

The Extra Mile Ministries September & October Progress Report

September & October 2024



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2024 September-October Progress Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Overview:

As we approach the end of 2024, the Extra Mile Ministries continues to make a meaningful impact in our community through a range of engaging and practical initiatives.

Throughout the last two months, we restocked the school backpacks for our Back-to-School program, ensuring newcomer children and youth have the supplies they need to thrive academically. Our Skills Training and Certification Sponsorship Program now offers four types of entry level training options, with plans to expand further. Additionally, we launched our Emergency Kit Program, distributing emergency kits to an excited group of participants in our first Emergency Preparedness Workshop.

In October, EMM participated in ACSA's 2024 Hub Halloween Event, providing a balloon booth for the community children and their families with over 200 participants enjoying a lively celebration.

Each program reflects our mission to go the extra mile for those we serve, and we are excited to continue expanding and enhancing our services in the months ahead.



Participants of ACSA's Senior's Cafe receiving emergency kits during an Emergency Preparedness Workshop

Back-to-School Program

HIGHLIGHTS

Following a successful back-to-school season in August and September, during which we distributed over 200 school backpacks, we have restocked our supplies to meet the ongoing demand.

Our current focus is on supporting newcomer children and youth, ensuring they have the resources they need to confidently continue their educational journey.

The high demand for this service is clear, as our initial batch of supplies was quickly and completely distributed, resulting in a waitlist. This response highlights the critical need for accessible school supplies within the community and reinforces our commitment to addressing it.



Back-to-School Program

Backpacks with School Supplies

Free for children and youth from newcomer families.*

Apply by email:
getinfo@theextramile.org



***Eligibility Requirements:**

- Must be a Toronto Resident
- For children and youth 4 - 18 years old
- Newcomers who have arrived in Canada within the last 3 months



Program is funded by proceeds from Dolphin Gaming

Skills Training Program

WHAT WE OFFER:

CPR/First Aid Training (Toronto CPR): This blended course combines online and in-person learning, teaching CPR, AED use, and managing emergencies like choking, wounds, and circulation issues. Certification, valid for three years, meets workplace safety standards.

Food Handler Training (FoodPrep Inc): This online course focuses on food safety, hygiene, and cross-contamination prevention, providing essential knowledge for food service jobs. Graduates earn a recognized Food Handler certificate, often required by employers.

Forklift Operator Training (WORKSAFE): Designed for beginners, this program includes safety protocols, forklift operation, and hazard awareness, preparing participants for roles in industrial and warehouse environments.

Security Guard Training (Paragon Security): This program covers Ontario security regulations, communication skills, emergency response, and use-of-force guidelines. Successful participants are eligible for a provincial security license, allowing them to work in diverse security roles. The course is designed to comply with Ontario's Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services standards.

By providing these sponsorships, we aim to help participants past the financial barriers and equip them with industry-specific skills and certification, empowering them to access in-demand careers.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Full sponsorship is now available for the CPR/First Aid Certification, Food Handler Certification, and Forklift Operator Licensing.

Partial sponsorship is available for Security Guard training, with the Extra Mile Ministries covering approximately 70% of the affiliated costs of obtaining an Ontario security guard license, including the training and licensing exam.

The graphic features the 'EXTRA MILE MINISTRIES' logo at the top right. The main title is 'Skills Training & Certification Program'. Below this, a list of 'SPONSORED COURSES' includes CPR / First Aid, Food Handling, Forklift Operator, and Security Guard. The graphic is decorated with three hexagonal images: a person in a hard hat operating a forklift, a chef in a kitchen, and a person performing CPR on a mannequin. At the bottom left, an 'Eligibility:' section lists: Toronto Residents, Able to work in Canada, and Newcomers or Low Income. At the bottom right, a small note states 'Courses are sponsored by proceeds from Dolphin Gaming' next to the 'DOLPHIN GAMING' logo.

FUTURE STEPS

- We are working to soon include Smart Serve in our offerings.

Emergency Kits Program

PROGRAM INFO

Our Emergency Kits Program is a practical initiative aimed at helping vulnerable residents in Toronto prepare for potential emergencies. The program provides free starter emergency kits along with preparedness classes to low-income families, seniors, and newcomers. Our goal is to offer useful tools and information that can make a difference in how these communities manage during unexpected events.

Toronto, like any major city, faces various natural and man-made hazards. We recognize that some of our neighbors may have a harder time preparing for these situations due to financial constraints, limited social connections, or unfamiliarity with local risks. Our program addresses these challenges by offering both physical resources and educational support.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Throughout September and October, The Extra Mile Ministries began our series of Emergency Kit workshops aimed at equipping participants with the knowledge and tools necessary to prepare for unexpected emergencies. These sessions provided practical guidance on creating personalized emergency grab-and-go bags for each household member, as well as how to build a home emergency kit.

Participants received free emergency grab-and-go bags stocked with essential items to help them get started. In addition, they learned what to include in their own bags based on individual needs, such as medical supplies, important documents, and personal items.

The workshops also covered key strategies for customizing emergency stores, such as selecting shelf-stable food and water supplies, calculating the appropriate quantities needed to sustain their household for up to 72 hours, and understanding the importance of regular inventory checks. Attendees also learned how to store their emergency supplies to maximize shelf life and ensure accessibility during a crisis.

These workshops are part of our ongoing commitment to building resilient communities. We are proud to have empowered dozens of families with the confidence and resources to face emergencies, knowing they have the tools to act quickly and effectively.

