



City Insight

TCM's Newsletter

'Giving so others can give'



TCM CHANGED MY LIFE...

I started attending TCM programs at the age of 5, now at 16, I am a Senior TLC participant, sort of a "mini intern" with TCM. I also teach Sunday School at my home church and try to bring positive change to the people I come in contact with.

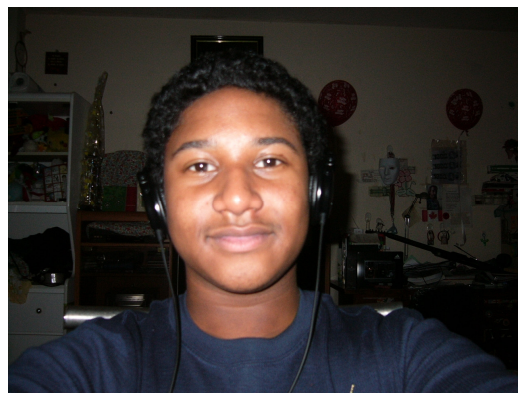
Life as a child before TCM was a pretty boring experience. All I did was go to school, get picked up by my babysitter, go home after and go to sleep. Not so much fun from a child's perspective! I am also told that I was a bit of a bully. One day my Mom saw a group of kids playing outside a church in St. James Town. She found out that the kids were part of a program with TCM called "Kids Club" and signed me up for it. That one decision changed my whole life and helped make me into the person I am today.

At that time, my school's religion class was not very motivating or inspiring, in fact it was horrible. Attending Kids Club helped to rekindle my flame. They taught me how to assess my morals and values at a very young age.

Kids Club allowed me to interact and make friends with children in my community who would have a positive influence on my life. These friendships are still the ones I have today. The influence of this program helped me to maintain my grades at school and solve personal issues that arose from bad influences. My greatest gratitude goes to two very special people in my life, TCM staff Elita and Elliott. They invested many hours in me and helped me change my life, they are my role models.

Today life is great, but not perfect. I have to apply myself even harder in school. Currently I am enrolled in the air cadet program, my dream is to become a pilot. I am also taking bronze cross this spring in hopes of becoming a lifeguard. My communication skills are really good, I am able to speak and perform in front of an audience. Others tell me I am no longer a bully but I care about people's feelings and emotions. Life is precious and short and I am going to make the best of it!

My future goal is to attend University and become an aerospace engineer. It is my hope that I can be a role model for kids in my community the way that Elita and Elliott were for me!



Ricky Vandyk - TLC participant



'me and TCM tryna reach da nation'...

Every year TCM has a Christmas concert to raise funds that help to sustain our programs. This is an opportunity for TCM's Children's Choir to perform for our supporters. It is also a time when we ask a few of the children who come to our programs to give a testimony. Although the concert itself had amazing singing, what stood out above all was the testimonies from some of the TCM kids. They stood in front of a crowd of people and shared what God has been doing in their lives.

Alcott from Willowdale said "before TCM I had an anger problem.

Now I know how to control my emotions, TCM has changed my life. Alcott proceeded to tell us he is learning to use his passions for God, one of these being rap. He ended off his testimony with the following rap:



Here's an invitation
To take ma information
Which I consider inspiration
Dat may lead to your salvation
Procrastination only leads to
frustration
Which may block your destination
To plant a good foundation
So make it your determination
To listen to our congregation
With no hesitation
To enter his manifestation
Of the Master of all Creation
Genesis to Revelation
Me and TCM tryna reach da nation

-Alcott's rap of praise

Fight the Mid Winter Blahs!



This year's annual Spike Back Against Poverty Tournament will be held on February 20th, 2009, starting at 6:30pm at Beach Blast (check out our website for directions). Our fundraising volleyball tournament raises funds and awareness for TCM's children's camps. TCM provides the camps to keep inner city children off the streets while parents are working during the summer and March Break. They are a positive environment for the children to be in rather than being home alone. At the camps the

children do crafts, play sports, and learn stories from the Bible.

Each team of ten is asked to raise a minimum of \$700 (\$70/player) to participate on the tournament. There is no personal cost. All you have to do is ask everyone you know to support your worthy cause and then come out and play volleyball! It is our goal to find sponsors for the night who help subsidize the cost of renting the facility and provide each player with a Spike Back Against Poverty T-shirt. If you or your company would like to be a sponsor call Maureen Pryce at 416-922-6223.

Prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third place teams in the actual volleyball tournament. For the highest individual fundraiser there is a prize of a first class Via Rail Trip for 4 to Ottawa.

Every \$70 raised sends one inner city child to Camp for one week, our aim is to sponsor over 200 children through this event. Last year 184 children experienced camps as a direct result of this tournament.

Check out our website www.torontocitymission.com/vball.php for more information or email [spikeback@torontocitymission.com!](mailto:spikeback@torontocitymission.com) See you at the courts!

Summer Intern Opportunity!

"The internship with Toronto City Mission really helped me to truly understand what it means to use your abilities to share the love of Christ. Loving the kids and learning from them allowed me to grow spiritually in ways that I wasn't able to find in a church setting, something that I didn't know I needed until I found it!" - Caroline Ahn - Summer Intern '08

Are you 18-25?

Do you want an opportunity to grow in your leadership skills?

Do you want to use your gifts and enhance your faith?

Do you need a summer job?

