



YOUTH UNLIMITED

Summer Snapshots

2019





Welcome!

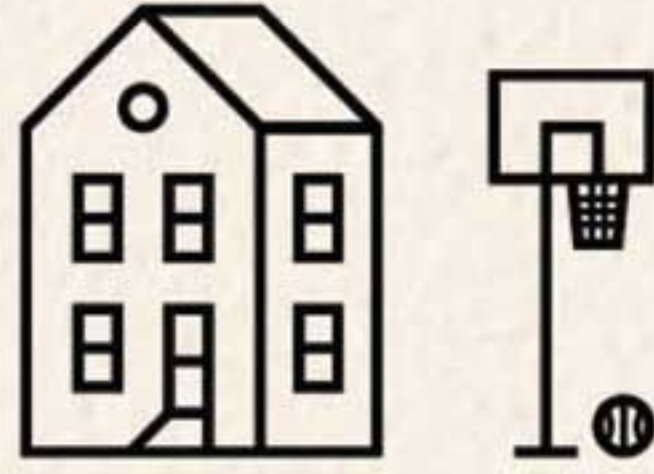
Welcome everyone to 2019's Summer Snapshots! My name is Rafael Gonzales and today I'm going to give you an inside look into my summer experience here at Youth Unlimited! I travelled all over the GTA, from the west side in Brampton all the way to the east in Uxbridge. From way up north in Newmarket right to the downtown core in the south. I went everywhere in the hopes of capturing God's love across the city and looking back over these last two months, I can confidently say that I accomplished my mission.

On the other side of this page you will be able to see all the places I visited on a map of the GTA. I also made little postage stamps of the visits to share with you so that you can also experience God's love the way I did this summer.



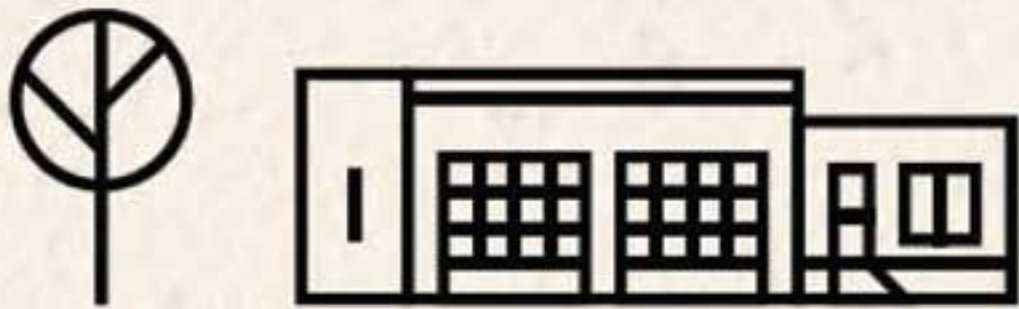
Light Patrol

Light Patrol was my first stop on this long journey and believe me when I say that it didn't hold back. I was so shocked and amazed when we were out on the streets, seeing just how involved and sincere the team was with those experiencing homelessness in downtown Toronto. One thing that really hit me was how I've never really seen the team at work until that night. Light Patrol's RV stops at major intersections—places I visit consistently—and not once do I remember seeing the big red RV. Maybe our paths have truly never crossed before, but it just really got me thinking. So many people turn their heads or ignore this community in our city and I can't help but think if I were one of those people... I am forever grateful to Light Patrol for opening my eyes and exposing a part of our city that really needs our support.



DOXA

DOXA was one of the ministries that was active throughout Scarborough. They organized summer camps with local churches and Remix, their summer youth program. At all the sites you can see kids in their natural summer habitat: Running around and playing games while learning about God's goodness at the same time. Something about Remix that I found exciting was seeing the youth learn something and directly go out to serve the community and apply what they just learned that morning. Supporting the young and raising future leaders to walk in God's light is what DOXA is all about!



Summer Day Camp – Seeds of Hope

Ah, Seeds of Hope, a place where young children are nurtured and encouraged to break through the limits society has placed on them. Focused in an area of the city that has become notorious for crime and gang activity, Seeds of Hope gives these kids a safe haven where they can just be kids – kids that are loved by God. On the day I visited the topic of the day was being coachable which ultimately turned into a call to honour your mother and father. With many of the kids being either immigrants or first-generation Canadians, it was a nice reminder to remember everything their parents have done and are still doing to bless them with opportunities. For myself, I, too, am an immigrant. Granted I came to Canada in '97 but, still, it was refreshing to refocus on appreciating my parents a little more. Another thing these kids taught me how to do was dance. Man, those kids can move! Don't worry if you can't see them at the camp, you can also check them out at the Heart 2 Soul Festival, which Youth Unlimited hosts in the community!



