



2020 - 2021

# ANNUAL REPORT

TORONTO CITY MISSION



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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD



I am delighted to report that the challenges of the past year of ministry in the context of Covid 19 were met by the staff and volunteers of the Toronto City Mission. This was made possible through the perseverance of each person and the sustaining power of God as we turned to Jesus for wisdom day by day.

TCM's vision is that **"Families impacted by poverty will lead transformed lives."**

We start with the recognition that the work of transformation which brings hope is **God's work**. It is the quiet but powerful work of the Holy Spirit. Our role is to be co-workers with what God is already doing and intending to do in the lives of others who need to experience His love and presence.

How do we work together with God? I John 4:11&12 provides a clear insight. "Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us." When we love others, God is made visible to them through our loving relationships.

This is central to TCM's approach to ministry. TCM is not primarily about programs, though programs do help. We are about **building loving relationships** with families to whom we minister. Our commitment to this approach made it possible to be impactful despite the many Covid restrictions during the past year.

But programs are important and can become instrumental in providing the opportunities for learning and wisdom that lead to hope and transformation. Having the knowledge (after school homework mentoring) and access to technology (such as laptops) can help shape **self-confidence to make wise choices** amid the pressures to conform to the negative influences of our society. Knowing that God uses suffering and hardship to shape us to be stronger and more resilient and more like Jesus can bring hope.

And providing opportunities to lead for both community families and youth, and for interns and volunteers, **develops leadership confidence and skills**. This in turn can lead not only to individual growth, but to community transformation as well.

Positive, transformational change is possible because of God's love and power. Our role at Toronto City Mission is to build loving relationships, implement programs that share learning and wisdom and provide opportunities to lead in the service of others.

As you review this annual report, celebrate with us what God has done. And as we look forward to the year ahead, we look forward to continuing our partnership with you as you serve God's kingdom with us through prayer and the gifts of time and financial resources.

Ken Little, Board Chair

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Friends, I am grateful and thankful to be able to write this update to the Toronto City Mission (TCM) community. This past year was unparalleled to any other previous year, for we spent the duration living and ministering with the Covid 19 pandemic hovering over us.

This past year, we did not host summer day camps, we could not offer Christmas celebration dinners to our communities, our loving Outreach Workers were rarely afforded opportunities to visit families, and, except for a couple of weeks in the fall of 2020, our programs were offered completely online. Further, staff could not engage in in-person meetings and fellowship. Yet there was not one complaint voiced. Collectively Outreach Workers worked tirelessly to provide the best possible virtual program experience, made significant efforts to contact and care for parents, and spent much time trying to advocate for the families we serve each week. We learned to truly love and value our communities from a distance. Through these efforts, we witnessed the lives of children, youths, and families being transformed by God's love and power!

In October of 2020, after an almost 2-year absence, we were extremely blessed to re-engage and reboot programs at our Willowtree community (Yonge-Finch). Moreover, in the spring of 2021, TCM expanded our partnership with Stone Church to launch a brand-new ministry community in downtown Toronto to start early 2022! We will be calling this new ministry site "Jesse Ketchum."

There was also good news on the staffing front. Last fall, Fraser Houston and Katherine Ma responded to God's call to be our Outreach Workers at our Willowtree community. Further, this spring Alan Chu came on board as our new Fundraising Coordinator. After a couple of uncertain and turbulent years, it is wonderful to report that there is a newfound sense of stability with staff.

So, in the midst of the Covid 19 global pandemic, we learned God was still very present and very much at work in the ministry of TCM. Further, we learned that God is more than capable of sustaining, encouraging, and loving us in difficult times. How blessed we were to have grown community relationships when meeting in person was so rare. We very much look forward to a time when we can once again minister in-person as we care, love, and share God's love to our communities!

A special show of gratitude to all our "Sparks." Thank you for your continued support through prayer, finances, and your sacrifices in volunteering your valuable time with us.

Friends, as we head into another year of ministry, please keep our staff in prayer, as through God's transformational power, we desire to build loving relationships to bring hope to children and families impacted by poverty.

