**Summer Camp Report 2019**

It is indeed a privilege to report about our summer program this year.

The Summer of 2019 brought together 50 campers, 15 counsellors and several volunteers from the Toronto Jane-Finch community and its environs. Starting on July 2nd they all came to participate the unique life changing experience of the Seeds of Hope Camp. The 6 weeks of day camp were held at St. Jane Frances School, followed later by 5 days of overnight camping in Muskoka. The camp focused on creating an atmosphere for all to draw closer to God and experience His amazing love for them while increasing their self confidence, developing leadership and life skills, and building friendships.

The goal of the day camp this year was to help campers grow to be ‘Just Like Jesus’ showing compassion, forgiveness, integrity, self control and love! This was encouraged through the regular daily activities of morning worship times, bible study and academic time, and after lunch electives of arts and crafts, dance, music and sports and through our game times. In addition to our regular schedule the campers enjoyed several trips to places such as Wet’n’Wild, Marine Land and to Petticoat Creek where they enjoyed a wonderful BBQ/Picnic hosted by a few of our volunteers.

For six weeks the campers relished great times of fun, food, laughter and fellowship. These special times included our ‘We’ve Got Talent Show’, Multi-Cultural Day and our Basketball and Connect 4 & 3 Tournaments. These events not only gave them opportunities to discover and showcase their talents and skills, but it also exposed, and allowed them, to experience new things and other cultures. This led to increased self confidence and the discovery of hidden talents they never knew they possessed and provided an opportunity to shine.

For many campers the best part of camp were the friendships they madeand discovering a place where they felt they belonged andwere valued. As a result, their confidence and self esteem was built up.Leadership skills were developed and honed during group competitions and games and especially as they went through the experience of our very own Seeds of Hope Camp Presidential election campaign.

The highlight of the summerhowever was undeniablythe overnight camp!Held once again at beautiful**Camp Koinonia** in Muskoka. Here the 40 participants were transported to whole new world for many of them. A world filled with fresh air,rolling hills, stately evergreen trees, a gentle river flowing into the lake, and star filled night skies and the sound of loons. A far cry from the noisy hustle and bustle of the city streets and sky scrapers. Here they enjoyed the freedom to discover all kinds of wildlife, go mountainbiking,canoeing, cliff jumping into the lake and swimming among other things. Along with all these new experiences the campersrelished the opportunity to freely ask honest questions about God and life and receive life changing answers from godly wise counsellors. Resulting in personal encounters with their loving Heavenly Father as they learned more about him through the cabin and bible study times and the nightly Challenge sessions. These experiences led many to make first time decisions to follow Christ and for others to recommit to living more intentionally for Him.

What started out as a time of great concern and uncertainty as to whetherit was possibleto have camp this summer,amidst government cut backs and very limited funds available, was made possible by the many partners and supporters who stepped up to make it happen. With the help of the **MP Judy Sgro**through the CSJ program we were able to hire 7 students as counsellors. Through our participation in, and the advocacy of the**TDCSB Focus on Youth program**we had access once again to St. Jane Frances Catholic School for the day camp, along with 4 high school students as junior staff members. Other partners such as **Second Harvest** supplied the campers daily with fresh nutritious sandwiches and **Canadian Bible Society** provided free Bibles for each camper to use and take home at the end of camp to help them in their walk with Christ.

Other partners such as **Athletes inAction, Lisle MemorialBaptist church** andThe **Salvation Army**, provided much needed support and help, in leading a week of Multisport camp for the kids, and a week of VBSand in providing volunteer backing throughout the camp. For the majority of our campers many of who are from single parent homes, new to the country and some cases refugees, such a camping experience as SoH,especially that of the overnight camp,is out of their reach and was made possible only because of the generous consistent financial support of **The Jericho Foundation** and volunteers sacrificially giving of their time. We praise God for showing up and showing off this summer! Seeds of Hope camp would not have been possible without your prayers for, and support of this ministry. We thank God for all your investment in building the future one child at a time!