The Shop

Is it time for a change? Do you have an old lawnmower that could use a tune up? What about a car that you're looking to sell? Well, at The Shop in Newmarket, not only will you be able to get those needs met, but you feel good about it knowing that you're enabling our team to train and mentor the youth in the community! My visit to The Shop was both heartwarming and insightful into the inner workings of a social enterprise. As an individual cut from entrepreneurial cloth, I couldn't help but appreciate their business model and it is something I hope to imitate in the near future. Oh, I almost forgot! If you visit, there's a strong chance you might get a free slice of pizza, which is always a plus.



Frontiers – Project Serve

When someone thinks about serving the community, the first things that come to mind are usually soup kitchens and clothing / food drives. For so long I've wanted to help at one of these facilities but for some reason I've never volunteered. Even when I visited the team at The Scott Mission, I didn't really have intentions of helping but looking back I'm glad I was "forced" to help (it was the only way I could get in to take pictures). Seeing the joy on both the volunteers' and clients' faces truly filled me with joy. Lord knows it definitely made washing those dishes a little easier too. I just hope I was able to help make an impact in the lives of others no matter how small. What's that saying about making ripples and waves again?



Uxbridge Archery



Uxbridge

A saying I've liked for some time now has been "as true as an arrow". Not only because I am obsessed with the fantasy genre and have always associated bows and arrows with mythical quests, but also because of the meaning behind the metaphor.

I was excited to visit Dave Burrige's farm solely for the archery, but little did I know I would be challenged to ask myself key questions about my future. After each shot along his archery course, Dave asked the group questions about our goals: What they were and how we planned to achieve them. For the first couple questions I didn't think anything of it, but by the third I began to understand the parallels between archery and personal goals. If you have yet to put the two together allow me to help you out. In archery, you are taught to set your stance, identify the target, put yourself in the position to shoot, and release. You are putting the arrow in the best position to hit the target. Now let's look at goal setting: You step back, clearly identify what you want, put yourself in a position to succeed and then let God do the rest. Whether these questions were intentional or not, I found it refreshing to refocus myself and remember to let God's truth guide my arrow.

These were a few of my experiences I've had over the summer! Unfortunately I'm not able to go in greater detail about all of my trips, but on the other side is a map that pins all the places I visited! Hopefully the map and postcards are enough to satisfy your desire to see the summer programs at YU. I had a blast, thank you so much for all your support and making my experiences possible!



Join us for the Journey

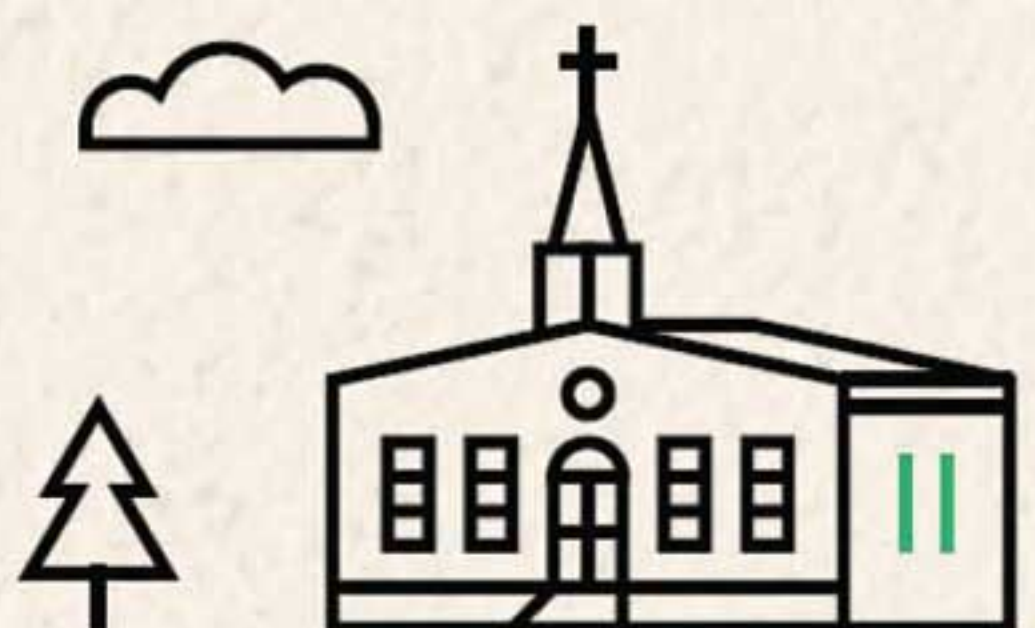
It was truly a joy to work with Rafael as one of our summer interns over the past few months, and even more inspiring to see how Rafael was shaped by his experiences at our programs across the city. This is what it's all about! Transformed youth transforming our city.

