



# The LIGHTHOUSE

Helping People | Changing Lives

Fall 2013

1008 Bathurst Street • Toronto • ON M5R 3G7

416-535-6262

## Summer of Learning and Laughs

by Ernest Tang

My first year of university had concluded, and as my summer began, so did my job hunt. A typical summer job would have allowed me to develop my current skills as well as gain new ones, but I also wanted the chance to serve the community. The Lighthouse was the perfect place to work as it would allow me to grow as a person, while making a difference to the lives of others. As a Summer Student Intern, I was able to see firsthand how The Lighthouse made a positive impact on those in the community. Serving underprivileged, refugee and immigrant communities was definitely an educational and eye-opening experience - I saw firsthand some of the struggles of those in need, as well as what is being done to help them. While working here, I saw many people from many walks of life walk through our front doors. Some were here for the food bank, some for the manicure and pedicure program, and others for something in between. The food bank was a particular favourite of mine, as it gave me an opportunity to serve the clients of The Lighthouse directly. Little gestures such as a "Thank you" were nice, but the most satisfying part of serving them was the knowledge that I helped make a difference in their lives. Furthermore, being able to partake in conversation with those that came in was a real treat. All in all, working at the Lighthouse was a great experience, and I would recommend volunteering or working here for anyone that is looking to serve an underprivileged community.

The Lighthouse also ran a Chinese Children's Summer Camp, hosted at Calvary Logos Baptist Church in Scarborough. A lot of effort had gone into preparing for this camp in hopes of giving the campers the best experience possible. The camp ran every Tuesday and Wednesday from July 9<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup>, and had 44 children registered. A typical day started in worship, with children singing songs that glorified the Lord. They particularly enjoyed songs with many actions, such as "Father Abraham". Following worship was a message (children's sermon) from the speaker. The campers were all very attentive, and learned a lot about Jesus through parables, bible verses and various interactions. The children were also given the opportunity to take part in "Spiritual Counseling", where they dived deeper into Christianity and were asked if they accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour. By the end of the camp, a total of 13 boys and girls had accepted Christ!



From all of us here at The Light-house, we want to take this moment to thank all of our wonderful volunteers and our two amazing summer students Ernest and Tabitha for their hard work, dedication and care in making this year's summer programs a great success. Thank you!



*Continued on page 2...*

## Welcoming Tracy Dang to The Lighthouse Family!



Hi everyone! My name is Tracy Dang, and I feel blessed to introduce myself as the Vietnamese Administrative Assistant to Thuy Tran at The Lighthouse. I am a 2<sup>nd</sup> year student majoring in Mathematics for Education and the Vice-President for the Student Parent's Association at York University. Being a part of this community, I have learned about supportive environments and how they can lead to successful outcomes. I enjoy working with The Lighthouse's wonderful, friendly

staff in coordinating various programs (Summer Camp, Women's Support Group and Parents' Support Group) that provide strong support for needy members of Toronto's Vietnamese community. Amazingly, I have seen the different ways God touches people's lives through these works.

My desire is to help others from different walks of life, to share warm laughter, to build friendships, and to strengthen our local Vietnamese community for the betterment of all its members. One of my favourite Scripture passages is from 2 Timothy 1:7 - "The Lord has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." Thank you so much for welcoming me into The Lighthouse where God's love is found!

## Vietnamese Summer Camp Pictures



Opportunities to volunteer at The Lighthouse: If you like to help with these jobs, contact Rob at 416-535-6262 or [rob@lighthousecentre.ca](mailto:rob@lighthousecentre.ca)

### General Building Maintenance Jobs / Opportunities

- Construction of closets and shelving in playroom
- Build closets in Chinese Ministry's Office
- Replace outside Lighthouse sign with name and new logo
- Repair outside bulletin Board.
- Painting inside and outside
- Replace shelving in storage area for Food Bank

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Arts-and-crafts time was enjoyed greatly, with many amazing pieces of art being created. Armed with glue, scissors, markers and other materials, the children put their creativity to the test and made many masterpieces. Lunch time came after arts and crafts. With so many tummies needing to be filled, a lot of food was needed! The campers enjoyed both Western and Chinese foods, and many of them even asked for second helpings! The kids were then able to head over to Alexmuir Park for outdoor games and activities such as "Duck Duck Goose" and "Octopus". On days when the weather was not optimal, the children watched an episode of "Veggie Tales". A light snack was served after games and activities, and at 2:00 p.m. it was finally time to go home!

On the last day of camp, the parents were treated to a presentation put on by the campers, a slide show with pictures from the camp and finally a showcase of the campers' crafts. Overall, the campers had a great time and were able to learn about Christianity. A big SHOUT-OUT goes to the volunteers without them the camp would not have been a success. I hope the campers enjoyed their time at camp, and hopefully they'll be back again next year!



