



LIGHT_PATROL_005



WILMAR_HEIGHTS_DAY_CAMP_010



LAKESHORE_SOCCER_LEAGUE_011

















Welcome to Summer Snapshots!

2 of 2 ···

JOANNE LEE 02 •



My name is **Joanne Lee** and I had the amazing opportunity to serve as the BlessUP and Communications Intern at Youth Unlimited this summer!

As part of my internship, I visited a few of our summer programs across the GTA, met with our staff and summer students, and wrote about my experience. During my visits, I saw the desire and passion of the staff, volunteers, summer interns, and participants to be a part of a flourishing community, and positively impact people's lives.

EACH YEAR, WITH FUNDING SUPPORT FROM SUMMER JOB GRANTS, YU HIRES 70+ YOUNG PEOPLE TO HELP RUN 35 SUMMER PROGRAMS ACROSS THE CITY, THESE YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS ARE POURED INTO BY YU STAFF AND GIVEN VALUABLE PAID WORK EXPERIENCE. LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS. SUMMER MEMORIES, AND SERVE THEIR COMMUNITY.

Did You Know?

There are over 35 summer programs served by over 70 staff, 100 volunteers, and 70 summer interns.

I love editing photos on platforms like Instagram and Apple Photos. It's through the editing process that a photographer's creativity is expressed. Similarly, God - the Master Artist - creates, shapes and knows each of us in a unique way. Here is a behind-the-scenes view of my summer memories. The "photo filters" point to the Transformative Colours in YU's Canvas of Transformation, a metaphor that helps us celebrate God's transforming love at work in our lives. I hope you enjoy this year's Summer Snapshots as much as I had fun being a part of it. Let's dive into summer!

Summer Programs



Seeds of Hope Day Camp 07/04-08/12

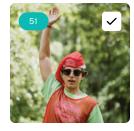


Heart 2 Soul Festival 07/01-08/31



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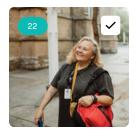
DOXA Day Camp 07/04 - 07/29



Camp Capstone 07/01-08/31



Lakeshore Soccer League 07/01-08/31



Light Patrol 07/01-08/31



Project Serve 07/01-08/31



Wilmar Heights Day Camp 07/04-08/12

SPECIAL THANKS TO STEPHANIE IRONSIDE FOR BEAUTIFULLY CAPTURING OUR SUMMER PROGRAMS.

Heart 2 Soul Festival

JULY 23, 2022





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Since 2017, members of our Jane-Finch team have hosted Heart 2 Soul, a free community festival for children, youth and families to enjoy fun activities provided by partnering organizations and supporters. From inflatable obstacles courses, jumping castles and a rock climbing wall, to a basketball and soccer tournament, to face paint and food truck lunches, Heart 2 Soul brings the heart of the Jane-Finch community together and shares God's love with all who attend. Personally, it was delightful to take in some of the live performances from local musicians, dancers, rappers, and motivational speakers.

Heart-2-Soul.jpg ···

100% ~



I'm very passionate to see people, especially young people, thrive and transform into a better version of themselves. That is why I was excited to volunteer my time at Heart 2 Soul. It was a blessing to experience the partnership, passion, and all the other exciting moments. I am excited to become a part of an organization who makes a positive contribution in impacting lives.

- NADIN, HEART 2 SOUL VOLUNTEER

Camp Capstone

Visiting Camp Capstone in
Etobicoke was a fun experience,
where I was able to see the passion
and joy from both YU summer staff,
children and Leaders in Training
(LITs), who are being trained to
be future leaders of the program.
Camp Capstone provides a summer
camp experience for children
and youth, offering a variety of
fun activities, games and events



LOVE



JOY



PEACE



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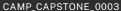




DESIRE TO LEARN









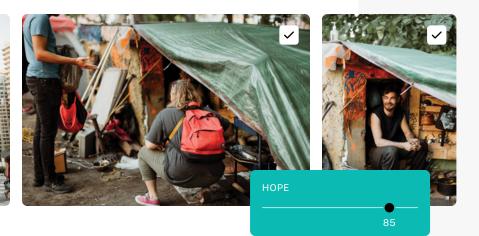
CAMP_CAPSTONE_0028 ●

throughout the day-when I was there, we even got to meet some exotic animals! It was really encouraging to watch the children have such spirit, energy and confidence when learning about Jesus' love for them. Most of all, I was able to observe generous hospitality from the staff and volunteers, who graciously served and built relationships with the campers and their families.