Peace and Grace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Shin", located below the "Peace and Grace" text.

Elliott Shin, Executive Director

# 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.

## 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.

# 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**



## 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**



## 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**



# BOARD



**Ken Little**  
Chair



**Steve Chu**  
Vice Chair



**Nesa Gulasekharam**  
Treasurer and  
Secretary



**Maureen Pryce**  
Board Member



**Stephen "Steve"  
Mitton**  
Board Member



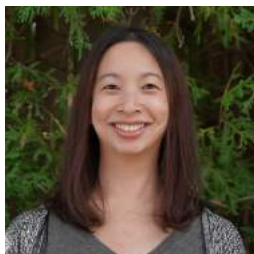
**Moni Kim**  
Board Member



# STAFF



**Elliott Shin**  
Executive Director



**Dorothy Wong**  
Manager of Operations



**Carol Bain**  
Manager of Finance



**Abigaille Alpay**  
Communications  
Coordinator



**Alan Chu**  
Fundraising  
Coordinator



**Nuri Lee**  
Flemingdon Park



**Lincoln Li**  
Flemingdon Park



**Rachelle Alcazaran**  
Kingston-Galloway



**Carmen Tan**  
Kingston-Galloway



**Fraser Houston**  
Willowtree



**Katherine Ma**  
Willowtree





# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020 - 2021



The summer of 2020 was unique and one to remember. Without the usual joy and delight that Sunshine Day Camp brings (field trips, swimming days, Bible lessons, praise and worship, and much more), the Outreach Workers became creative in the way they reached communities and families. After time in isolation (March - June), Outreach Workers were able to re-engage in small numbers.

# Sunshine DAY CAMP

The staff in Kingston-Galloway and Flemington Park were thrilled to take part in walk-by treat days, family visits, and visits to the park to share God's love. All with proper PPE. This was only possible through the generosity of churches and partners who had donated sanitation (cleaning) supplies and masks. Through the small, but meaningful encounters with families, youth, and children, we discovered that building relationships superseded extraordinary program planning.

Outreach Worker Lincoln, serving in Flemington Park, emphasized the importance of being present in the community to show the community who Christ is. Due to technical difficulties, holding Sunshine Day Camp online was challenging for Flemington Park staff. Instead, Nuri and Lincoln decided it was best to spend time in the community.

Lincoln planned the perfect schedule for when they met the kids. He crafted activities and Bible lessons to teach the kids. However, his plans did not go the way he wanted them to. God showed him the importance of simplicity and being present in the community instead. By hanging out at the local park with the kids, playing volleyball, going on mini adventures around the neighborhood, and teaching the kids how to skateboard, both Nuri and Lincoln were able to build their relationships with the children. Bible time became informal, and it wasn't complicated or elaborate.

Through building relationships with the children and youth, Lincoln realized that they can see Christ through the leaders. If there are circumstances where they are not able to teach the Bible, living out their lives as Christians and showcasing the life of Christ can start conversations about the Gospel.





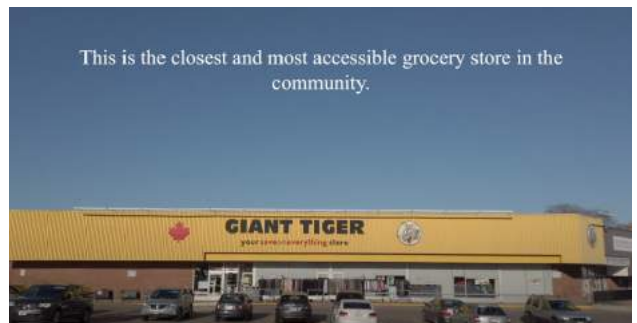
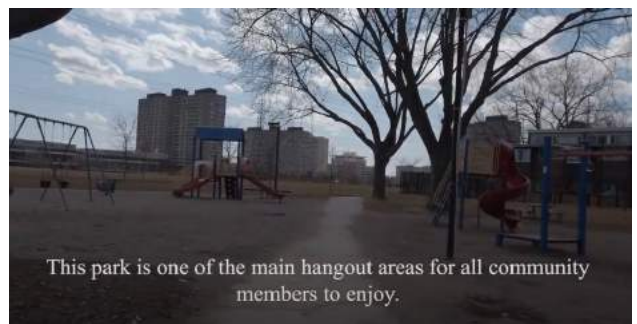
# SCOTIABANK RUN