<https://www.facebook.com/thelighthouseontario>

## We are Stronger Together

by Tabitha Peiris

Each summer, The Lighthouse hosts a family camp for Hispanic moms and kids. The logo for the camp consists of three ants carrying a banana, symbolizing our main theme: "We are Stronger Together." There have been many participants each year some new and some old. We strive to create a family-like atmosphere, and are blessed to be able to do so.

A key factor for the camp's success is The Lighthouse's volunteer training program. Leadership training for volunteers commences a month in advance of the camp. During this training, volunteers are taught the skills needed to operate certain of the camp programs and are provided with information essential for working with families. Our volunteers also bring their own creativity, ideas and assets to our camp. Without the numbers and capabilities of our volunteers, it would be very difficult for The Light-house to continue to run the Hispanic family camp each year.



Patricia had been attending the camp with her children as a participant for the last two years, and this year she decided she would like to join our volunteer team. *"I used to be a participant in the camp, and I really enjoyed coming! I felt really good about what I did and learned at the camp. I really felt like I was part of a larger family. I wanted to give back, and so I decided to attend camp as a volunteer this year."*

Patricia was specifically involved in assisting as a team leader for the children's art therapy program, a unique component of the Hispanic family camp that encourages expression in art as a means of dealing with some of the stress experienced by children newly arrived to Canada. *"For me, working with the kids, helping them with their art and talking with them was such a rewarding experience. Not only did I feel appreciated and connected to the kids, but I felt like I was making an impact on their lives. I really enjoyed our group."*

Here at The Lighthouse, we seek to make our programs beneficial for all involved. Like Patricia, many of the women who volunteer had previously been participants in the family camp and had benefitted from its programs. It gives us much joy when so many who have taken part in our programs and have overcome hardships are enabled and inspired to give back and help others!

The Lighthouse is very thankful for the Hispanic family camp volunteer team of 2013. Through their generosity of spirit, work, playfulness and laughter, our Hispanic family camp was rendered a tremendous success!

The Lighthouse Annual Dinner and Silent Auction will take place on Saturday November 9, 2013 at Toronto District Christian School. You are invited to come and support The Lighthouse. Doors open at 5:30 PM and dinner around 6:15 pm. Please contact Janet at [janet@lighthousecentre.ca](mailto:janet@lighthousecentre.ca) or 416-535-6262 by October 31 if you plan to come.

**CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!**  
[www.lighthousecentre.ca](http://www.lighthousecentre.ca)

## From the Desk of Rob

With the end of another summer and a new season of programs beginning at The Lighthouse, I find myself reflecting on some of the events of the past few months. Along with all the wonderfully rich summer programs at The Lighthouse, there were events of sadness, in particular the funerals for two people with connections to The Lighthouse.

The first funeral was for **Dirk Jongkind**, who celebrated his 99<sup>th</sup> birthday earlier this year. Dirk loved The Lighthouse and held an important role in its history. Every year over the past seven years, I received a 4-6 page letter expressing his passion for The Lighthouse and sharing ideas on how to move forward in *helping people and changing lives*. Dirk wanted everyone to see how important it was to support the work of The Lighthouse he was a true Lighthouse champion to the end.

The second funeral of note was for a 3-year-old boy named **Aiden**, whose young life ended tragically while playing in a pool at the home of a family friend. Aiden had participated in the Hispanic Family Camp, and had loved being there. One day he came into my office with a big smile, saying how excited he was about being at camp. Later that same day, Aiden showed me a drawing he was working on and talked about the fun he was having. Even though I only knew Aiden for a short time, his enthusiasm provided encouragement and joy to all those around him.

When I reflect on the love these two very different people had for The Lighthouse, I see the importance of our stake-holders, programs and ministries in a new light. We are much more than a food bank, a summer camp program and a series of counseling sessions. *We are an inter-connected community - a network of people who care, encourage and inspire.*

Help us strengthen this inter-connected community: **PRAY** for wisdom and clarity as we discern how to best use our resources; **GIVE** generously to ensure the continuity of life-changing programs; and **SUPPORT** The Lighthouse by volunteering your time and skills. Together, we are making a difference - one life at a time.



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### Helping People Changing Lives

*Thank you for being partners with us in this ministry.*



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#### Other Ways to Help - Contact us for details

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- Monthly Visa or MasterCard donation - makes it easy for you and for us
- Canada Helps on line at [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org)
- Giving through Christian Stewardship Service
- United Way Payroll Deduction-just provide our CRA # and address
- Matched Corporate Giving - many companies match employee donations

Please mail your contribution to:

**The Lighthouse**  
**1008 Bathurst Street**  
**Toronto, ON M5R 3G7**

Receipts will be issued in the New Year.  
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