

# The Forgiveness Project

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To Members of the Executive Committee:

I wanted to start this letter of support with a quote from one of our youth:

"CityServe and The Forgiveness Project put me in a position to see myself differently. I had no concept of City Hall or what a job at City Hall could mean for someone like me." - J, 23

I am writing to express my strong support for the continued expansion of CityServe, a City of Toronto initiative designed to provide meaningful employment, mentorship, and stabilization pathways for youth.

My organization specifically navigates case management for those who are at risk of violent behaviour or involved in vulnerable street level activity.

CityServe was launched as a pilot this year, employing 6 who have been identified as high risk due to justice system contact, or exposure to community violence. As a frontline partner working directly with these young people, I can attest that the program is essential.

Since the Fall, our youth have had workshops with employers and social workers, attended numerous job fairs, created life stabilization goals for themselves, created routine and discovered their gifts/talents.

It is almost important to note that our youth are from opposing areas of Scarborough and the ripple effect of this is creating peace among high-conflict area.

During our first cycle, CityServe demonstrated measurable success:

- Although the program is still underway, three participants have already secured employment which is a clear indicator of early success

- Several participants reduced their involvement in high risk peer groups and reported feeling safer and more supported in their neighbourhoods.
- One gang-identified participant successfully completed parole while in the program, crediting the structure and mentorship of CityServe as a stabilizing force. He has a job interview for a City of Toronto next week!

These outcomes are not accidental. They are the result of a model that meets youth where they are, including when they are exhausted by the instability of street life, and provides them with consistent employment, mentorship, and restorative support.

### CityServe Summer 2026

We are preparing to launch CityServe Summer, which is already set to employ six high risk youth between the ages of 14 and 18. Summer is a period when youth violence risk typically increases, making this program's timing and structure especially critical.

CityServe Summer will:

- Provide paid employment during peak risk months
- Offer daily mentorship and restorative support
- Reduce the likelihood of youth engaging in violent or unsafe behaviour
- Strengthen community safety in priority neighbourhoods, including Scarborough

The City of Toronto has made a clear commitment to community safety, equity, and youth opportunity. I urge Council to continue supporting this program so that we can expand its reach, deepen its impact, and ensure that more young people have the chance to choose a safer, more hopeful path.

Thank you for your leadership and for your ongoing investment in Toronto's youth!

Sincerely,

Tara Muldoon

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