



The

LIGHTHOUSE

Helping People | Changing Lives

1008 Bathurst Street • Toronto • ON M5R 3G7

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Meet Our Newest Staff Member - Bianca Martin



Throughout 2020 and 2021, The Lighthouse conducted a research project surveying and engaging our Neighbourhood Program clients in an attempt to learn and listen to what other needs we could be responding to. This was done with the hopes of building on our social services and programming through our holistic approach. Through this research we determine the need for increased access to information and referrals as well as community programs and workshops targeting changing needs. We realized this would require a new staff member to join our team. We are very excited to introduce Bianca Martin, The Lighthouse's new Community Support Worker.

Hello there! I am excited to be working at The Lighthouse as a Community Support Worker. I graduated in 2020 with a Bachelor of Applied Science in Family and Community Social Services from the University of Guelph and a Social Service Worker Diploma from Humber College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning. I have over 850 hours of placement/work experience working with vulnerable diverse populations including but not limited to working with adults and children with exceptionalities, seniors and older adults, newcomers, youth and young adolescents.

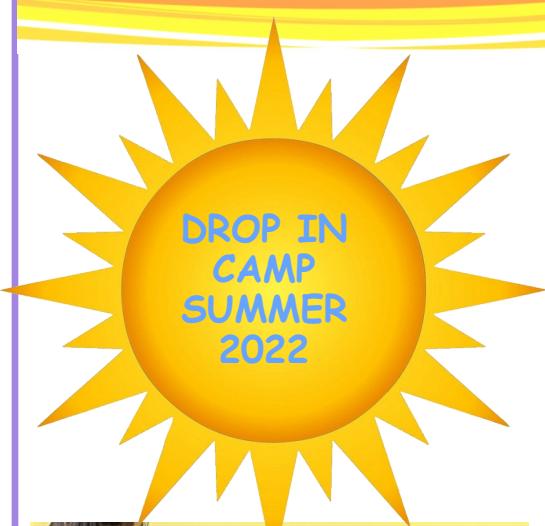
The Lighthouse will always hold a special place in my heart. I started my first placement here when I was in my second year of University. I returned back for a couple of summers as summer staff. I absolutely loved my time working at The Lighthouse. I learned so much from staff, volunteers, students and clients. My hope for this position is to assess, develop, implement and evaluate existing programs such as the Food Bank, Clothing Bank and income tax programs, but to also see if there is a need and demand for other programs or workshops. I hope through the collaboration of staff, students, volunteers, community partners, clients and the board we will cohesively develop new programs and workshops to serve the needs of our clients and support our local community. I would like to cover as many diverse populations possible and to utilize the space that The Lighthouse has appropriately. For example, launching a children's program, ladies program and a men's program. Applying for funding to develop a computer lab at The Lighthouse for our clients to use for various needs such as job searching, homework help, resume building, research for housing, for general communications or forms that they may need to complete and submit online. Having a computer lab for example, would allow diverse populations of all ages' access a service that is quite essential in today's world where technology is heavily integrated in society... *continued on page 3*


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This summer, The Lighthouse has been hosting our Thursday Drop-In Camp for kids! This program was designed and developed for children between the ages of 6-12 to take part in a camp like experience every Thursday from 9:30am-3pm through the summer months of July and August. Each day has been themed with fun, educational activities that promote healthy living, development and wellness. This is a chance for kids to participate in arts crafts, recreational and educational activities in a safe, fun, and inclusive learning environment along with building new friendships!

Securing affordable childcare in the summer months can be challenging for many folks in the city. Camps can be expensive and fill up quickly. Here at The Lighthouse we recognize these challenges as well as ongoing challenges with inflation and decided to take action and create a drop-in children's program that would provide an authentic camp experience for children, as well as provide relief for parents and caregivers. The Thursday Drop-In Camp additionally provides another element of food security. In the summer months families can face the challenge of losing crucial school breakfast and lunch programs. During our Drop-In Camp we sought to combat this loss by providing a balanced breakfast, lunch and snacks to campers.

The Drop-In Camp has been a great addition to our Neighbourhood Ministry this summer and we are excited to be building up our community in new and creative ways!



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Part of this work will entail building partnerships with other like minded organizations. At this present time, we have partnered up with YES (Youth Employment Services) Toronto to host volunteer projects at The Lighthouse that will run into September. We are excited to see the creativity YES youth will bring to The Lighthouse. We have also been working on setting up and facilitating a clothing pop-up store in partnership with Uniqlo mid September as well. Stay tuned for more details on our Instagram or Facebook coming soon!

Aside from work a few fun facts about me is that I love live music, playing Mario Kart and going for walks with my dog. I am highly food motivated and strongly believe that Fridays should be fun! Please don't be a stranger, pop on by and say hi! If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas that you would like to share please feel free to email me at bianca@lighthousecentre.ca or call at 416-595-6262 #223.



