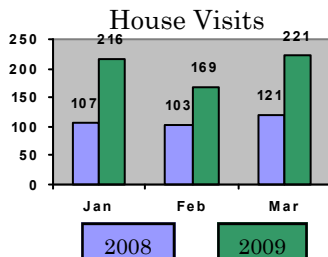




UP 100 VISITS!

This March we hosted **221 visits**; that's up 100 visits from last year! We also **served 132 meals to 44 guests** this month!



As we continue to see the needs increase, we have been experiencing a decrease in donations. We have fallen \$2,000 short each month this year of our \$9,500 monthly budget. Please consider partnering with us financially as we continue to use The House as a means of opening our lives to East Vancouver youth in need of support.

NEW DONOR OPTIONS

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

Monthly preauthorized withdrawals are now available! Use the pledge card to become part of our regular donor team.

Interested in receiving our newsletter via email? Send a note with your email address to office@innerhope.ca

BEDBUGS AND BIBLE STUDY

I had been back from a family vacation in Costa Rica for six days. It might as well have been six years. My first day back started off with family court, as the boys we babysat five days a week had been placed in foster care while I was away. The next day our minivan broke down, (for the third time in 7 months), while driving four youth to the airport for a ten day trip to Prince Rupert for the annual All-Native Basketball Tournament. On Friday the doorbell rang just before noon. Shock set in as the word "homicide" was said. Did I know the young lady in the picture? As I looked at the face of one of our former residents, it was hard to believe that one of her friends who I saw weekly had been killed at her place the night before. The following evening the young lady phoned me, her voice shaking, her spirit terrified, and her incoherent words tumbling out. I drove over to her confidential location, and held her as she cried and tried to empty herself of the memories of the previous 48 hours, which included partying, blackout, terror, interrogation and hospitalization. I picked up the Bible lying next to us, and we read and prayed together as I offered her the only hope I knew. Sunday arrived, and so did the task of cleaning up the homicide scene and the rest of her apartment. Some wonderful women from the church worked alongside Jenny and I as we sorted through the mess and bleached the 19 year old's blood from the floor. Evening came and we held a time of worship with her, interjected with much spiritual warfare. Which brings us to Monday — bedbugs and Bible study; day number six of returning from holidays.

The day got even busier than usual as Jenny discovered bedbugs happily infesting one of our mattresses. Two entire bedrooms were emptied and their contents bagged, mattresses thrown out and "new" ones hunted for on Craigslist. That evening our weekly Young Adults Bible study was joined by a number of youth who had been present when their friend was murdered. About a month before the homicide, this gang-involved group started dropping by our house, and when they did, they would refer to our house as "church." I never did ask why, but it's clear that they recognized something different about our house and our lives, and connected it to Jesus. As I looked around our living room that Monday night, the group held coloured worship folders and did their best to sing the unfamiliar songs; I couldn't help but grin! They entered into the study, contributing and listening, and I was grateful for the opportunity to share the story of Jesus with these kids. We pulled out a cake, and sang happy birthday to the girlfriend of the young man who had been killed. Somehow for us, ministry in the city always comes down to bedbugs and Bible study — innercity, God, mundane, and adventure — all rolling along together. Thank you for allowing God to use you to keep us living our daily lives alongside of these kids.

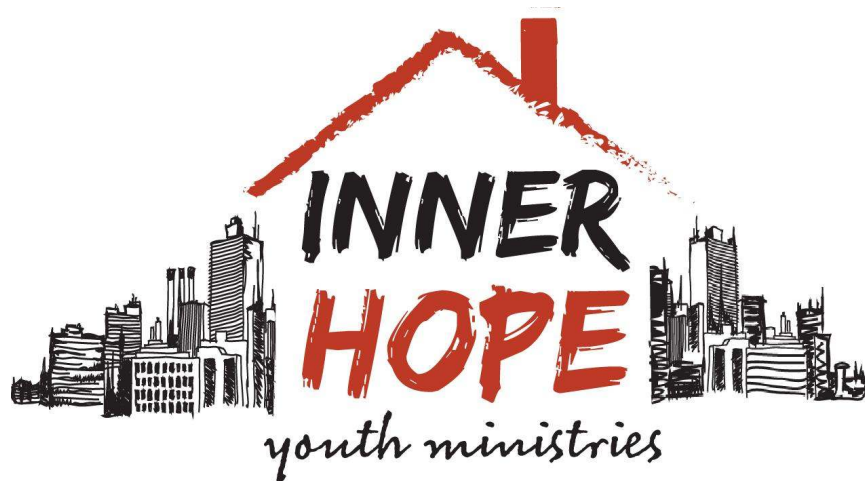
Carla Dickinson & Jenny Shantz

Looking Ahead...

- **April:** Vancouver Youth Workers Forum—Jenny will be hosting a gathering to bring youth workers together
- **May:** young adults retreat in Tofino
- **June:** high school graduations

Needed: A vacation destination.

Do you have a cabin suitable for 8-10 people? We're looking for a place to go for a one-week House summer holiday in July or August. We would also be interested in a smaller place for any weekend.



HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS

- Bryan was accepted in Columbia Bible College in Abbotsford, BC for September of this year! He is planning on taking a youth worker program.

- Hosted five birthday parties and one baby shower in just over two months!

- Continue to host 2 weekly Bible studies, one for young adults and one for high school girls

- Jenny spent Spring Break in Alberta with Bryan and his younger brother, meeting their family and half-sister in Edmonton and grandparents on their Metis Settlement.

- Currently have five residents.... And a couple dozen regular house guests.

- Hosted a Mission team from Kaleo (a Bible school program at Camp Qwanoes) for a week in March. They painted, connected with youth and volunteered around the city.

- Part-time staff and volunteers graduating from University in April—Andrea Lambert, Alison Fraser and Ashley Crozier.



Our Vision:

To build mentoring relationships with East Vancouver youth and equip them to develop into healthy, independent people who are able to contribute positively to society.

Our Mission:

Provide hope to youth by living out Christ's love in their everyday lives
 — Housing — Support — Life Skills — Discipleship —

Target Group:

- Teens who choose us, who want to access our services
 - Male and female youth ages 16 - 21
- Youth coming from unstable home environments, including teen parents and youth dealing with issues of addiction and/or criminal history.

Tax deductible donations can be made out to

Inner Hope Youth Ministries • P.O. Box 74084 • RPO Hillcrest Park • Vancouver, BC V5V 5C8