Then TCM is looking for **YOU!**

This summer TCM is looking for interns to work with our Community Workers to run the Sunshine Day Camps from May 25 - August 14, 2009. The internship begins with five weeks of training, special projects and discipleship with our Community Workers. The next seven weeks consist of implementing and managing the day camps with the other interns and TCM staff. Through your internship you will develop skills in urban missions, children and youth ministry, leadership and teamwork, evangelism and creative outreach and an ability to plan and implement a day camp! For more information go to www.torontocitymission.com/intern.html or send an email to us at info@torontocitymission.com.

Mark Your Calendar with these Upcoming Events...



February 7 - Summer Intern applications are due for first round of interviews during Reading Week. After that we will continue receiving applications until all positions are filled.

February 20 - Spike Back Against Poverty Volleyball Tournament. Even if you don't play volleyball come and join us at Beach Blast for a night of fun!

March 16 - 20 - TCM March Break Camps. Please pray for our Community Workers as they run the camps, that they would continue to build strong relationships with the kids and have opportunities to share the Good News.

May 29 - TCM's Annual Spring Celebration! You are invited to experience what God has been doing through TCM over the past year. Each of our five locations will share drama, song, dance, speech, story or all in one! Come out and see the faces of Toronto City Mission.

Winter Highlights

- Christmas 2008's **Adopt A Family** sponsored 166 families representing 581 individuals.
- "An Urban Christmas" Concert raised over \$50,000 to go to TCM's programs in 2009!
- 12 women graduated from **Role Model Moms** (a High School equivalency program) in December!
- Christmas Community dinners were held in each of the five communities where we serve. What a blessing it is to come together as a community and celebrate Christmas.
- TCM Children's Choir attendance has increased to over 40 kids!



Perspectives

A message from our Executive Director

It has been a turbulent 3 months. The global economy is in a tail spin. The level of confidence in the future hasn't been so low since the middle of the last century. Governments are seeking instant solutions by using state funds as they have never been used before.

And, of course, the demand for services to provide hope for the disadvantaged has never been higher. In spite of it all, we are also seeing the evidence of individuals deciding to make a difference in this climate of dismay. I think it is important that we see this perspective of a few and realize that all of us have the power to bring hope both in our actions and in our sharing of our faith. The bible is full of disasters, from which individuals recovered as they sought to understand what is really important in their lives and grow closer to God. Here are a few examples of recent 'good news' stories of such individuals who are part of the TCM 'family'.

"John's 9 year old son": Every Christmas, for the last few years, John has been collecting toys and donations from an industry association and its individual members to donate to the mission. They are always much appreciated and are distributed to families who participate in our Adopt-A-Family Program. This year, John's 9 year old son asked to accompany him to the store to help pick out the toys that children would receive. What he didn't know was that his son had emptied his piggy bank and once at the store told his father that he wanted to help buy some things for the kids. The son knew from his father's example about the importance of giving and through his sacrificial gift, now feels directly the blessing of giving.

"Giving Students": This Christmas, we were contacted by a student from one of the local technical colleges to see if we could use some small gifts that they would collect. We explained about our adopt-a-family program and the need for small items to help fill gift bags that accompany gift and food certificates for some of our families. A couple of weeks later, right after they had written their final exam, two students showed up at our door with 5 large garbage bags filled with gifts. They had collected donations from other students, faculty and even visitors to the college. They then went on a fun shopping trip to fill the bags. They were excited to see the number of gift bags strewn all over our board room waiting for their contribution. They said it made them feel personally connected to the families we serve.

"Give while you Eat": A local restaurant investigated how they could help disadvantaged families this Christmas and found TCM through our web site. After talking more to us, they decided to sponsor a family directly through our Adopt-a-Family program. In addition to sponsoring a family they decided that \$1 from each burger ordered during the month of December would be donated to the Mission. The restaurant owner and his two children showed up in person to deliver their donation.

TCM thrives because of such support. The smallest of donations still brings benefit to both the recipient as well as the giver. In these difficult times, we must remember what is truly important both in our relationship with God as well as with each other. I continue to thank God for your support and ask for your prayers as we seek to serve Him while we break cycles of poverty in our city.

Faithfully yours,  Andrew Schell

City Insight is designed to give you a glimpse about the work and mission of TCM; whose purpose is to demonstrate God's love in tangible ways through living among the families of our city's poorest communities, and partnering with others so we can achieve positive change. Thank you for partnering with us.

TCM Staff:

Executive Director: Andrew Schell
Ministry Resource Dir.: Steve Chu
Sr Programs Director: Elliott Shin
Development Dir.: Maureen Pryce
Volunteer Resources: Ellie Duiker
Communications: Kim Brinkman
Accountant: Carol Bain

Community Workers:

Elita Fung (St. James Town)
Guy Freeman (Bridletowne)
Nicki Freeman (Bridletowne)
Shelby Hall (Willowtree)
Linda Lee (Willowtree)
Susan Needles (Malvern)
Cheryl Nembhardt (Malvern)
Emily Slotegraaf (Jane and Finch)
Jil Koller (Mat. Leave)
Noami Van De Visch (Mat. Leave)



Toronto City Mission

608 Spadina Ave,
Toronto, ON M5S 2H4
Ph: 416.922.6223
Fx: 416.924.3071

info@torontocitymission.com
www.torontocitymission.com



Charitable Registration number:
10811 4158 RR001

If you would like to donate, return by mail the card enclosed in the newsletter or contact us through e-mail or by phone or donate online through our website.

