



FALL 2019



London Community Chaplaincy

On Holding Space...

I love the Fall as the turn of seasons draws me back into nostalgic memories from childhood: bright pumpkins, roasting turkey, old fashioned caramels, wet leaves, apple crisp...all these things bring a memory of community alive again for me.

At the chaplaincy, every season brings new joys and new opportunities for community connection. This newsletter highlights some of the amazing memories of the summer and all the impact of those months. And the fall brings new beginnings and opportunities, which we are eager to embrace as a new school year starts for the children and families we serve. We often integrate new volunteers in the fall, and so I am once again left pondering and trying to frame what we do for those newer to our ministry context. I follow the "Contemplative Monk" on Facebook for personal inspiration and I read a quote recently that for me caught the ethos of the Chaplaincy. For the Chaplaincy is both a physical place (we operate two community centres) and a spirit (a way of doing things and serving). And I quote from "What does it mean to hold space for someone else?" It means that we are willing to walk alongside another person in whatever journey they're on without judging them, making them feel inadequate, trying to fix them, or trying to impact the outcome. When we hold space for other people, we open our hearts, offer unconditional support, and let go of judgement and control". As an agency we are an extension of many diverse faith communities and faith backgrounds but have a common purpose- to love and embrace those who are marginalized and to surround those that feel alone. Creating community is not a program ...though programs help the process! Love creates community and moment by moment, program by program, friendship by friendship, together we are working to create a sense of belonging and hope for many in our city who feel alone. In moments of crisis like eviction, death, illness, or personal struggle and in moments of joy like birth, marriage, new jobs, or childhood achievements...we are there building community, serving community, in the heart of the community.

We are so grateful for all those that make this possible and all those that journey with us on this path. On this path all are invited...so we once again invite others to join us in body or spirit!

Reverend Pam Cullen



The London Community Chaplaincy would not exist without our Local Compassionate Citizens. To our friends at Holy Trinity St. Stephen's Memorial Church we want to say thank you for your donation of 75 plus pairs of new back to school shoes. Your kindness touched the hearts and "soles" of many local children this Fall.

Thank you for your generosity.





A Summer to Thrive... Update

Our Summer to Thrive campaign was a great success. Thank you to all our individual and group donors. Together we raised \$25,000. Over 120 children and youth had the opportunity to attend a host of local day camps and week-long overnight camps this summer. On site, we engaged 60 plus children a day with a variety of activities. These summer memories will stay with the children and youth for years to come

Children's Summer Highlights

*Two sites. 9 staff. Countless friends and volunteers.
More than 70 kids off site at partner programs.
Up to 12 hours a day of fun!*

All of that added up to a lot of beautiful memories and a very impactful summer for Southdale and Limberlost community kids.

This year, we were busy again on site with Mini Camp for preschoolers, our literacy camps Alphabet Soup & Prodigy for school age children, drop ins and evening recreation for all. With daily games and activities and many special events such as BBQs, a dance party with DJ Mark, a visit from Childreach, face painting, and a Carnival to end the summer complete with cotton candy and a dunk tank... it was a non-stop summer. We went on some awesome trips this year such mini golfing, to Thames Pool, the Library, and more! We also are thankful to have had the London Public Library at each of our sites every week for drop in play sessions which were so very much appreciated. 100 children were welcomed and had the opportunity to attend a host of partner day camps and overnight camps...which kept the kids busy learning and our staff and volunteer teams busy driving!

As we say goodbye to the final warm sunny days, we have many warm memories to keep us going until next summer! We can't wait for 2020!



Thank you for helping me get to camp this summer!!!

My favourite part of camp was Playing Games

From Caleigh
Age 7

We Love A-Camp

Dear friend

This summer I went to hcc

My cabin leader's name was: EJ

My favourite activity at camp was: Going to the beach

My favourite meal at camp was: bacon and eggs

This summer, I learnt that no ones the same

Thank you for helping me get to camp this summer!!!

