a broken arm.

7. Is there anything else you would like to share about TCM?

6. If you were to invite someone to participate in TCM programs what would you say?

Yo, you should join, you're gonna make friends, it's epic. I need friends, be my friend.

It's epic! I learned more about Jesus and I made friends with people in the community.

Peter  
Youth in Flemington Park

# VOLUNTEER TESTIMONY

## 1. Where do you volunteer?

Initially I volunteered at St. James Town (for Sonshine camp and afterschool), and then Willowtree (for Sonshine camp and afterschool), and now Flemo.

## 2. What challenges do you see the kids/community facing on a regular basis?

A lot of unfortunate events that occur around the neighbourhood like shootings; lack of safety in general. Financial situations for families aren't the best. Travelling and commuting is sometimes such a challenge (like one of the girls who attend our program commutes so long on TTC just for school). The kids really struggle with getting attention; a lot of them crave it so much.



## 3. Why did you decide to volunteer with TCM?

Every time I volunteered in the summers, I came out with more experience and learned new things through the kids and just seeing what God can do through you or me. It may not seem like much but it really has a positive impact on these children, so being able to be a positive role model to the children encouraged me to volunteer more. The bible verse, "the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few" always comes to mind when thinking about TCM because there are a lot of lives being impacted and we do not even realize. I've witnessed it at each site I've been at. Volunteering gives me joy. Even though I had to start brand new at Flemington Park and make new relationships, it was still so good and you never know what God will do.

## 4. How have you seen God at work through TCM?

Seeing how kids grow in their faith and their curiosity in God. Remembering Kyra (from St. James Town) back in the day as a child before being TLC or a regular volunteer. Seeing how we've been able to help children understand the Bible and trust in God and spread the Gospel.

J

*Volunteer at Flemington Park*

# KINGSTON-GALLOWAY



The start of programs last year in Kingston-Galloway (KG) brought on a mix of bittersweet emotions. This was the last year for a lot of our kids, and the end of the school year would mean that they would be graduating from our programs as well. Kids in our KIC program would be moving on to Youth Extreme, our program for junior and senior high school students. We even had one of our previous program kids graduate from high school and move on to the work field! It was exciting to see our kids step into the future and it was amazing to look back at the growth that each of these kids went through.

Carmen has been an Outreach Worker at KG for three years now. The kids had a lot of behavioural challenges when Carmen first connected with them, but over time she has seen true changes within them. They learned how to control their temper, how to love and care for one another, and most importantly, they learned about Jesus and the hope and love that He gives us. Each child, youth, and TLC became more responsible, more caring, more engaged, more helpful, and more creative. As these kids graduated, their younger siblings joined us. Suddenly, we had more younger kids in our programs. We also started to have a waitlist for our programs because the graduated kids' families spread the word about the impact that TCM had on them. Although we were sad to see some familiar faces go, we were eager to meet some new ones as well as we welcomed Rachelle Alcazaren to the staff team.

We were happy that Carmen and Rachelle would still be able to connect with the graduates through their families and younger siblings. Throughout this year, God has shown us just how great He truly is. Through our programs, we are able to connect with not only the kids, but with their whole families. We thought that the pandemic would cause these relationships to be cut off, but in reality, we were all brought closer together. We were able to connect with the families on a deeper level and we thank God for the opportunity to be witnesses of His love and hope during this time. God truly moves when you least expect it and we are eager to follow in the direction that God is taking us this year.

Carmen and Rachelle  
*Kingston-Galloway Outreach Workers*



# FAMILY TESTIMONY

It's a bright and sunny day. The homemade curtains made from bed sheets provide just the right amount of covering on the apartment windows. The Smith's had moved into this apartment in 2018 after living in a shelter. That same year Annette's husband had a stroke and was placed into a long-term care facility and in that instant Annette had the responsibility of being both mother and father to her three children.

Annette has noticed frequent police presence since moving into the community, but in general, people tend to be doing their own thing. She has gotten to know some of the other parents in the building & has even been a helping hand to her neighbours. One of her neighbours is a mother with a young child. While Annette was helping her, the mother asked her, "How do you manage with three kids and a sick husband?" Annette replied, "I have God & I have faith in Him."

The spring that they moved into their current apartment, a friend had told them about a community BBQ that TCM held in partnership with Heron Park Baptist Church. It was at this BBQ that Annette met TCM Outreach Worker Carmen. With her signature big smile, Carmen told Annette all about TCM and even signed her daughter Ashley up for Sunshine Day Camp.

