



YOUTH UNLIMITED (TORONTO YFC)

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2017 Annual Report

I am very pleased to give this report about the 2017 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. Through your support we have seen God move powerfully in the youth, staff and volunteers involved in our programs. The Jane and Finch community regrettably witnessed increased violence over the last year as one individual who was a member of our outreach program and served as a camp counsellor at Seeds of Hope in 2012 was stabbed to death. Despite the heartache and tragedy of such violence, we are clinging to the hope found in Jesus; that He will continue to move in the hearts of young people and shine His light even brighter than the darkness that besieges our community.

Hoop 2 Hope

We were blessed to be granted free permits to use the gymnasium space of Oakdale Community Centre and Westview CSS. Oakdale Community Centre was provided by Toronto Parks and Recreation while the latter was provided by the Toronto District School Board (TDSB). We met with the younger boys (ages 8 to 13) every Saturday night and the older boys (grade 9 and above) every Friday night at Oakdale Community centre. We also went on an overnight retreat to YMCA's Cedar Glen Outdoor Centre in Schonberg, Ontario. We were provided a great opportunity to minister to boys from a variety of cultural and religious backgrounds who struggled with behavioural and attitudinal problems. With the faithful help of Paul, Calvin and Roy, we mentored and engaged the boys with positive, important life lessons such as *cautiousness*, *setting life goals*, and *what makes a great and an ideal man*. The local Police Division also sent officers monthly to engage the boys in a healthy conversation in keeping the community safe. At the closing of the season, a rite of passage ceremony was held for six of the boys who turned 13 years old to initiate them into teenage-hood. All in all, it was an honour to continue to act as a mentor to the boys through the Hoop to Hope program.

Seeds of Hope Camp

The Seeds of Hope Summer Day camp 2017 was very successful. We enjoyed many moments as children discovered more about Jesus, themselves, and each other over the 7 weeks of camp and 5 days of overnight camp at Koinonia. We received the ESDC Canada Summer Jobs Program grants to hire 7 student counsellors. Thanks once again to our Federal **MP. Hon. Judy Sgro**. The Catholic Focus on Youth program also placed five students with us for the summer. This helped us to enrol 85 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 since 2010. This partnership made it easy for us to increase our enrolment.

The *Athletes in Action* coaches came once again to help at the camp for a week where we saw many youth commit their lives to Christ. As usual, *Lisle Memorial Baptist Church* took a week in August to host VBS for the campers.

Seeds of Hope Club

The Seeds of Hope Club has been going strong throughout the year when camp is not in session. The regular attendees of about 15-18 children have enjoyed making and sustaining friendships as they play team-building games, make arts and crafts, eat food, and watch movies together. Most importantly, they have learned more about their Heavenly Father and who they are in Christ through these activities partnered with good counsel and weekly Bible study. We finished the year with a Christmas party held at the local community centre where each child received a Christmas gift and some of the volunteers were recognised for their involvement.

Financial Support

In addition to individuals like you, who faithfully supported us during the year, the following organizations, companies and churches also contributed to make the program a success for the year.

Com-Pleat Filters Inc, Georgetown, Ontario
Friendship Community Church, Toronto, Ontario
Heritage Fellowship Church, Brampton, Ontario
Lisle Memorial Baptist Church, Toronto, Ontario
The Peoples Church, Toronto, Ontario
Turkstra Modular Builders, Beamsville, Ontario

Thank you for your ongoing financial support as well as for your prayers. We are very appreciative of your partnership and involvement with this ministry and hope you will bring these matters to the attention of your churches, friends and corporations.

Sincerely,



Benjamin Osei
Jane Finch Youth Outreach Worker
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