For the first time, Toronto City Mission took part in the Virtual Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon in October 2020. Staff and friends raised money to help children, youth and families impacted by poverty to participate in preventative programs such as afterschool programs, tutoring, and Sunshine Day Camp. Through the efforts of all those that participated and donated we raised a grand total of \$9,710.00.



# PRAYER WALK

During the pandemic, we were all encouraged to stay home and in light of this, Toronto City Mission found a way for supporters to learn and pray for our communities. TCM created virtual prayer walk videos for Flemingdon Park, Kingston-Galloway, and Willowtree. Included in these virtual prayer walk videos was information on the specific community and their prayer needs.



TORONTO CITY MISSION  
*Gift of Christmas*  
 2020

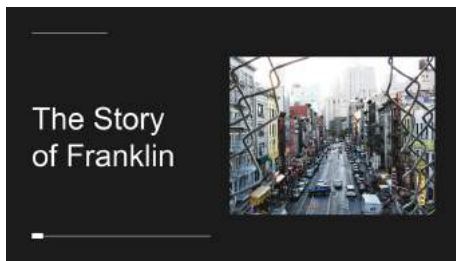
While we couldn't gather in person to celebrate the Gift of Christmas, Outreach Workers were able to drop off gifts to the homes of the families and celebrate online. Families enjoyed a Christmas dinner provided by friends of Toronto City Mission. Family members were also able to reconnect with one another through various activities such as gingerbread house making and board games. The generosity that we received from our supporters allowed children and families the opportunity to hear the message of the birth of our Lord Jesus all year round through programs like KIC, EPIC, and Youth Extreme.





# VIRTUAL ESCAPE ROOM

One way Toronto City Mission brought awareness to issues related to cycles of poverty is through a virtual escape room called "Escaping the Cycle of Poverty". Through this virtual experience, participants learned the root causes and possible ways to alleviate poverty. As a team, they helped the main character find solutions to escaping the cycle of poverty. It was a good opportunity for friends to get together, but also learn more about poverty in our city and develop a more compassionate understanding of the challenges faced by families impacted by poverty.



# SPARKING HOPE IN THE CITY

During the month of May, Toronto City Mission held a virtual event called 'Sparking Hope in Our City' where TCM Outreach Workers shared updates on their communities, including how youth, children, and families were experiencing the pandemic. Testimonies of youth and families were shared and guests were able to learn more about the relationships that were built during these challenging times. It was a lovely time of fellowship with one another in hearing the good work that God has done through TCM in the past year.

**FLEMINGDON PARK**

Hear updates from staff on what Toronto City Mission has been up to, during COVID-19

**Learn how Outreach Workers, youth, and families are going through this pandemic TOGETHER**

**KINGSTON GALISOWAY**

**WILLOW TREE**

Have any questions? We would love to answer them and catch up with you! Looking forward to seeing you all!



# YOUTH TESTIMONY



Many kids typically love receiving attention, but they show it in different ways. Oliver enjoys edgy humor that has a shock factor. He loves to find the line between what's appropriate and not so appropriate, just so he can push it. When Oliver was younger, he was known to be disruptive, troublesome, and even distracting to some degree. He doesn't mean to be disrespectful, however when he is able to get other kids laughing or when their eyes are on him, it's rewarding.

Last summer, Oliver became a Teens Leading Communities (TLC) for the very first time. He had been a participant in programs for about 5 years at Flemingdon Park. He was finally old enough and he had been participating in programs regularly throughout the past year. Although the Outreach Workers weren't entirely sure how Oliver would handle his new found responsibility as a TLC, they were eager to offer him the position. For the Outreach Workers, it was a rewarding time to experience his growth throughout the summer!

