



More Than Books and Grades

Tafar-i is a grade 7 boy living in Flemington Park with his mom and sister. He loves playing basketball, and wants to be a lawyer when he grows up. Last school year, Tafar-i was struggling with math and science. He joined Education Provided in Community (EPIC) tutoring and was paired up with volunteer James, a graduate from teacher's college who is currently applying to teach for the TDSB. James dedicated his time to tutor Tafar-i and to build a trusting relationship with him. Within a few weeks, Tafar-i's self confidence grew, and grades were improving. By the end of the year, Tafar-i's mark in math went from a 60 to an 80!



James with two kids from Flemington Park

"Volunteering as an EPIC tutor is so much more than just books and grades; it is the opportunity to bond and build a relationship with the kids and to share about Jesus. The improved grades are, well, a bonus." - James

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Family Camp: A Tale of Two Families

Natasha & Dominic

For the first time, families from the Role Model Moms program joined St. James Town at Family Camp. For some, the opportunity to go out and enjoy nature was rare. Eight Role Model Moms families had the chance to enjoy the Ignite Camp & Retreat Centre through singing worship songs, learning about God's word, fellowshiping with others, and enjoying nature.

Natasha, a Role Model Moms graduate, and her 4 year old son Dominic attended Family Camp. At first, Natasha was grumbling and complaining about how it was a Christian camp and she couldn't invite her boyfriend to come. Dominic was super shy and cried at times throughout the camp.

Near the end of the weekend, there was a change of heart for the family. Dominic overcame his shyness and made friends, played basketball, and learned new handshakes with the teenage boys. Natasha was saying how she wished the weekend was longer.

When they were in the canoe on the lake, Natasha said, "Look how beautiful the water, sky, and nature is.

God created it all!"

Please continue to pray for Natasha's family and all of the families at Role Model Moms, that they will continue to find hope in Christ.



Lyka

Lyka has been involved with Toronto City Mission for 5 years, starting as a youth attending Youth Extreme, and as a TLC (Teens Leading Community). Lyka first went to Family Camp when she was in grade 9, and has gone back every year since. She loves the chance to take a break from the city and spend quality time with friends, her brother, and her mom.

One of Lyka's favourite memories from Family Camp was when she and her friends got stranded while canoeing. The wind was so strong that it kept blowing them away from shore! Since that adventure, getting stranded in a canoe has become a Family Camp tradition of sorts.

This summer, Lyka was hired by Toronto City Mission as a summer intern. This year's Family Camp was a totally new experience for Lyka. As an intern, she had more responsibilities being a role model and leading Bible time with the pre-schoolers. This year was also different because her mom and brother didn't go, and there were only a handful of the youth from her neighbourhood that she knew. Lyka took it as an opportunity to build meaningful relationships with people from her community whom she wouldn't normally talk to.



TCM had such a huge impact in my life. I'm blessed to be able to give back.

Pray with us

As we begin our fall programs, we invite you to pray with us for the following:

- Pray for the teens who have graduated from our programs and are moving on to post secondary school
- Pray that God will continue to provide financially for our Role Model Moms program
- Pray for more volunteers for this school year, especially in Kingston-Galloway
- Pray that the children who attended Sunshine Day Camp for the first time this past summer will return for our after school programs
- Pray for continued opportunities for Outreach Workers to build relationships with the parents of children attending our programs
- Pray for the safety of the children and their families in the communities where we serve

Intern Story: Not So Different

By Abbey Shin, Summer Intern



I chose to serve in Kingston-Galloway because it is the most out of my comfort zone, and I was the least experienced with this community.

During our “behaviour management” training sessions, I imagined the worst while hearing stories from past people who had worked in the Kingston-Galloway community. I feared disrespect and rejection from the kids in the community. I started doubting whether or not the Lord did call me to this site.

A key thing the children in this community struggle with is fairness and sense of justice. Common complaints would be, “That’s not fair”, “Well, he did it first!” and so on. These

behaviours stem from lies that no one understands them nor will stand up for them. They look at other people’s lives and choose to believe lies that no one will be their advocate and pursue justice on their behalf.

The weekend before the first day of camp, I still questioned whether I was prepared for seven

weeks with these kids. However, that same weekend, God convicted my heart of how I had been comparing my life with others. My common complaints to God were: “Why do people like her so much more than me?”, “Why can’t I just be good at this?”, “When will I be acknowledged?” I realized how bitter my heart had become.

Isaiah 30:18 says, “Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you, and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to you. For the Lord is a God of justice; blessed are all those who wait for him.” Despite my bitterness, the Lord still waits to be gracious to me. Despite my own efforts to make a name of myself, God has

been trying to exalt Himself in my life in order to show me mercy. The Lord is a God of justice, therefore, I do not need to pursue justice on my own, but simply wait on Him.

Although I feared I wouldn’t get along with the children in Kingston-Galloway, the Lord graciously showed me that He has been preparing me in the midst of my wretchedness.

He humbly reminded me that I can only participate in His good work because I am His good work.

Just as Jesus became one with whom He loved, He showed me that I’m not so different from these kids. Realizing this has allowed me to extend much more grace and love to them, because of the grace and love I was first shown by God.

This is the gospel, that Jesus Christ initiated a relationship with us and chose to reconcile our sins. It is not about the work I am doing at Sunshine Day Camp, it is about the work our Heavenly Father is doing in me.

Spark | Purposeful Giving

Spark is a community of supporters who engage with Toronto City Mission on a regular basis. With reliance on God and through prayer, volunteering, and financial gifts, we can build a sustainable foundation to bring hope to children and families impacted by poverty.

Be a Spark - Pray, Volunteer, Give

JOIN THE MOVEMENT AT WWW.TORONTOCITYMISSION.COM/SPARK-PURPOSEFUL-GIVING



Community Partnership Perspectives



Jenna with some of the Sunshine Day Camp kids at Wellspring Worship Centre.

Over the last six weeks, we have had the privilege of partnering with Toronto City Mission to host Sunshine Day Camp. Everyday, a melody of chatter, song, playful screams, lessons and - best of all - laughter, filters through my office and the rest of the building. I'm often asked, "How can you concentrate when there are so many rambunctious kids, teens, interns, and staff running around?" For me, I don't think of the "noise" as noise at all. Instead, I think of it as a joyful and pleasing offering to the Lord! Seeing these kids enjoying their summer in a healthy, safe, and Christ-centred environment lets me know that we at Wellspring Worship Centre are blessing the Lord through our partnership with TCM, which began over five years ago. I look forward to the upcoming school year with excitement, as we continue our relationship with TCM through hosting programs, supporting the Outreach Workers, sending members of our congregation to volunteer, and of course, the Gift of Christmas celebration.

With love and blessings,

Jenna Leonard, Ministry Coordinator
Wellspring Worship Centre

Wellspring Worship Centre is an evangelical missionary church established in 1897. Wellspring is home to five congregations, worshipping in nine different languages. They are located at 89 Centre Avenue, near Yonge and Cummer.

Thank You Interns

- 3** Weeks of training
- 7** Weeks of camp
- 1** Summer of leading, learning, & building friendships

Flemingdon Park

Anna Chowattanakul
Rebecca Steinecke
Jemuel Chavez
Abby Corcoran
Julianna Lim

Kingston-Galloway

Michelle Wei
Shelby Lam
Abbey Shin
Justin Jo

Office

Carmen Tan
Kaylin Lee

Willowtree

Yoon Choi
Misha Ursula
Priscilla Leung
Fraser Houston
Mark Manasala

St James Town

Maim Cho
Priscilla Ip
Kristie Lam
Lyka Felonia

