



For Immediate Release
November 26, 2009

The Announcement of a New Community Centre in the Jane/Finch Community

DOWNSVIEW, Ontario (Nov. 26, 2009) – The official announcement to the community and the media of a new community centre named after Ephraim Brown who was caught in the crossfire of a gang shooting and killed in July 2007. Ephraim's Place Community Centre was started to provide programs and services for children, youth, and families.

In late July of 2007, 11 year old Ephraim Brown was killed while attending his cousin's birthday party a few doors down from his front porch. The next day members of the Emmanuel Church of the Nazarene gathered outside holding hands in silent prayer recognizing the need for change in the community. "Waiting for someone else to fix our city or address the needs of its people was not good enough. Change had to begin from the grass roots, the place where people live," said Bill Sunberg, Executive Director of Ephraim's Place Community Centre. This would represent the beginning of Ephraim's Place Community Centre.

Ephraim's Place Community Centre seeks to give children, youth and families the tools they need for a successful future. It is an organization meant to bring about both personal and community transformation. "Ephraim's Place is much more than just another program designed to promote positive changes in the community. It is a community in and of itself designed with only one thing in mind, love." Lorna Brown, Ephraim's mother.

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Ephraim's Place Community Centre was launched with three initial programs: The "Upward" Sports Mentoring Program, "Impressions" After School Program, and "Refresh" Community Service Program. The goal is to create a closer knit community that will bring about positive change. "We picture the day when the Jane-Finch and Jane-Sheppard communities will be the safest, happiest, and healthiest places to live in the City of Toronto," said Bill Sunberg. "The job of Ephraim's Place Community Centre will be done when this becomes not only the reality but also the reputation of our community."

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