The process of transformation, of course, is an ongoing one. God loves continually shaping us to reflect His goodness and love more and more. I know I haven't 'arrived', and I'm guessing you probably feel the same. It is true, too, for the work of Youth Unlimited across the city. As we transition from the rhythms of summer into our Fall programming, our team of staff and volunteers carries on in the relationships they have developed – some over the summer and others over many years. Transformation carries forth, step by step, day by day.

In this transition season, your financial partnership is invaluable to help us sustain our impacting relationships with young people throughout the Greater Toronto Area. Your consideration of a special one-time gift or becoming a monthly 'vision partner' is so appreciated. You will find a response form enclosed or you can give online at donate.yugta.ca.

On the transforming road,
Scott
Executive Director

PS - We would love to have you join us for our biennial Friends Reception on Thursday, November 7, 2019. Check out the News & Events section at yugta.ca for more info!



SUMMER SNAPSHOTS 2019



The Shop - New Market

NEWMARKET

AURORA

STOUFFVILLE



Seeds of Hope Summer Camp - Jane & Finch

RICHMOND HILL

MARKHAM



Doxa - Wilmar Heights

THORNHILL



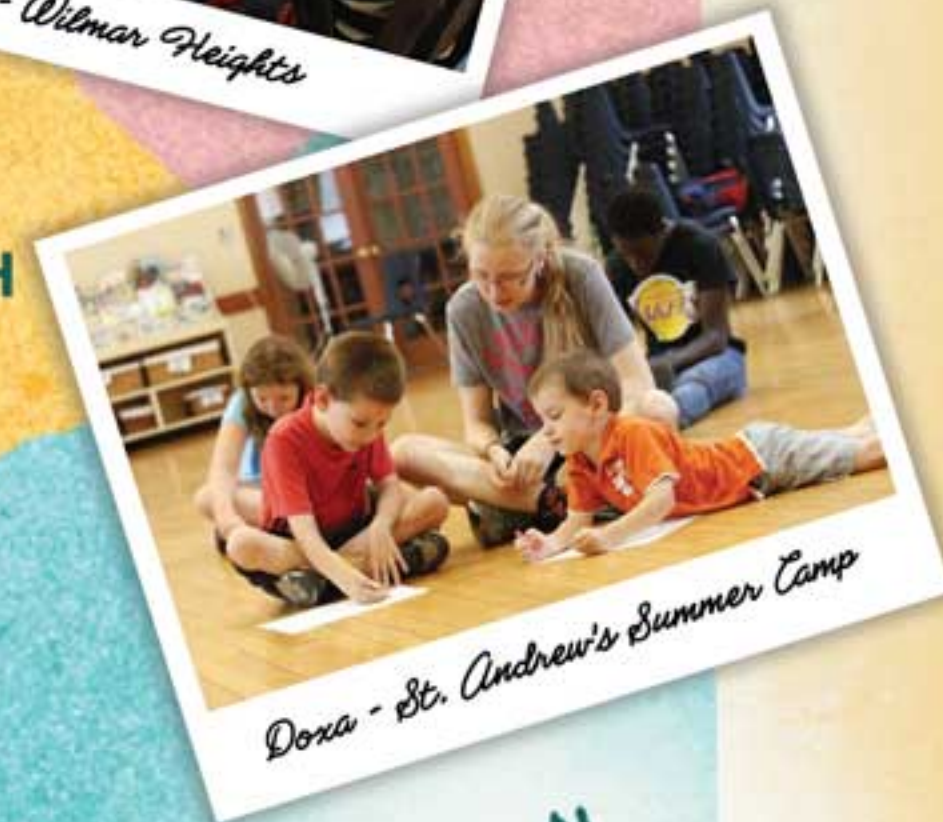
Brampton Basketball

JANE-FINCH

WOODBRIIDGE

NORTH YORK

SCARBOROUGH



Doxa - St. Andrew's Summer Camp

BRAMPTON

TORONTO

ETOBICOKE



Lakeshore Soccer



Project Serve



Light Patrol