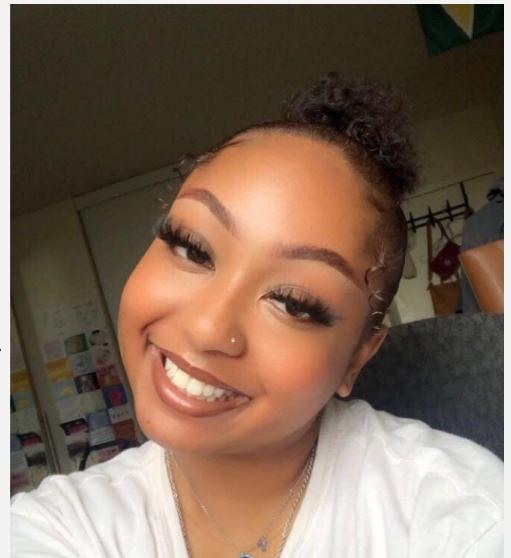
The flyer for the Bike-A-Thon features a yellow and blue design. At the top, it says "BIKE-A-THON OR WALK FROM ANYWHERE!" with "5K 10K 25K" below it. The date "SEPTEMBER 17TH & 24TH 2022" is prominently displayed. Below the date are three small black and white photos of people cycling. The text "FOR MORE INFO VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.LIGHTHOUSECENTRE.CA" is in the center. At the bottom, it says "CONTACT INFO: rob@lighthousecentre.ca".



Many of our programs are able to run thanks to our volunteers, placement students, and part time staff like our 2022 summer's staff.

Hello! My name is Liana and I am one of two summer staff persons through Canada Summer Jobs at The Lighthouse for 2022. I am currently studying Kinesiology at York University. Working at The Lighthouse has taught me many different valuable skills so far that I am excited to use for future opportunities. Watching The Lighthouse bless many, and be a safe place to for those seeking assistance, has been very encouraging to witness. Working here has been a pleasure and has been a wonderful experience. Thank you for your time and support.

Hello everyone! My name is Melody, I am currently working at The Lighthouse as Summer staff through Canada Summer Jobs. Some things that I am passionate about are all things beauty and self care. I am also a huge advocate for mental health because I know that sometimes it can be hard to find your own voice. I took the last academic year off from studying Criminology at Toronto Metropolitan University to figure out what I wanted to pursue as a career and started a small business working as a self-taught nail technician. Last summer I worked as a camp counselor and I also worked in retail. I gained a lot of experience over the last year. In September, I plan on joining the esthetician program at Centennial College. I decided to spend my summer working at The Lighthouse because I knew that I would be working with people who all had the same goal as me, which is helping people. So far I've learned that the job is not easy but it is highly rewarding and I have the blessing of working with a super supportive team. Everyday is filled with new experiences that continuously teach me more about myself. I look forward to learning and growing even more this Summer.



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From Rob's Desk

As I reflect on how Covid-19 has affected The Lighthouse, I noticed that we had made some drastic changes in order to help our clients. These changes helped us to continue serving our clientele. We wanted to keep our clients, volunteers, placement students and staff safe. Overall, we were effective in keeping everyone safe. We saw individuals who experienced Covid but never experience an outbreak at The Lighthouse. We are very thankful!



For some of our programs we have seen an increase in the number of individuals we served. More individuals were looking for help. We saw an increase in the number of clients we served during the food bank. Before Covid made an impact, we served about 40 to 50 households each day the food bank was open. Today we serve about 70 to 85+ households each day. Another program that saw an increase was the Income Tax Clinic. Before Covid, we helped about 300 individuals file their income taxes. In 2022, we helped over 600 individuals at two locations. The Hispanic Ministry and the Vietnamese Ministry were able to continue their work on Zoom. Today both of these ministries meet most of their clients on Zoom. The Hispanic Ministry senior's program has begun meeting in person again. We are grateful to be able to rent a space in a church which has a large room to facilitate the senior's group in a safe manner.

Covid created many challenges for The Lighthouse but it also created blessings. In May 2022, we hired another staff person for the Neighbourhood ministry. We hired Bianca (Who you've met on the front page) to be a Community Support worker to our clients. So far Bianca has helped many clients fill out forms and has started a Drop-In Summer Camp for children at The Lighthouse.

Another blessing comes from you, our supporters. The Lighthouse has been blessed by your support and the support of a number of grants we received in 2021 and 2022. We are thankful for your continued prayers and support as The Lighthouse continues to be a light to the community. Thank you!

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- Canada Helps on line at 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
- E-transfer sent to info@lighthousecentre.ca

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