What impressed the Outreach Workers was Oliver's ability to welcome Jericho (a new camper) whole-heartedly. Jericho is much younger (grade 4) than the rest of the participants of Sunshine Day Camp. He is also one of the few boys that participate. Oliver took the initiative to welcome Jericho each and every day, walk Jericho to and from camp, be fully invested in conversations he wanted to have, and reciprocate the same high energy as he has. Oliver stepped into the TLC role naturally.

The Outreach Workers were happily surprised to see him take on responsibility. As the oldest brother of the family, he takes responsibility for his younger sibling as his mother is often out working early mornings and late nights. As cool as he'd like to act, you can tell he has a big heart. The staff are delighted to see the growth in him and pray that God may continue this good work in Oliver's life as he gets older.

# YOUTH TESTIMONY



Myah has been volunteering and participating in programs for about 3 years in Kingston-Galloway. She began volunteering through Sunshine Day Camp as a youth in the Teens Leading Communities (TLC) program. What started as a means of getting her high school volunteer hours turned into volunteering throughout the school year because she enjoyed her time with the children.

The TLC program trains youth to become leaders who give back to their communities. It's a program where youth can learn responsibility, develop their leadership skills, and grow their Christian faith. TLC's volunteer their time during the school year in programs like KIC after school program and EPIC tutoring program and with Sunshine Day Camp over the summer.

Myah recalls one of her favourite things about programs was interacting with the kids. "They give awesome energy and they're always so lively and it's fun... It's an awesome experience for the children and me!"

While COVID has changed the nature of programs it did not change the excitement that the children and youth had for programs, whether it was online or in person. During the summer, KG held treat days, this was a chance for staff and TLC's to meet the community, families, and children through popsicles and freezies. For Myah, this was also an opportunity to serve her neighbourhood.

Myah looks back at her memories of the children that she first started volunteering with. "They were so different! I remember some of the kids being little kids and now they're part of the older kids' group!"



She shares that most of the girls who were much shorter than her prior to COVID, are now almost as tall as she is. She predicts that they'll be much taller than her once they go off to high school.

Myah expressed how exciting it has been to talk about her experience as a volunteer to the kids who will soon be old enough to volunteer as well. "They'll be volunteering with me soon! They'll be working with me as a TLC soon!"

Myah also takes part in Youth Extreme where she is able to learn more about the Bible and who God is. "Being with the children, and leaders has given me a chance to connect with God.... programs have helped me grow as a person." Myah explains how the Outreach Workers at programs have helped her through some hard times in her life and how they've shown love and care towards her. The staff are able to extend love and grace towards Myah because of Christ and this is something that the leaders hope Myah understands and comes to know.

# IN MEMORY OF OPAL FULLER

On Sunday April 25, 2021 Willowtree Outreach Worker Fraser Houston received a call that Opal Fuller had had a heart attack. Her heart had stopped before paramedics arrived and now she was at the hospital on life support. Opal, unfortunately, passed a few days later. We were all shocked to learn of this devastating news. Opal was in her early fifties and for many years had been a pillar of the Willowtree community. She was oftentimes the very first parent TCM staff got to know at Willowtree and she was always there to support her neighbours. In many ways she had become a second mother to many of the single moms in the community.

Her passing was a terrible blow to many families in the community who looked up to her, who relied on her, who knew they could come to her when they had no one else. She was always there to help those who needed it, yet more than anyone else in her life it was her grandkids who were first in her heart.

Fraser had the opportunity to look after them on the day her daughter went to the hospital and had to make the difficult decision to take her mother off life support. Fraser had lunch with the grandkids, took them out to the park, played Beyblades and watched Youtube videos.

Fraser also wrote letters with them, helped each of them write a letter to their grandmother who, though she was unresponsive, was still breathing and alive. They thought about what they were thankful to her for; they thought about their favourite memories with her; but they also thought about what they might say sorry for if they could speak to her again.

