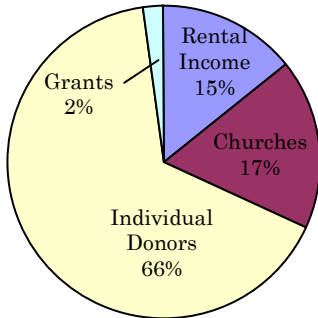
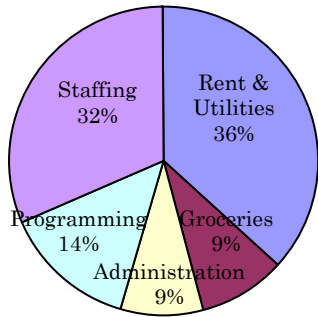


Thank you for all your support!

**Income Sources**



**Monthly Expenses**



**Year end shortfall: \$4,000**

- **Starting January 1st, 2009, all donations must be written to Inner Hope Youth Ministries as 19th Ave Christian Fellowship will no longer be providing receipts for our donors.**
- **Please email us if you are interested in using pre-authorized chequing for monthly donations, as we are in the process of working this out with our bank.**
- **Receipts for 2008 donations will be mailed in the month of February.**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY!**

This Christmas our church (19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Christian Fellowship) has been holding special advent services to prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christ's birth. We are remembering some of the gifts that Christ brought us through his birth: hope, peace, joy and love. These gifts take on a new meaning in the context of ministry with families struggling with addictions, poverty and abuse.

**Hope** – Many youth express the hope that they won't grow up to become addicted to drugs and alcohol like their parents or hope they become the first family member to graduate from high-school. Recently I was helping a youth, who is studying education at Trinity Western University, with a philosophy of education paper. His aim (hope) was to break the chains that hold First Nations youth back from experiencing success in school. God promises that "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will fly on wings like eagles." Isaiah 40:31a

**Peace** – Yelling, cursing and violence are commonplace in the homes and lives of our youth. We've been called to emergency rooms when youth have been stabbed. We have seen the black eyes and bruises that result from fistfights (often during drunken parties). Thankfully, we have also had the privilege of witnessing reconciliation between siblings, between parents and their children and between ourselves and youth who have left our home under difficult circumstances. We have seen God's peace rest on the lives of many youth who need His peace so desperately.

**Joy** – Every day there is reason to celebrate: a youth getting off probation, a youth going to school every day all week, a youth offering to help cook for a special event at "The House", a youth owning up to personal failure without going out and drinking. Last night we hosted our House Christmas night for current and past house residents and regular guests. They enthusiastically acted out the story of Jesus birth wearing costumes from the church. It was heartwarming to see the youth so full of joy as they opened their stockings - with \$5 worth of stuff inside!

**Love** – God's love is miraculous. As the youth experience that love they gain the ability to love others around them. A few weeks ago I arrived home on a Friday night and the New Beginnings youth group was having a girls hair and make-up night at "The House". One of our past house residents, (who is now finishing up a diploma in child and youth care counseling), was leading the devotional. She was speaking to the girls about how much God loves each of them and values their inner beauty so much more than their outer beauty. Our prayer is that as we serve the youth they will see our love as a small reflection of God's love. "If we love each other, God lives in us, and his love has been brought to full expression through us," 1 John 4:12b.

Jenny Shantz & Carla Dickinson

**It's been a busy year at The House!**

- 175** youth visitors
- 45** volunteer visitors
- 1210** meals to non-residents

