

DAY 2

Reach & Renew

Theme Verse: “Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them.” Matthew 19:14

DEVOTIONAL

READ: Let the Children Come to Me - Matthew 19:13-15

When you think about some of the good things that have come about in your life, you may not realize it, but you owe a lot of gratitude to your education. Even simple everyday things; like reading, writing, counting and math. Now think about what it would be like if you hadn't been taught any of these things. How much of a hindrance your lack of education could be to even your own survival?

Jesus told us that we are not to hinder the children of the world (Matt. 19:13). That we are to view them as precious and valuable in His sight. If we understand — as Jesus did — that children have a lifetime of potential ahead of them, we should do everything in our power not to hinder their progress. We can do this by ensuring every child has the opportunity and the right to be educated.

Vekin Yags, Grade 12

STINKY ISSUE:

LIMITED EDUCATION

Can you imagine for a minute not having access to education and all its benefits because there was no school or your family couldn't afford a uniform and/or school supplies? This is a reality for 121 million children who are not receiving an education in the world today. More than 72 Million children of primary age are not receiving the education they need to become empowered members of society. They are marginalized because of their limited education and do not have the knowledge necessary to improve their living conditions. This begins the poverty cycle that leads children and families into 3-D jobs, in other words jobs that are Dangerous Dirty and Degrading. For more information on 3D jobs: www.nochildforsale.ca

In Canada, the idea of limited education seems unheard of but the very real problem of lack of time continues to grow within the schools and home. Within the schools the increase of special needs kids and the decrease of funds to meet their needs can



Education is the

kindling

of a flame.

—Socrates



72M

ARE BEING DENIED
EDUCATION



780M

ADULTS ARE

ILLITERATE

become a barrier that begins to limit education (marginalize children) within the classroom. Their incomplete assignments and homework are then sent home for the children to complete. This is fine for children that have parents with time or have access to tutors and home Internet. These children can complete their assignments but some children are not as fortunate. Maybe their parents are working long hours to support their families, don't have the money for tutors and the library is their Internet provider which may be across town and is closed.

Unfortunately homework privileges the already privileged kids and disadvantages the already disadvantaged kids. This barrier can result in falling behind and even slipping through education cracks.

DAY 2

CHARITY MAKING A DIFFERENCE



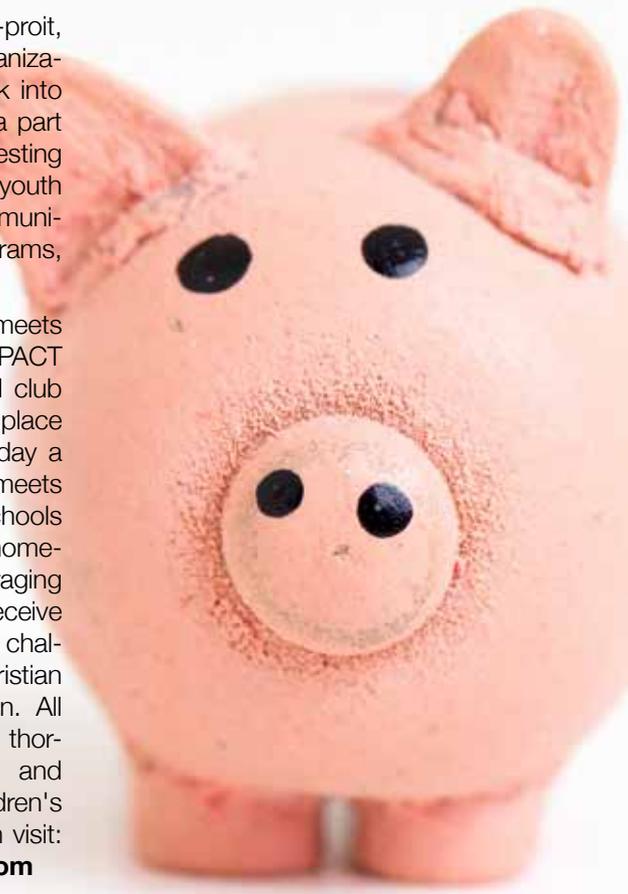
CROSS TOWN IMPACT

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Cross Town Impact is a non-profit, faith-based charitable organization that exists to give back into the local communities it is a part of. CTI does this by investing into the lives of children & youth through the medium of community events, after school programs, fundraisers and more.

One of the ways CTI meets these needs is through IMPACT ZONE; a FREE after-school club that gives parents a safe place to send their children one day a week. Cross Town Impact meets in 5 different elementary schools to assist children with their homework in a fun and encouraging environment. Students receive a nutritious snack and are challenged with a positive Christian character developing lesson. All our volunteers have been thoroughly trained, screened and police checked for the children's safety. For more information visit:

www.crosstownimpact.com



LOVE CHALLENGE

TOONIE TUESDAY

If we want to see the lives of children changed in our community then we need to fight for their futures. We need to recognize the blessing they are to our lives and our community. We understand that it takes a village to raise a child and we're thankful for every parent, teacher and volunteer who selflessly invest into that future. Their investment will pay off in huge dividends all because someone placed a value on a child and became the change they wanted to see in their own commUNITY.

Today, you have an opportunity to become the change you want to see in your community by searching out all the lost coins you can find. Just as lost coins have value, how much more valuable are the people who live in the communities around us?

Raid your piggy banks, look in your snow pants, hunt in your couches, look under your car seats, beds, tables and see how much money you can find to donate to Cross Town Impact. A few lost coins might seem like small pocket change, but together as a commUNITY, our lost coins will burst the bank. When lost coins come together, this is where we begin to experience true "Change for Change!"

TOONIE TUESDAY

LOST COIN FACTS:

At times, couches, love seats, car seats and cup holders have extra money in them. In Canada there are over 13 million households. If each household had only one lost Toonie, that would be \$26 Million Dollars!

ZIP LOCK YOUR CHANGE FOR CHANGE:

Take this new found money and place it in a Zip-lock bag labeled "Cross Town Impact". When you return your Love Stinks Pledge Form money make sure you included your "Cross Town Impact" zip-lock bag.



Being loved well reorients

us. It helps us be found

when we are lost.

It steers us towards hope,

towards God.

—NH