



Praising God for another year of His faithfulness

Spark Ambassador

A Spark Ambassador is a person who engages with TCM on a regular basis and shares with others what Toronto City Mission does and encourages them to get involved.

"We are sometimes shy to ask for support, so when someone comes along side us and does the asking, we really appreciate it." - Jeff, Outreach Worker in Willowtree

We rely almost entirely on the generosity of supporters to help with the preventative and transformational work that is done through Toronto City Mission. In Toronto, many families are living in poverty, not only physical, but more importantly, spiritual poverty. We have developed programs that through God's transformational power, allow us to build relationships with children and families to share the hope we have in Christ.

Here are some ways you can be a Spark Ambassador:



Hospitality

Prepare a meal and share about TCM



Events

Host an event to raise awareness and funds



Celebration

Request support in lieu of gifts



Share

Talk about TCM to your church or group

In this newsletter:

Spark Ambassador

AGM + Celebration Recap

Quotes from a few Spark Ambassadors

Welcome New Staff

HaEun Kim and Esther Tjeuw

Upcoming Events

SpikeBack Against Poverty - February 23

IGNITE - Sparking Hope in the City - April 24

Community Partnership Perspectives

A note from Emmanuel Church of the Nazarene

Gift of Christmas Thank You

Annual General Meeting & Celebration



As we enter our 139th year on November 14, 2017, we reflect on God's faithfulness throughout the years. At the Annual General Meeting, hosted by Stone Church, we thanked four board members for their years of service (pictured clockwise from top left, Kyle Peterson, John McNeill, Jonathan James, and Tim Corney). We also welcomed four new board members (Jessica Breski, Ron Farr, Nesa Gulasekharam, and Neil Hodgson). Visit our website to get to know our new board members.

After the AGM, we had a time of celebration with refreshments provided by Toronto Chinese Baptist Church, worship led by New Hope Fellowship - Downtown Campus, and a time of sharing from our prayer, volunteer, and financial Sparks.

Spark is a community of supporters who engage with Toronto City Mission on a regular basis.



PRAY

I have found that as a Spark, the three components of praying, volunteering, and giving reinforce each other. "Faith without works is dead" - James 2:26. When I've prayed for the kids and the programs, I've seen the difference it makes in my EPIC tutoring time. Being a Spark has brought spiritual growth to my life. - Dahron



VOLUNTEER

I have especially enjoyed being a volunteer tutor with TCM because it gives me the opportunity to invest in the lives of these kids and empower them through education. It is so important to build relationships with them, and to create a nurturing environment where they can come and feel safe, accepted, and embraced for all that they are. - Megan



My wife, Sarah, and I were so encouraged to see the great work that is being done at TCM that we began to support them prayerfully and financially on a monthly basis. We believe in the approach to helping people by enabling and empowering them. The whole TCM team is an inspiration and, with God's grace, are able to achieve wonderful outcomes for the people they serve. - Greg



GIVE

Welcome New Staff

We welcome two new Outreach Workers to the Toronto City Mission team!

HaEun Kim, serving in Flemingdon Park



I knew that in every site that TCM operates, it has its own culture and dynamics, having served in Kingston-Galloway over the summer at Sunshine Day Camp, and now at Flemingdon Park, I see these differences first-hand and it reminds me of how diverse the communities in our city can be. I

was unsure of what to expect with new kids, working with new staff, in a new neighbourhood! It's been a time of transitions for me — adjusting to new people, new environments, and new responsibilities. God has provided the necessary guidance and support I need in order for me to grow into my role at Flemingdon Park (for which I am very grateful).

HaEun first began her work with TCM as a volunteer where God directed her heart towards local missions in the inner-city. As God continues to cultivate her heart for people, justice, and the gospel, she will be ministering to the youth and families in the diverse neighbourhood of Flemingdon Park.

HaEun hopes that through the ministry in Flemingdon Park, the gospel would be made known to the youth and their families.

www.torontocitymission.com/haeun-kim

Esther Tjeuw, serving in Kingston-Galloway



We talk about hope all the time at TCM. For a brief moment a couple of days ago, I didn't see any of it. I was at a local park with the kids, surrounded by buildings with balconies overlooking the park. A mom of a child started screaming at one of the girls in our programs from her balcony. The mom swore

endlessly as she told this little girl how she shouldn't be swearing at her daughter as others on their balconies joined in the drama. Feeling overwhelmed, I looked around at the people yelling and thought - this is hopeless. It was in that moment when I was reminded of how great our God is and what He is able to do. Things that seem impossible to me will be possible through Him. These children, their families, and this community are in His hands. There is hope through Jesus. I am reminded that I need more faith.

Esther was first led to TCM as a Summer Intern where she was inspired by her team member's passion in reading scripture and serving God. This is where God continued His transformative work in her as she desired to serve Him wholeheartedly. Having a passion for children living in poverty, Esther is determined to share the hope in Christ to the community she is placed in.

Esther hopes that through the work, relationship building, and serving of one another, God would be glorified.

www.torontocitymission.com/esther-tjeuw

Upcoming Events



Friday, February 23, 2018

Register today at
www.torontocitymission.com/spikeback-2018



Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Stay tuned for more information

Community Partnership Perspectives: Emmanuel Church of the Nazarene



Pastor Bill Sunberg (far right) is the founding director of Ephraim's Place Community Centre

Role Model Moms is held at the Church of the Nazarene through Ephraim's Place. This church building is a host to many other organizations such as Iglesia Hispana del Nazareno Emanuel (Spanish church), and Manatial (Spanish Community Centre).

Blessings come in all shapes and sizes. Some are expected. Some surprise us. But we love them all the same. One of our blessings at Emmanuel Church of the Nazarene is our partnership with Toronto City Mission through the Role Model Moms program. For many years now, our community has been blessed by this partnership as we hear the sounds of learning and laughter of the moms in the classroom and their children in the childcare centre. Some days we even get to smell the aroma of delicious foods! Those are my favourite days when I get to sit down and enjoy lunch with everyone. Scrumptious blessings!

The biggest blessings are in the form of the moms themselves. Their commitment, determination, and strength of character which lead them to their hard earned sense of accomplishment and graduation. Of course, there are also their smiles, stories, and their children. All this adds up to a deep sense of appreciation and gratitude for our partnership with Toronto City Mission. We have enjoyed the opportunity to work alongside their staff members over the years. As TCM has been a blessing to us, I pray that God would allow us to continue this partnership for many years to come and that He will pour out many blessings upon them.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bill Sunberg
Emmanuel Church of the Nazarene

Gift of Christmas



Families are as strong as their community. The Gift of Christmas gathers families together for a meal and gives the opportunity to get to know other families in their community as well as to support Kids in Community (KIC) throughout the school year. KIC is an after-school program offered in four communities in Toronto designed for kids in grades 1 to 6 to spend their time in a safe environment engaged in positive activities. Thank you to everyone who gave the Gift of Christmas and a special thank you to our sponsors:

*Chinese Gospel Church Scarborough
Christ Commission Church of Faith
City on a Hill Young Adults
Forward Baptist Church
Hasbro Canada
New Hope Fellowship Uptown
Runnymede Women's Bible Study
Scarborough Chinese Baptist Church
Starrcakes
Toronto Korean Presbyterian Church
Wellspring Worship Centre
Wilmar Heights Baptist Church
...and all the volunteers who helped out!*