



Leadership. Amplified. 

Building Agents of Change
for the Future of our Communities



Hope. Empathy. Love of humankind.

These are the keys to social change, and here at Future Possibilities for Kids (FPK), we help children use those keys to unlock their leadership potential.

In a world faced with division and distrust, we need strong communities. And strong communities are made up of strong children who get the opportunity to be their best. Giving them the building blocks for success early on, and the chance to shine as leaders, can have a dramatic effect on who they become in the future.

Because of the support of people like you, children from underserved communities in the Greater Toronto Area are able to consider new possibilities, set profound goals, and contribute to others.

Together, we are all Agents of Change for the future.

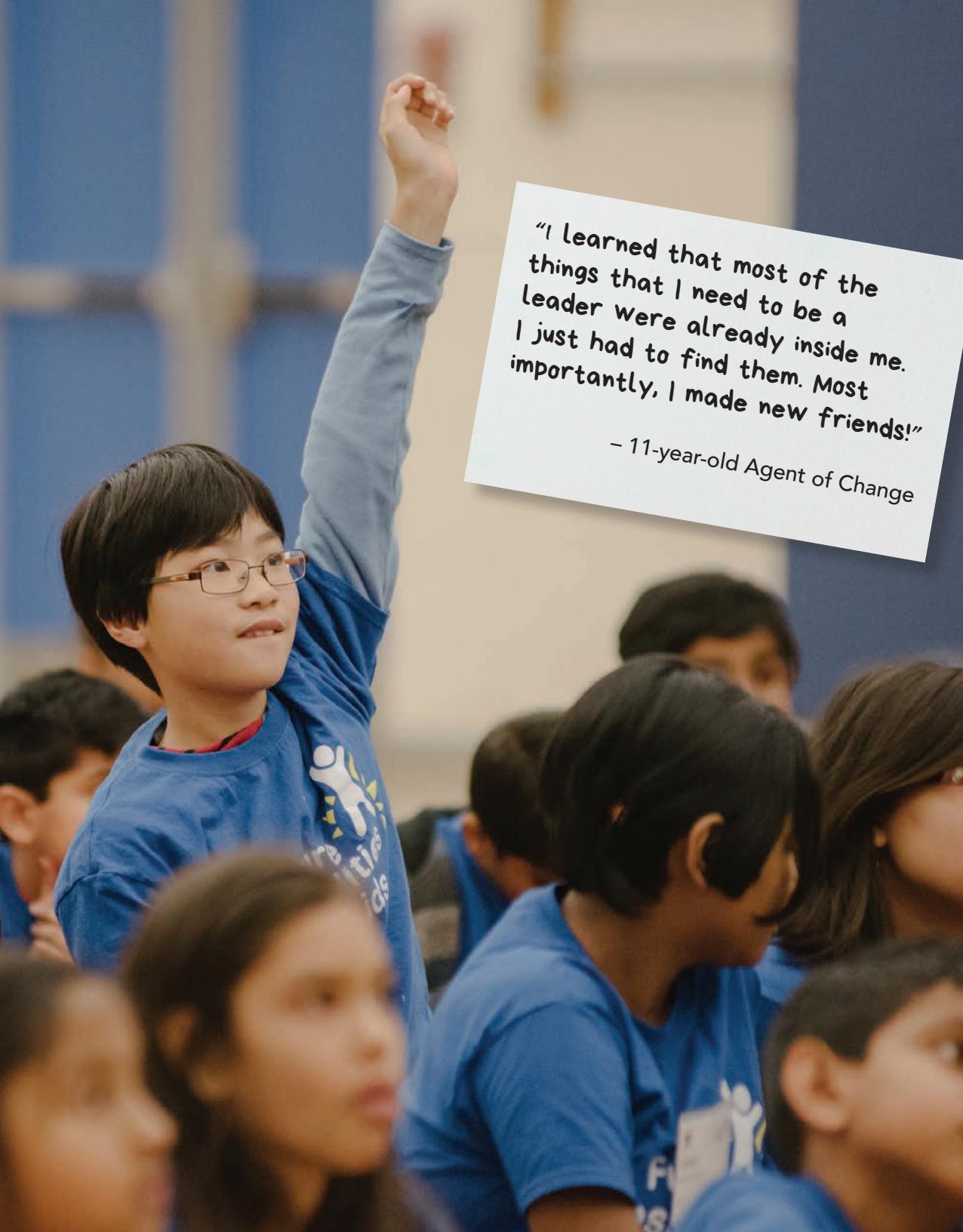
But, right now, too many young people aren't getting the chance to be their best selves. Our program waiting lists are long, and we're not reaching all the communities that need to be reached.