From Kiera
Age 10

Youth Summer Highlights

Between East Park, horse back riding at West Meadow Stables, hiking in London's Environmentally Significant Areas, bowling at Fleetway, exploring the exhibits at the London Children's Museum, visiting our partner Faith sites, gardening at our shared plot in Kiwanis Park, and summoning all our bravery to complete the tree top adventure and zipline at Boler, I'm not sure I could pick a favourite day of Leadership Camp! Our grade 6-8s at both sites joined together again this summer to explore, learn, and grow. We spent our mornings working on our Leadership lessons to learn everything from how to write resumes to how to come and prepare healthy meals. Most afternoons, we hopped on the city bus and explored what London has to offer, learning how to navigate the city, and having experiences that built our confidence and expanded our horizons.

Our Youth Interns had a similarly successful summer as they set goals, volunteered at the Chaplaincy and with the Westminster Working Group, wrote resumes, and worked actively towards achieving our short-term summer goals!

We're so proud of everything our youth learned this summer and how they really made the most of the four weeks of Leadership Camp.

*You will teach them to fly,
but they will not fly your flight.
You will teach them to dream, but
they will not dream your dream.
You will teach them to live,
but they will not live your life.
Nevertheless, in every flight,
in every life, in every dream,
the print of the way you taught
them will remain.*

Mother Teresa

We are grateful to the following groups for hosting or supporting the Chaplaincy kids this summer:

Calvary United Church • Riverside United Church • First St. Andrew's United Church
Lambeth United Church • Chalmers Presbyterian Church • Westpark Baptist Church
London Muslim Mosque • Huron Church Camp • Camp Kee- Mo- Kee • Forest Cliff Camp
Kamp Kintail • Matiland Community Church • Camp Pine Crest • Peace Camp • Gateway Church • LCF Michael Halls Social Service Fund



Things Youth Learned in Their Own Words

“

Fighting isn't always the answer

I learned how to have fun and get out of the house

I believe 10 years from now I can go to College

I learned bravery and listening

I want to be a Child and Youth Worker when I grow up



What's New at the LCC

Thanks to “Seeds of Hope”, a ministry of The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and a connection with St. Justin’s Parish in East London, we have piloted a Canada Learning Bond project at Southdale. The Canada Learning Bond is a \$2000 grant available to low income children from the Government of Canada. Families can face barriers accessing the grant and so this ministry brings staff and volunteers onsite to help families with the process. Families learn what RESP money can be accessed for their kids at no cost and the benefit this has! Statistics show that that even small amounts of education savings can set in motion a chain reaction of positive social and educational outcomes for a child and their family...”Youth with savings earmarked for their education are 50% more likely to participate in post-secondary education than those who have none”.

In total, we have started the process with 26 families, including 68 children to date. Our many thanks to Linda Alexander for bringing this to Southdale.



We are so excited to see Southdale kids dreaming of college!



As part of the summer program Devon had the kids participate daily in “Beautify Hour”, helping the kids learn to be good stewards of creation and their environment.

We are so very thankful for our new stove at Limberlost! Food is a huge part of programming at the Chaplaincy. Whether we are hosting an event to foster social inclusion or leading a cooking class, the kitchen is always a central hub of activity. Our stove was nearing the end of its life and the Lambeth Lion’s Club generously donated a new one for us. We are so grateful for their commitment to caring for others.

Fanshawe Student placements are a huge blessing at the Chaplaincy. We have developed this new partnership over the last couple of years. Each semester, we have 2-3 students studying Child and Youth work join our team. Devon, a recent student describes his experience with us: “During my placement, I learned more about the Chaplaincy and some of the in’s and out’s of running a non-profit organization and built relationships with the community members and the youth. I joined this field to connect with today’s youth to help shape tomorrow’s leaders and share my knowledge with today’s youth. Thank you, London Community Chaplaincy for all the opportunities throughout my placement and giving me the opportunity to work as the Summer Evening Recreation Coordinator at Limberlost. It has been an amazing summer to connect with the youth.”



Lambeth Lions – you have made a huge difference for the families at Limberlost!

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