



# A New Beginning Newsletter

**A NEW BEGINNING UPDATE**  
Volume 1 Issue 1 (September 2010)

**Back to School and Looking Cool**

## **If We Can Believe It, We Can Do It—With Your Help!**

Every child deserves a new beginning and academic success is fundamental. Our objective at A New Beginning Apostolic Church was to work together with the Followers Mission, the Regent Park Community Centre and other community sponsors to meet the needs of children in Regent Park. How better than to supply 1,000 packages of new school supplies and clothing. Imagine yourself as a child receiving a special reward, the uniqueness of feeling valued and important as you start your new school year. Our 65 church members imagined it. And you helped us do it!

## **Spotlight on Our Supporters!**

For nearly two decades, the Followers Mission at Queen and Sherbourne has been a bastion of support to thousands of homeless men and women living in the Moss Park area. In keeping with the Mission's commitment to those in need, Pastor Young Wha Kang and her team is working with us to support Regent Park. Pastor Young shares our commitment to the needs of children living in the community.

The Regent Park Community Centre was instrumental in helping make our Cool School Event a success. By securing the permit for our event, the Community Centre became the focal point for our gathering. The Centre opened its doors giving us access to both the inside area and the outdoor grounds in front of the Centre. Staff took the time to assist us throughout the day by providing help and information when it was needed. The Centre helped to make it a wonderful day.

## **Planning the Day—Countdown to Saturday September 11<sup>th</sup>**

Planning began one month before the event with teams of church members approaching store managers, fellow employees, friends and family for donations. This involved a coordinated foot patrol through Toronto malls as well as behind the scenes communications with corporate offices and other potential donors.

## **An Overwhelming Grassroots Response**

We received an outpouring of donations from store employees who mobilized to obtain donations for the children. Work-stations around the city became make-shift depots for the collection of erasers, calculators, binders, paper and other supplies. The enthusiasm of colleagues and strangers mounted with each passing day. You motivated us!





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## Funds Materialized and Became a Big Silver Lining

The heartfelt generosity of the residents of Toronto was overwhelming. People often said that they had wanted to do something to help others for a long time but just didn't know what to do. This event was successful because of a collective spirit of generosity in the city.

Every school supply and item of clothing and financial donation was given directly to the children of Regent Park without any overhead cost.

**Total Cash Donations: \$993**  
**In-Kind Donations: \$ 5,000 (approximate figure)**

## The "Cool School Event"

The donations were loaded on to a U-HAUL in preparation for the big day! Then the parcels were unpacked and set out on tables staffed by enthusiastic volunteers at the Community Centre. And the Celebration began. The children looked in wide-eyed wonder at their packages. The excitement of giving out new school supplies and clothes was contagious. One little boy was delighted when a volunteer went off in search of a pencil sharpener for him. Another boy went home to put on his new clothes and returned to proudly show us that they fit.

The children lingered to drink refreshments, sing songs and play games long after the supplies had been distributed.

## It's a New Season

We are now planning a Coat and Clothing Drive for homeless men and women in the Moss Park/ Regent Park Community as well as a New Winter Clothing Drive for the children. Here's your opportunity to participate in our winter event to supply warm winter apparel for those in need "Hot Coat-ure". If you would like to help us please contact [anbacmissions@rogers.com](mailto:anbacmissions@rogers.com) to discuss small ways to be part of something big.

## Many Thanks to:

- Followers Mission
- June Callwood Centre for Women & Children
- SVP Sports
- Our Christ Is Wonderful Missions & Ministries International
- Regent Park Community Centre
- Many Employees of Private & Public Sector Organizations
- Family and Friends.

*We couldn't have done it without you!!!*

