

CityINSIGHT



Summer Intern with kids at Sunshine Day Camp

New Community, New Friends

Reflections from a parent in Flemingdon Park

My family moved from St. James Town to Flemingdon Park in June 2017. As the mother of two girls, Shumoorah and Maya, I knew this transition would be a little hard for them to get used to. When school ended, I was looking for a camp the girls could attend. I had heard about Sunshine Day Camp previously while we were living in St. James Town and I found out that it was also offered in Flemingdon Park. This was a great opportunity since it was close to home and it would help the girls make new friends in the area.

Sending them to camp last year helped them make friends and become less shy, which made it easier for them to transition into a new school. This year, they requested to come back to Sunshine because they really enjoyed it last summer. Even though I am not a Christian, it is wonderful that the girls share with me what they have learned. Both Shumoorah and Maya have better knowledge of the Bible and they love worship time at camp. I constantly hear them singing worship songs at home. I make effort to tell my neighbours about this camp because I think it is great.



Shumoorah (left) and Maya (right)

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Sonshine Day Camp Impact

Who is Jesus to you?

"Jesus is my Saviour."



What is your favourite thing about Sonshine Day Camp?

"The games!"

What is your favourite thing about Sonshine Day Camp?

"We get to go on field trips and play with friends!"



What does Jesus mean to you?

"He's my Heavenly Father and my Saviour."



Thank You Interns and Mission Teams!

Willowtree
Fraser
Eunice
Jasmine
Janice



St. James Town
Grace
Chantal
Priscilla
Adam



Kingston-Galloway
Justin
Enniael
Jonathan
Stephanie



Flemingdon Park
Gigi
Noel
Lincoln
Jungsoo



Lakeview Church Saskatoon, City On A Hill, Oklahoma City First Church of the Nazarene, Holy Mountain Presbyterian Church, Chinese Gospel Church Scarborough, Faith Church, St. Timothy's Presbyterian Church, Mississauga Family Baptist Church, Toronto Christian Community Church, East Toronto Chinese Baptist Church, Mississauga Family Alliance Church

EPIC Impact

An interview with Halbert and Ericka about their tutoring experience at EPIC

What skills have you learned from EPIC?

H: Reading

E: Essay writing

What was the program like with the tutor you had?

H: After I did my homework, my tutor let me play with his board games. That was really fun.

E: It's nice to have a one-on-one tutor because all the focus is on me. My tutor and I had a strong bond because we were together for two years.

What do you like most about EPIC?

H: They teach us religion so we get to learn about God.

E: I got to play board games with the leaders and I didn't have to do my homework alone.



Halbert and Ericka

How did EPIC help you grow?

H: They helped me learn what it means, how it works, and how to do it.

E: My tutor helped me understand the concepts behind my homework and I did better overall academically.

What is your hope for the future?

H: I want to have the same tutor.

E: To see a tutor (Rosemary) I had in the past come back. And although I've been getting 80's and 90's, I want to do even better in my studies.

Role Model Moms: Only the Beginning

By Sara Corcoran, Community Access Coordinator

Our support at Role Model Moms is not only limited to the classroom, but it also strives to support our students' struggles at home and in the community. Our community lunches, childcare-staff interactions, and promotions of post-secondary opportunities have been great ways to discover exactly how our program is impacting the students and how we can reach everyone's needs.

COMMUNITY LUNCHES

Every Wednesday, our teaching assistant toils away in the kitchen to provide a delicious community meal. **These lunches open up a safe environment where moms can discuss their struggles, make friends, and seek support.** Experienced mothers always offer wisdom and suggestions to the newer moms, and it is wonderful to watch them build each other up. Many of them are starting over in a new country with a new language. The most common issues they face are finding affordable housing and solidifying their immigration statuses. Although we network with every program and resource we possibly

can, sometimes the most encouragement is found watching the students support each other and find answers through sharing what helped them most.

CHILDCARE

Our childcare staff have also been making sure our students have all the resources available to help them face difficult socio-economic issues. After discussing their children's development in the childcare, our staff have learned about the struggles some mothers have at home as parents. Our staff have helped them identify any behavioural or developmental concerns. Many of the moms have accessed speech therapy, Ontario Early Years programs, and developmental assessment services through the suggestions of our staff. **It has been a blessing to see how these services help the children grow and build self-confidence.**

POST-SECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES

Our program coordinator, Chiara, seeks to motivate our students to think past

graduation, set goals for post-secondary education, and re-enter the workforce. Many of our students are re-entering school for the first time and they doubt their capability of continuing school. Our moms attended a seminar held by Ryerson and University of Toronto, which discussed topics relevant to helping mothers tackle the barriers to post-secondary education. **Our moms shared that all these resources gave them hope that their pursuit of education didn't have to end with Role Model Moms - it was only the beginning.**



Community Partnership Perspectives: City on a Hill



City on a Hill mission team with
Sunshine Day Camp

We, at City on a Hill, love our partnership with Toronto City Mission. At City on a Hill we also love the gospel; I mean we really love it. We love it in the way (I hope) that the Apostle Paul loves it. He loved the gospel so much he was willing to get in the face of a fellow Apostle (Peter) who was living hypocritically, in a manner that wasn't in line with the gospel. In the same letter Paul says that even if an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse (Galatians 1:8). That's the way we want to love, guard, and share the gospel. And that's why we look for like-minded gospel partnerships in our city. We've found such a partner in Toronto City Mission. To quote one more verse from Paul, TCM is "not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16). We love TCM because they too love the gospel and make it the very center of all they do. We believe these gospel partnerships are the only hope for our city.

In Christ,

Peter Yi, Lead Pastor
City on a Hill

City on a Hill (COAH) is the English Ministry of Young Nak Presbyterian Church of Toronto. They exist to lead peoples near and far to become devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Spark | Purposeful Giving

Spark is a community of supporters who engage with Toronto City Mission on a regular basis. Through praying, volunteering, and giving financially, we can build a sustainable foundation to bring hope to children and families impacted by poverty.

To learn more about how you can become a Spark, visit www.torontocitymission.com/spark



PRAY

- Pray for the children who attended Sunshine Day Camp, that they will continue to cultivate an interest and desire to know who God is.
- Pray that the kids in the school year program will learn what it means to be a leader in the community.
- Pray that God would provide the resources needed to continue our school programs in our six communities.



VOLUNTEER

We rely on volunteers to help out at programs throughout the year. Specifically **we need volunteer tutors** in four of our communities. Our hope is to pair up the kids (between Grades 1-12) with one tutor.

Please visit the website for more information and to apply to be a volunteer.

www.torontocitymission.com/volunteer



GIVE

Why is regular financial support important?

Regular financial support helps us build a sustainable foundation. We rely on generous financial support from people like you who know TCM and understand the importance of bringing hope to children and families impacted by poverty. **Will you join our efforts?**