That simply isn't acceptable.

It's time to **grow**. Join us.

"Before Future Possibilities, I was a do-nothing person, now I am a 'can do anything' person!"

– 10-year-old Agent of Change



"I learned that most of the things that I need to be a leader were already inside me. I just had to find them. Most importantly, I made new friends!"

- 11-year-old Agent of Change

Building Agents of Change, one Kid at a Time



GERI BERHOLZ

Future Possibilities for Kids focuses on building leaders through our unique coaching programs. Founded by Geri and Harry Berholz in 2001, we are modeled on a similar program that was then operating in New York.

"Back in the 1990s, I was a high school teacher in Toronto. The school I taught at was in a low income neighbourhood and we implemented a leadership skills program. Children were challenged to come up with an idea for creating a better school experience: one started a yearbook, another became head of the athletic association, and several others set up a school store.

The transformation I saw in these young people and their school was remarkable. Their leadership skills developed, and you could see their confidence building as you watched. More than 20 years later, I'm still close to some of those children (now adults) and they continue to do amazing things. Every single one of them has continued to grow, develop and have impact on others well beyond the program. The ripple effect is enormous.

I became determined to set up a formal leadership development program for children in the Greater Toronto Area based on a successful model that my own children volunteered for when they lived in New York."

– Geri Berholz, Co-Founder, Future Possibilities for Kids

Since then, more than **5,000** children have participated in FPK's one-of-a-kind community leadership and life skills development programs.



What we do

Through coaching, we plant a seed that continues to grow as children become youth and youth become adults.

In particular, we work with children ages 9 to 12 who are in their 'middle years.'

Why ages 9 through 12? It's a time in children's lives when they hover

between childhood and the teen years, and they're particularly vulnerable to the world around them. At the same time, there are fewer resources available for this age group than for the surrounding age groups.

We work in partnership with local school boards to determine which

communities have high levels of low-to-moderate income and reduced access to supports like the programs we provide. We specifically work in these underserved communities to build **Possibility Neighbourhoods**.

Our programs open the door to opportunity, impact and possibility.



What is a Possibility Neighbourhood?

FPK defines a Possibility Neighbourhood as having these elements:

- Kid-Centred Community:** Young people are valued and heard, and help to develop solutions for the issues affecting their neighbourhoods
- Barriers to access are removed:** Every child has access to high-impact opportunities to learn, grow and succeed
- Encouraging allies and resources:** Community agencies, companies, schools and residents are enabling children to become civically active



"The coaching we do through our programs is not the same as mentoring. A mentor is someone who's been there and done that and you go to them for guidance and expertise in a specific area. A coach, on the other hand, has no expectations. They just need the right tools, the right questions and good listening skills to unlock a kid who already has all the answers inside them."

— Nicole Thibideau, Director, Program & Operations, FPK

Our Programs

Our flagship Ready, Set, Goal! (RSG!) program begins with a trained volunteer KidCoach. KidCoaches use thoughtful questions, leadership experiences, powerful acknowledgements and ongoing phone support to inspire children between the ages of 9 and 12 to lead community action projects.

Our KidCoaches provide one-to-one support to their Kid through 24 weekly phone calls and four Activity Days. Kids create a 'Goal of Contribution' and are coached through the process of delivering it while they involve friends, family, and other members of their community.

This free, community-based program takes place over the course of six months and encourages children to think boldly, act courageously, and make a difference in the world around them.



6 MONTH PERIOD

Camp Contribution is a free two-week summer day camp for children ages 9 to 12. Our summer camp is special in that it empowers Kids to make an impact in their community by igniting the belief that they can make a difference.

Here, children work with other campers and inspiring Camp Leaders to develop a community goal, and then work together



to achieve it. Campers explore their neighbourhood, learning about the needs of their community, and then decide together what they would like to do about it.

Whether launching a laughter program at a children's hospital, organizing a local park clean-up, or advocating for a local shelter, Kids become champions of hope and change.



TWO WEEKS IN THE SUMMER

POSSIBILITY NEIGHBORHOODS

Our Impact

FPK's curriculum has been developed and refined with input from various experts including school boards, social workers, educators and community influencers.

Since 2001, our two programs have consistently increased levels of social awareness, activism and involvement in children. The number of program participants in a recent year saying that they speak up when they see something wrong increased from 56% before the program to 75% after, and the number expressing a desire to make their community better grew from 63% before the program to 97% after.

