



SUMMER STUDENT

We are thrilled to have **Ashley Crozier** return to us for a second summer, filling a 10 week government grant position. Ashley has volunteered in East Vancouver for four years, and has a passion for social justice, education, and discipleship. Ashley will be returning to Trinity Western in the fall to complete a Bachelor of Education.

(Below: Ashley on the right smiling with two girls graduating from High School.)



DONOR OPTIONS

Credit Card donations accepted through Canada Helps. Click "donate now" at www.innerhope.ca.

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A VOLUNTEER'S JOURNEY

I began volunteering with Inner Hope, specifically *The House*, when it began in August of 2007, and this past year had the privilege of being their first part-time staff member. In April I graduated from Trinity Western University and have now moved back home to California. Reflecting on my time at *The House*, I doubt there was ever a day without chaos, and although I was always overly tired when I returned to my dorm room after being in the city, I wouldn't have given it up for the world. At *The House* I got to be part of something so much bigger than myself, as I watched youth heal and grow, loving them as they loved me back, even if they often hid it. *The House* was more than a place for the youth we are serving, it became *my* home and *my* community as well.

Although there have been many disappointments during my time at *The House*, there have been many triumphs as well. This spring we had three youth graduate from high school; one house resident and two frequent house visitors, including Alexis, a former resident with two children. After being out of school almost three years, Alexis returned to high school in January to earn her diploma. As a single mom enrolled in Calculus and Biology, it took her an hour and a half to drop her son off at daycare and her baby with Carla, before going to school. Somehow she found time to do homework on the bus, or when her kids went to bed at night. I have never heard her complain; she is full of hope for the promise of a bright future. Last Friday she wrote her Biology final, and did well enough to earn the top final mark in her class – 94%!

During my last few days at *The House* I helped Alexis write a resume so that she could get a job over the summer. Although welfare will deduct any income earned from her support cheque, she has decided to work anyway. The cycle of poverty in her life is being broken. She is one of my heroes. At her graduation, she walked across the stage with her baby in her arms and her son by her side. It was such a victory for her, but it was a victory for *The House* as well. Over the past three and a half years Alexis has received consistent support and discipleship from Carla, Jenny and numerous volunteers, through good times and bad, helping to make it possible for her to succeed in life. That is what Inner Hope is all about, and that is why it has been such a special part of my life.

Thank you so much for being a part of the Inner Hope team, for your prayers and for your financial support. Not everyone can do what Carla and Jenny do, but we can certainly be a part of what God is doing through them. If you are interested in becoming more involved, with prayer, financial support or volunteering your time at *The House*, please contact Carla or Jenny.

God Bless and Goodbye, Andrea Lambert

Looking Ahead:

With house residents busy working summer jobs or attending summer school, we are hoping for a quieter summer with some day trips, house projects, and vacation time for Jenny.

Needed:

- Dishwasher installation for kitchen
- Baby change table (gently used)
- \$7,000 to cover year shortfall to date
- 5th Board member
- Gently used cupboards for laundry room