Since Ashley's involvement with TCM, Annette has seen her daughter grow as a person, becoming more engaged with her peers, and has more focused energy. Annette has been more relaxed knowing that TCM staff and volunteers have been helping Ashley with her reading and math homework. She also appreciates the one-on-one help because Ashley struggles with learning in big groups. Annette has also noticed a difference in Ashley's attitude and that she is becoming more independent.

"Thank you to all the staff for what they do every week. Ashley has grown so much. Being part of TCM has helped me stay connected with Ashley." - Annette

The Smith Family  
*Kingston-Galloway*



# YOUTH TESTIMONY



Hayden has been part of TCM since she was in Grade 4 and she is now getting ready to enter her first year of high school. She is nervous about the transition as she envisions high school like the stereotypes that she has seen on TV and in the movies (i.e. Mean Girls). Despite this, she is looking forward to learning more about herself in this new season and grateful that she has two other friends who are going to the same school with her.

Hayden immigrated to Canada from Jamaica when she was 8 years old. She traveled with her parents, younger sister and baby brother. All three of the children are a part of TCM programs. Hayden first learned about TCM when a TCM Outreach Worker went to her school to share about the after school programs that were being offered.

Since then, she has participated in the after school programs, day camp in the summers, and for the past two years she has been a TLC youth leader. Hayden loves the welcoming atmosphere and the opportunity to grow and learn about God while having fun at the same time. This is why she loves being a TLC. It means a lot to her to be able to be kind, show compassion, and exercise patience with the younger children the way the staff have modeled for her, as well as being able to teach them about God.

During quarantine, Hayden missed going to TCM and seeing the faces of the children, other TLC's, and staff: people that were like family to her. Since being part of TCM she has had the chance to visit different places in the city, have fun and make friends, learn how to make pizza and then teach it to the children, and the wonderful experience of growing in her knowledge about God. She is thankful that TCM continued to stay connected with the families during COVID-19 because it would have been very sad if they didn't.

Hayden  
*Kingston-Galloway*

# VOLUNTEER TESTIMONY

On Mondays (prior to the pandemic), Blossom would be working downtown at a children's hospital. After a full day of work, she would head to southeast Scarborough-the community of Kingston-Galloway to be specific-to volunteer at Toronto City Mission's EPIC (Education Provided in Community) tutoring program. There she would meet with her student Ashley and spend one hour helping her with her homework.

Blossom was looking for an opportunity to work with children specifically in the area of education. She learned about TCM's EPIC tutoring program and the idea of one-on-one tutoring, with the opportunity to build a relationship with a child who is impacted by poverty really appealed to her. After going through the volunteer application process, she was matched with Ashley.

Ashley is an energetic child who is always full of life and questions. Due to certain exceptionalities, Ashley often found it hard to focus. This caused her to fall behind in her academic learning. Over time, that one hour of tutoring went from constantly asking Ashley to come back to the table, to her being excited to learn with different resources provided by TCM staff. Ashley now has a stronger foundation in math and is learning to love reading. During the time of COVID-19, Blossom's time with Ashley moved from in person to online. During that time Blossom and TCM Outreach Worker Carmen saw answered prayers as God helped Ashley become more focused and engaged in her homework. Small improvements were noticed each time. God also opened doors for Blossom to connect with Ashley's mom Annette. Not only was a positive relationship being formed between Blossom and Ashley, but also with Annette as well.

"I would encourage others to join in the work of Toronto City Mission. It is a small time commitment but very rewarding, developing relationships and seeing the kids succeed." - Blossom

Blossom  
Kingston-Galloway



# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at June 30,

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Cash	164,518	55,040
Marketable securities	1,087,087	1,067,915
Accounts receivable	5,064	21,805
Prepaid expenses	6,539	9,111
Restricted cash	25,000	25,000
Capital assets	1,351	2,251
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1,289,559</b>	<b>1,181,122</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	7,651	33,643
Deferred revenue	85,167	30,408
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
General Fund	1,171,741	1,092,071
Endowment Fund	25,000	25,000
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>1,289,559</b>	<b>1,181,122</b>

# STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the year ended June 30,

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Individuals	189,829	231,573
Churches and Ministries	112,045	178,826
Foundations	56,550	213,802
Government Grants	36,244	43,138
Corporations	29,033	16,048
Special Events	18,978	13,504
Gifts in Kind	10,374	4,811
Investment income	9,392	22,959
Bequests	452	31,162
Recoveries and Fees	0	6,055
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>462,897</b>	<b>761,878</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Community Programs	216,110	692,636
Operations and Administration	96,002	114,830
Resource Development	71,115	172,415
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>383,227</b>	<b>979,881</b>
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenses</b>	<b>79,670</b>	<b>(218,003)</b>



**TORONTO CITY MISSION**

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