Each Kid who participates in our programs involves and

inspires an average of five other people through their community service project, and 20 other people are positively impacted.

In other words,
each Kid impacts

over **25**

OTHER PEOPLE.
NOW THAT'S
LEADERSHIP
AMPLIFIED!

Growing this core program will create significant waves of positive change.



These programs empower everyone connected to them. That could be a child, a coach, a family member or even business people like me. We are empowered to think about the possibility of our lives, rather than the impossibility.

— Mark Landers, Long-time Volunteer and Donor

In total, 5,000 children have become leaders through FPK programs, and 60,000 community members have been positively impacted.

But the impact that partners like you have on FPK Kids goes far beyond these statistics. When children are part of programs that challenge them to grow, learn about themselves and connect to others around them, the results can be dramatic.

In fact, children are building key skills, traits and strengths which will stay with them for the rest of their lives, and are critical for their development into well-rounded, civically engaged and empowered adults.

"I was a follower, now I'm a leader."

— 11-year-old Agent of Change





Our Impact in Action



Joshua and Abigail, a brother and sister in the Ready, Set, Goal! program, live in the Jane and Sheppard area of Toronto. After seeing a girl in their building who was in a wheelchair with nowhere to play, they were inspired to take action.



As part of our program, Joshua and Abigail learned how to make change happen. They wrote letters to City Councillors, the Mayor, Members of Parliament, even the Premier of Ontario and the Prime Minister. They gathered hundreds of signatures for a petition and, within months, they had politicians, mainstream media and their entire community engaged.



JOSHUA AND ABIGAIL
WITH TORONTO MAYOR, JOHN TORY



JOANNA & FPK KID

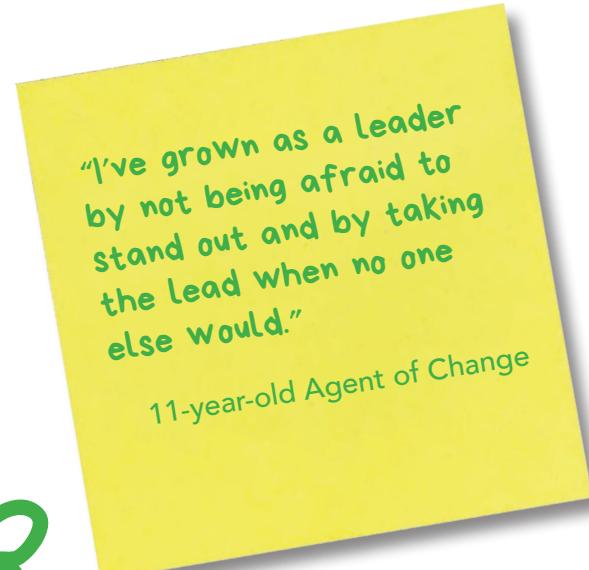
"The biggest benefit of programs like Ready, Set, Goal! and Camp Contribution, where children are partnered with caring adults, is that they accelerate children's positive development. Their performance improves within school because of the skills they've built, which in turn builds capacity within the entire school and community ecosystem."

Right now, our school system isn't set up to deliver the focused one-on-one programming you see with RSG! Instead, it's set up to deliver a classroom experience to groups of children who move along as part of a cohort. Programs like those offered through FPK serve a vital role.

To have someone who's actually going to sit with you for half an hour a week, who's going to listen to you and support you, and who's going to help you discover your strengths and talents and interests... that's gold.

You can't put a price on the value of investing in children at this crucial age and stage of their lives."

— Joanna Boutilier, Program Volunteer





I still remember how it felt to learn that I'd been accepted into the Future Possibilities for Kids program back when I was 10 years old. I felt so honoured and so important, and knew I was going to be a part of something bigger than myself.

In fact, it wasn't too long before I came back to the program as a volunteer KidCoach. That's how much I believed in the value of what I'd experienced, and how much I came to understand that once a Kid, always a Kid.

I remember my own coaching sessions like they were yesterday: My KidCoach encouraged me, and always saw the best in me. It was one thing to have my parents and relatives say those things, but to have a complete stranger believe in me was incredibly impactful. For the first time, I felt like I might amount to something.



— Anisa Dattu, former Kid and current KidCoach

The goal I set for myself was to raise money to support an arts centre. I put together a bake sale and donated the money to the organization. The experience forced me to speak to adults I didn't know and I remember thinking that they would find me to be rather silly. Instead, they were excited and grateful. They even put my story in their newsletter!