Later in the afternoon their mother called and Fraser put her kids on speakerphone. One by one they read out their letters to their grandma. It was a painful moment and there were many tears, but it was also a beautiful one. Though the grandkids are still young, they knew it was the last time they would speak to their grandma.



After the letters were shared and the call ended, Fraser had an opportunity to talk to them about their grandmother's faith. And as he shared this with the kids, he began to realize more deeply how much Opal had given to her community, how richly she had blessed them, how intimately she had known God's love and how abundantly she had shared it with those who had never felt God's love before. Fraser asked the kids what they thought their grandma's greatest achievement was, and what he told them was that if their grandma could speak for herself right now she would say it was sharing her faith with them.

In Opal's later years, her grandkids were her life. She took care of them fiercely, she always made sure they had the biggest lunches at our camps, she brought them to her church, and she was the one who introduced them to God's love. Opal's life is a testimony to us all of what it means to love our neighbours. Our faith is not something that is meant to be bottled up and preserved until we finally go to heaven. That is not how Opal treated her faith and life. She was generous with her faith: she poured it out on her grandkids; she poured it out at her church; she poured it out on her community. Jesus tells us that if we drink the water of this world we will thirst again, but that "whoever drinks of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty again." Instead, that water will "become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 4:14). The faith in Opal's heart was not a stagnant pool; it was a spring which welled up and overflowed onto everyone around her, and her grandkids are a living testament to the generosity of her faith.

We will all miss Opal dearly



# 2020 - 2021 PROGRAM REVIEW



## KIC - KIDS IN COMMUNITY

The joy and excitement of the kids when they arrive at the Kids in Community (KIC) after-school program can be heard down the street. Parents appreciate the safe and healthy place for their kids to go after school.

**26 KIDS**



## EPIC - EDUCATION PROVIDED IN COMMUNITY

Poverty affects education. When kids arrive at Education Provided in Community (EPIC), they are often discouraged about their grades and want nothing to do with school. We provide tutoring and encourage students to prioritize education with the intent of breaking the cycle of poverty.

**28 STUDENTS**

**21 VOLUNTEERS**



## YX - YOUTH EXTREME

Youth Extreme focuses on smaller groups of youth to develop stronger and deeper levels of trust and relationships. We see the positive, healthy, and God-loving impact that our Outreach Workers and volunteers have on the youths. As the relationships build, the youths feel comfortable with their adult role models to share about dreams and daily struggles.

**8 YOUTH**



## FAMILIES

Although we did not hold Sunshine Day Camp, we were still present within the communities, where we were able to connect with 46 families.

**46 FAMILIES**

\*Numbers are lower than usual due to our diligence of following Covid-19 restrictions and also recognizing the reality of online fatigue.



# FINANCIAL REPORT

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at June 30

<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Marketable securities	1,191,787	1,087,087
Cash	216,402	164,518
Restricted cash	25,000	25,000
Accounts receivable	9,655	5,064
Prepaid expenses	4,768	6,539
Capital assets	450	1,351
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1,448,062</b>	<b>1,289,559</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Deferred revenue	65,056	85,167
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	10,018	7,651
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
General Fund	1,347,988	1,171,741
Endowment Fund	25,000	25,000
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>1,448,062</b>	<b>1,289,559</b>

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the year ended June 30

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Individuals	280,486	189,829
Investment income	139,324	9,392
Churches and Ministries	114,180	112,045
Corporations	15,315	29,033
Foundations	14,976	56,550
Special Events	9,710	18,978
Government Grants	4,347	36,244
Gifts in Kind	2,433	10,374
Bequests	0	452
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>580,771</b>	<b>462,897</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Community Programs	233,292	216,110
Operations and Administration	103,152	96,002
Resource Development	68,080	71,115
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>404,524</b>	<b>383,227</b>
<b>Excess of Revenues Over Expenses</b>	<b>176,247</b>	<b>79,670</b>