

Helping Youth Find Their Way . . . . .	2
Discovering My Purpose Through a YU Internship . . . . .	2
Young Dads Finding Purpose . . . . .	3
Ministry Update—LAUNCH Leadership Course . . . . .	4
YU News. . . . .	4
A Message From Your Director. . . . .	4



**YOUTH UNLIMITED:** 57 Mobile Drive | Toronto | Ontario | M4A 1H5 | Tel: 416-383-1477 | Fax: 416-383-1447  
[www.youthunlimitedgta.com](http://www.youthunlimitedgta.com) | **Editorial Team:** Ben Bartosik, Carl Nash, Helen Wyse, Kathy Webb, and Jennifer Khan

## A Patchwork Purpose

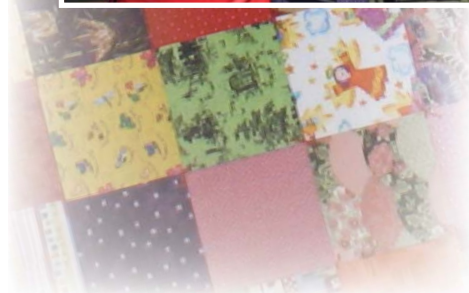
BY JUDITH OTTO, JANE-FINCH  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
COORDINATOR

Approximately two years after starting as a community development coordinator in Jane-Finch, I began to discover a clear purpose in my role. I can now see how God is moving forward to coordinate different pieces of my work into a fabric that weaves together different aspects of my job, forming a beautiful quilt of community togetherness.

My role involves sitting on networks, meeting with various individuals, walking alongside youth, supporting YU programs in Jane-Finch, and sharing resources with other groups in the area. All of this helps to create this quilt of togetherness.

**A quilt is a multi-layered textile, traditionally composed of three layers of fiber:** a woven cloth top, a layer of batting or wadding, and a woven back. All are combined using the technique of quilting—the process of sewing the three layers together. In many cases, the top is pieced from a patchwork of smaller fabric pieces; the pattern and colour of which are essential to the design.

Similarly, the community I work within has many layers to it. Within my own work, I



interact with families, individuals, churches, and other neighborhood agencies. Each of these make up the fabric which must be sewn together to become one quilt. Every stakeholder represents a unique pattern or colour, making up the overall design.

Working with youth, whether one-on-one or in group settings, I am responding to what they need in order to move forward in their lives. Or, when I'm working with local churches—like I am currently doing to organize the Gospel Festival this summer—we are sharing the common goal of celebrating the community of Jane-Finch and investing in the families that live there. Also, sitting on different agency networks with other service providers and residents helps address immediate needs and concerns and discover the best way to respond to those matters together.

By coordinating each of these patchwork pieces I've come to see myself as a seamstress of sorts, weaving together this unique Jane-Finch quilt in all of its colourful pageantry. This has given my role clarity and purpose, helping me better serve the wonderful community God has called me to.



- Stanford education Professor William Damon suggests that “encouraging purpose will see young people become energized, diligent and resilient in the face of challenges and obstacles.”
- Many studies indicate that mentoring is a key factor in helping youth develop into healthy adults.
- “Close, healthy, supportive relationships between mentors and mentees that last for a significant portion of time (more than one year) are central to success.” (Rhodes & DuBois, 2006)
- Damon further states that a key way that adults can help develop purpose in a young person's life is simply by being a good listener when they talk about their interests.