



YOUTH UNLIMITED (TORONTO YFC)

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BENJAMIN OSEI: JANE AND FINCH OUTREACH

2010 Annual Report

I am very pleased to give this report for the 2010 ministry year. I give thanks to God for your partnership which enabled me to receive full support for salary and program expense throughout the year.

My family and I took the oath of Canadian Citizenship in February 2010. I will like to take this opportunity to thank you all once again for your support and encouragement.

My health continued to improve during the year. I was instructed by my oncologist to see him yearly for a check up instead of every six months.

There was marked improvement in the lives of the youth in our program during the year. None of them was involved in a violence incident or death during the year and I did not have to go to court throughout the year to support anyone because they were in trouble with the law. For the first time, over ninety percent of the youth in our programs who graduated from High school, gained an entrance to post secondary institutions. This has been a great departure from the norm of drop out and gang activities.

Hoop 2 Hope

The major funding from the ACCN for this program came to an end in 2009. We are very grateful for your financial support which enabled us to run the program throughout the year. We had two separate rite of passage ceremonies for the boys who turned 13 and 18 years old.

In March the younger boys 14 years and below, participated in the peace-building tournament organized by the Toronto Catholic District School Board. Rici Be, a Tyndale student who did his field placement with us during the year, took the leadership in organizing the boys. Again, we had the opportunity to take forty of the youth to the Air Canada Centre during the march break to watch a game between the Toronto Raptors and Oklahoma City Thunder. We were blessed to participate in the post-game outreach where people who have lost loved ones through violence came to share about the devastating effect it is having on their lives. We enrolled thirty-six new students in the program during the year.

Elite Soccer Program

This program continued to grow throughout the year. We continued the indoor program at St. Jane Frances Catholic School until the end of June. In April, we had a very successful indoor tournament which attracted youth teams beyond the boundaries of Jane and Finch. The program continued outdoors in the summer as the youth participated in tournaments around the city. In September we resumed our practice indoors at St. Jane Frances Catholic School. Our greatest difficulty throughout the year has been lack of adult volunteers.

Straight Talk

This youth discussion group continued throughout the year through a partnership with Across boundaries, a local youth mental health agency. By facilitating these weekly discussions, youth were given the opportunity to speak out about issues the concerned them. A significant number of the participants in this group proceeded to post secondary institutions.

Seeds of Hope Summer Day Camp

The 2010 camp was very successful. Thanks to GMP Securities LP who provided the funding to cover the daily operation of the camp, day trips and five day of over night camping at Camp Kwasind in the Muskokas. We were also grateful to Jericho Foundation for providing us with some funding for our camping trip to Kwasind. We received the federal government HRSDC grants to hire five student counselors for the camp. The Catholic Focus on Youth program also placed three students with us for the summer. This helped us to enroll sixty children at the camp.

We are very grateful to the Toronto Catholic District School Board for granting us the permit to use St Jane Frances Catholic School as the site for the Camp.

The Facing your Future group from Calvin Seminary in Grand Rapids, Michigan also participated in our program for a week in July. This is the third year in a row that we have welcomed this group. Thanks to Friendship Community Church and York campus Ministries for facilitating this initiative.

Each summer for the last four years, the youth from Hope Fellowship Christian Reformed Church in Courtice, Ontario have served as leaders for a week at the Seeds of Hope Day Camp. Last year, they came during the first week of August to bring additional energy and added supervision especially during our trip to wild water kingdom.

GMP Securities and Youth Unlimited Week

Since 2007, GMP Securities has been inviting the youth from Seeds of Hope day camp to spend a day with them to learn about the financial market. Last year twenty-six students from the program had this unique opportunity.

Andrea, age 16 a student volunteer at the camp writes:

"We were given a lecture on how to buy and sell stocks and then on how to analyze graphs. My knowledge of stocks was very limited before I set foot in the building. However, as the day progressed, I learned various pieces of information, such as chart patterns, trends, and channels; how to research a company on Google; and how to sell a product effectively. We also had the opportunity to experience aspects of healthy living, by practising body, stretches and karate. The exercises and the discussion succeeding really opened my eyes to the importance of real success in one's life, such as spiritual, emotional, social, and physical aspects. For the healthy living aspect we received a Nike tracksuit and running shoes! These were a nice bonus to the day!"

As usual, the youth were treated to a limousine ride to and from downtown Toronto, breakfast at Royal York Hotel and lunch at Jack Astors. The first group of thirteen students had the privilege to open the stock market

Alice Brink, Youth Coordinator for the Hope Fellowship group, who volunteered on this trip wrote:

'In the "busy"ness of business, where time IS money, we were grateful for the time that GMP carved out for our youth so that they were able to have an incredible experience that will leave an impression on them for the rest of their lives!'

Financial Support

In addition to individual donations, the following organizations, companies and churches also contributed to the outreach.

- . ***Across Boundaries, Toronto, Ontario***
- . ***CrossPoint Christian Reformed Church***
- . ***Fallingbrook Heights Baptist Church, Toronto, Ontario***
- . ***First Baptist Church, Toronto, Ontario***
- . ***Friendship Community Church, Toronto, Ontario***
- . ***GMP Securities LP, Toronto, Ontario***
- . ***Jericho Foundation, Uxbridge, Ontario***
- . ***Heritage Christian Reformed Church, Brampton, Ontario***
- . ***Hope Fellowship Christian Reformed Church, Courtice, Ontario***
- . ***Lisle Memorial Baptist Church, Toronto, Ontario***
- . ***Peoples Church, Toronto, Ontario***
- . ***Shiloh Baptist Church, Toronto Ontario***

Sincerely,

Benjamin Osei