



## GRADUATION



One of four former house residents who completed their high school studies this year.

## SUMMER BUSYNESS

- Hired 2 summer students for 14 weeks
- Celebrated 5 birthdays
- Attended 3 graduations
- Cleaned house carpets
- Picked berry
- Completed Life Skills office and moved in
- Installed dishwasher
- Attended court twice
- Had a bonfire at Zac's
- Training workshop at Camp Qwanoes
- Staff training day
- Inner Hope strategic planning day
- Waterslide trip
- Boundless Workshops
- House painting projects

## DONOR OPTIONS

*Credit Card donations accepted through Canada Helps. Click "donate now" at [www.innerhope.ca](http://www.innerhope.ca).*

*Monthly preauthorized withdrawals. Use the pledge card to join our regular donor team.*

Life is a constant struggle! Even the best of us feel weighed down at times; immobilized by fear, overwhelmed by pain and pushed to a breaking point when overwhelmed by stress from too many places at once. Most of us have a safety net - family and friends we can count on for both tangible and emotional support. We have people in our lives who challenge us, affirm us and catch us when we fall. But what if we didn't? What if the only way to escape our pain was to medicate it with alcohol, drugs, or an unhealthy relationship to keep from feeling unbearably lonely? Last fall in a treatment center, one of our past residents wrote a poem that includes the following lines.

*Pain is not an object. It is not something you can throw away.*

*Pain is not a joke, you can't just laugh and be okay.*

*Pain is not a tree or bush, you can just simply trim.*

*Pain is not like the sun, which just pushes the clouds away.*

*Pain is like a stain, where you scrub and scrub, and it just won't go away.*

*Pain is like a bug, that will really eat you alive.*

Recently that girl relapsed in her addictions. After visiting her children in their new foster home, Carla and I drove by her apartment to see if we could retrieve some of their belongings. Because she had not been home for a couple weeks, the landlord had stacked all her possessions outside to begin renovations. We rescued as many things as we could (family photos, the kids favorite toys, etc.) and packed them into Carla's minivan, grieving for their loss.

What is our role in all of this? Proverbs 3:5-6 has become significant recently: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will direct your paths." We have been called to provide support, mentoring, discipleship and housing as we are able, and we must rely on God to take it from there.

Her poem goes on to say, "But in God pain can be washed clean. That stain can be turned bright white instead of being grey." It is an encouragement to witness God's healing power in the lives of many youth as they rise above their pain and life challenges. In April, we attended Trinity Western University's graduation to cheer on our first youth to receive a bachelor degree. In June, three high-school aged youth co-taught a workshop with me on counseling youth-at-risk during staff training week at Camp Qwanoes. I was humbled to be served communion by one of the youth at a camp worship service the evening before the workshop. This week, our longest resident of three and a half years is moving out with a friend to gain increased independence. Thank-you for partnering with us!



Jenny Shantz

Director of Development and Life Skills

Congratulations to volunteer Janine Kelley on her marriage to Pat Fleming. Janine has been faithfully leading a teen girls bible study in our home for four years.