It seems like such a small thing, but it was the first time I felt really respected by adults. I felt empowered and confident, and those are things that have stayed with me over all the years since.

Now, at 27, I can look back and say that my participation in Ready, Set, Goal! changed the course of my life, though I didn't know at the time what impact it would have on me.

Today, I'm a family and immigration lawyer and I'm managing a firm. Future Possibilities for Kids left me feeling I could take on the world and I could do anything. And I can!

Building Development Assets one Kid at a Time



Grounded in extensive research in youth development, resiliency, and prevention, the renowned and respected Search Institute has developed a list of 40 Developmental Assets for elementary school-age children. Their research has consistently shown that children do better when they have a strong foundation of these assets in their lives.

These assets consist of the supports, opportunities, and relationships children need across all aspects of their lives, as well as the personal skills, self-perceptions, and

values they need to make good choices, take responsibility for their own lives, and be independent and fulfilled.

When youth have more assets, they are more likely to thrive, less likely to engage in high-risk behaviors, and more likely to be resilient in the face of challenges.

FPK's programs cover 33 out of the 40 building blocks of healthy development that lead to children becoming healthy, caring and responsible adults.

Impact Amplified

Future Possibilities for Kids believes in amplifying impact beyond direct participants



Our children need us to do more

As a friend of Future Possibilities for Kids, you've touched many lives. But there's so much more to be done. There are too many young people we aren't reaching. Too many who don't have the opportunities and encouragement that they deserve.

The statistics are clear: children in the GTA lack the skills, tools and programs they need to engage in their communities in meaningful ways. This is particularly true in the low-to-moderate income communities with high newcomer populations where FPK operates and where social isolation is common.

Right now, our programs are limited to just five neighbourhoods and there are too many children missing out on the opportunity they deserve to:

GROW

their leadership abilities by serving others, finding solutions to community problems, and becoming more active in their school and community

BUILD

their confidence by gaining self-respect and respect of others, learning to believe in their own potential, and demonstrating courage and resilience

INCREASE

their awareness of themselves and others by coming to recognize their personal assets and appreciate those of the people around them



It's time for Leadership, Amplified!

With support from community partners, donors, volunteers, government and companies, our goal is to create three new Possibility Neighbourhoods in the Greater Toronto Area by 2020 – bringing our programs and opportunities to children in Regent Park, West Scarborough and West Markham.

These are communities where programs like Ready, Set, Goal! and Camp Contribution don't exist, but are very much needed.

AGENTS • OF CHANGE •

are inspired and empowered leaders who are aware of the changes or improvements that are needed in their community and are poised to take action to address issues that are important to them.



"My son always struggled with his verbal skills and social interactions and, as a result, he was terribly bullied and we had to switch schools a number of times.

One day during his first month at his current school, he came home with an application for Future Possibilities for Kids. I'd never heard of it, so I started doing research and the more I learned, the more excited I became. We filled in his form and he was accepted into the program three years ago.

The transformation was really incredible to see. My son began thinking independently, he became really comfortable interacting

In addition, these communities are geographically aligned with our current program hubs, and allow for synergies in program development. By expanding our Possibility Neighbourhoods from five to eight, new Agents of Change will be ignited, and the impact of social good will ripple out into the broader community. Your support will have a long-lasting impact on the lives of our Kids as they become responsible, confident, and caring adults.

with his KidCoach. For his project, he decided to educate the community and his school about recycling. He made posters, gave announcements over the PA system at school, and talked to everyone who would listen to him.

When my son graduated from the Ready, Set, Goal! Coaching program, he stood up in front of 600 people and gave a speech. He's now part of our community youth council, is part of the basketball team, and plays in the band. This is a boy who just a few years ago wasn't interested in anything other than sitting by himself reading a book. He didn't interact with anyone, he barely spoke... Future Possibilities for Kids has changed his life and I can't wait to see what he becomes."

— Sasi Ganeshanathan, FPK Mom



We need
your help.

Expanding our programs into additional underserved neighbourhoods in the Greater Toronto Area will amplify the impact of young people to lead initiatives to strengthen their communities.

Join us today in expanding the program to Regent Park, West Markham and West Scarborough. Help us double the number of

children we reach over the next three years! Our future Agents of Change are only young for a few short years. They're counting on us to be there for them.

Time is of the essence. We owe it to ourselves and our communities to do everything we can to encourage hope, empathy and a brighter future for our children.

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