I was astonished to not only see how God is working in my own backyard, but how I can be involved in the process. Becky and Andrew taught me what it means to be a loving presence within my community. God's concern about being our brother's keeper is clear to those involved within this ministry and I am truly encouraged by it.

Light Patrol

*Names are changed to protect the identity of these individuals.



Serving with Light Patrol is an enriching experience, and refocuses the values and purpose in life. I was deeply moved when speaking to a young man on the street about his life's journey and struggle with Fentanyl addiction. I found myself crying about his broken spirit on my way home. You will never find a group of people more brutally candid about themselves than people living on the street.

- JAMES, CURB LIGHT VOLUNTEER







HUMILITY

GENEROSITY

FMPATHY

While participating in Light Patrol's *Curb Light*, a mobile outreach program in downtown Toronto, I was given a glimpse of Jesus through a simple act of love between two women experiencing homelessness. My heart went out to Janette* who offered a new set of clothes, food, and immediate first aid to Vicky*, another woman we met during our outreach, who approached her and the team, barefoot, bleeding, hungry, thirsty,

and tired. The raw, emotional experience of watching Janette kneeling beside Vicky as she cleaned her wounds reminded me of Jesus washing His disciples' feet, something I'm not sure I could do, myself. Thank you to the team - Karen, James, and Meiling who visited on that particular day - for the heart to stay and care for everyone we met from that experience. From this encounter, I learned what true humbleness and humility is: to lay down one's life for one's friends (John 15:13).



LIGHT



LIFE

Project Serve

During my short visit with the Project Serve team, I watched a youth group from Durham make sandwiches and brownies for Health Light, a Light Patrol ministry that provides health assessments and basic medical care for youth experiencing homelessness. As the group debriefed their experience of the day, they reflected on the parable from Matthew 25:35-40. Here, Jesus shares the importance of serving those in need in our community. As we come alongside the vulnerable among us by offering clothing, food. something to drink, or a listening ear, we are doing this for Him.

JOYFUL SERVICE PUT OTHERS FIRST +43 **ACTS OF KINDNESS** +28 **TEAMWORK** +40

PROJECT SERVE FACILITATES SERVICE TRIPS IN TORONTO THAT EXPOSE YOUNG PEOPLE TO THE REALITIES OF POVERTY AND INJUSTICE, AND INVITES THEM TO FACE THESE ISSUES HEAD ON, IN DOING SO, THEY ARE EQUIPPED TO LOVE AND SERVE GOD AND OTHERS. LEARN MORE AT PROJECTSERVETORONTO.CA



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PROJECT SERVE 041



PROJECT SERVE 045



PROJECT SERVE 049

While interning at Project Serve, we were able to be God's hands and feet to the people we met. This experience has led me to learn more about the world and the community in a tangible way.

- JULIA, PROJECT SERVE SUMMER INTERN

Way to go, Joanne, for sharing your summer experiences so vividly! It's amazing to me to think that dozens upon dozens of students, adult volunteers, and our staff team have similar daily opportunities to make a tangible impact on young lives throughout the Greater Toronto Area. Getting intimately involved in the lives of our precious youth isn't just life-changing for them. It's life-changing for us! As I enter my tenth year as YU's Executive Director, I'm as passionate as ever about the privilege of seeing transformed youth transforming their families and neighbourhoods with the support of an incredible team of field workers. We are always looking to grow our team of field staff and volunteers if you want to join on the ground in this vision!

I also know we all can't be "on the ground", and financial partnership continues to be a vital way to sustain the work of Youth Unlimited as we share and live out the teachings and work of Jesus among our youth together. Your partnership today will shape programming and mentoring relationships in more than 50 year-round initiatives across our city. I would cherish your consideration of a gift today.

We all play a part,

Scott
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

yugta.ca



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SCOTT_MOORE_001



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