

COMMUNITY UPDATES

POST-SECONDARY

Although I always feel far too young to be dropping students off at college, it is one of the more exciting roles in my life – to see youth transitioning into adulthood, and reaching places in life that only a short time ago they never would have dreamed possible for themselves.

This fall I had the privilege of transporting two of our six post-secondary students to their perspective programs – one to college in Saskatchewan to continue working on a BA, and one to a 6 month Discipleship Training School in the Okanagan. Life at The House is very full, and it’s special indeed to be able to spend a few days quality time with an individual youth. As an added bonus, both youth were able to help significantly with the driving on their perspective trips, having secured their driver’s license during their time in our Boundless program.

I was awed by the courage of each of these two, and the evidence of personal growth as they were able to leave behind the known, to travel to a new unfamiliar place to pursue the change, training, and direction for their future as they believe God is leading. Their excitement, nervousness, and relief all echo in my heart, and we look forward to continuing to support them through texts, care packages, and paper editing, until they come back for Christmas!

- Carla Dickinson, Director of Programs



Mission: Providing hope to at-risk youth through:

- Housing Support** Providing a safe, stable home, free of drugs, alcohol and abuse
- Life skills** Helping youth in practical ways in their everyday lives
- Discipleship** Mentoring youth as they develop the skills needed to build their futures
- Guiding youth in a relationship with their Creator



In August, Inner Hope hosted an event called “Continuing the Community” in the home of one of our board members - a walkthrough 4 rooms which represented a part of our journey - what we SEE, DID, DO and NEED. For more photos, become a fan of us on Facebook by searching for “Inner Hope Youth Ministries.”

CURRENT NEEDS

Looking for creative ways to give towards Inner Hope? Here are some of our biggest current needs:

- **Financial support**
 - **towards our operating costs (monthly or one time gifts)**
 - **towards our post-secondary scholarship fund**
 - **sponsorship for Mt. Baker snow camp at \$100 per youth**
- **Boundless Hope volunteer mentors (e-mail bethany@innerhope.ca for more info)**
- **prayer (e-mail office@innerhope.ca to be added to our prayer team)**

www.innerhope.ca

Housing • Life Skills • Support • Discipleship



Fall 2012

THRIVING IN COMMUNITY



BEKAH & SHANIECE

“I started volunteering with Boundless Hope (Inner Hope’s Life Skills program) almost a year ago. This program matches young people with an adult mentor who commits to meet with them weekly to build relationship and support them in developing practical skills. I have always had a passion for women and girls at-risk; so when I heard about Inner Hope’s heart, I was excited to get involved. It has been a year of challenges and obstacles, leaving so much room for God’s guidance and grace. More importantly, it has been a year of much laughter; rejoicing with the Lord for good marks, driver’s licenses, jobs, basketball games and deeper intimacy. Through this season, I have been reminded and encouraged by how little things, like meeting before class, praying, watching a basketball game, or talking on the phone, all make an impact. Living in community, being there for the good and the bad, that is what this is all about.”

- Bekah Otim, Boundless Hope Mentor

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Oct 13** Boundless Hope Workshop: Money Management
- Nov 10** Boundless Hope Workshop: Hygiene and Laundry
- Nov 16-18** Mt. Baker Snow Camp

On the 9th of September, over 50 friends, family, teachers, volunteers, and support workers joined us to experience the baptism of four of our young people... read more about this baptism celebration inside!

Summers are not usually a slower pace at Inner Hope. In fact, with two extra staff interns and youth out of school, this time of year is often busier around “The House.” Along with the regular responsibilities of supporting house residents, running Boundless Hope (our Life Skills Program) and providing discipleship opportunities we also conducted a training workshop at Camp Qwanoes, helped register and transport youth to and from summer camp and hosted day trips in the local area.

This summer I also took on some added administrative tasks in my role of Executive Director. As a means to better equip me in my leadership role, I started a Master’s Certificate in Non-profit Leadership at Trinity Western University in partnership with World Vision Canada. As a class we reflected on Nehemiah, a leader in the Old Testament who was burdened by his people’s circumstances and stepped out in faith to rebuild the city of Jerusalem. He saw a need, prayed, made a plan, approached the king for support and stepped out in faith. As we enter the fall, we are surrounded by needs among youth in the city. The challenges are huge – instability, broken relationships and hopelessness. At the same time, we are excited to see the opportunities ahead and thank you for partnering with us to make a difference.

- Jenny Shantz, Executive Director

With gratitude to all our supporters.
Special thanks to



CELEBRATING BAPTISM

On the 9th of September, over 50 friends, family, teachers, volunteers, and support workers joined the gathering at church and then at Kit’s Beach to celebrate and experience the baptism of four of our young people. One after the other, the four powerfully shared their story of how Jesus has transformed their life of brokenness.



“Hi ... I am 18 years old. I am here today to announce my love for Jesus. I grew up in a non-Christian home. Today is my first day in church in over 12 years.”

“The relationship that I have with Jesus means a lot to me, because I know he’s always by my side, and I don’t need to be around anyone to feel wanted.”

“After that weekend [at History Maker, a Christian youth conference] I immediately felt purpose and a reason to live. Now I’m no longer living for myself; I’m living life for God, and my whole life has changed for the better. I’m living life, and I’m living life to the fullest. Jesus changed my life.”

Snippets from the four youth who shared their stories



“I’ve been slow to anger. I have a different mind and a different heart. I see everything completely differently ever since; I have a different aspect on life.”

Watch video recordings of their stories online by visiting our Facebook page. Search for “Inner Hope Youth Ministries” and be encouraged!

GIVING OPPORTUNITY

As we reflect on the stories being shared in this newsletter and the amazing ways we see God’s hand at work, we are reminded that none of this would be possible without the support of people like you. As we enter the fall, we invite you to continue walking alongside us. Would you consider partnering with us financially in one of the following three areas of need?

- Monthly or one time gifts towards our operating costs – sustaining 4 full-time staff and covering the costs of “The House” and all programming expenses enabling us to continue to reach out to 100 youth and children annually
- Sponsorship for our November Mt. Baker Snow Camp - \$100 subsidizes the cost of one youth to attend this Native youth discipleship retreat.
- Contributions towards our post-secondary scholarship fund – supporting young adults who are gaining education and training equipping themselves to live stable lives.



The Mt. Baker Snow Camp is an annual weekend gathering for Native youth in BC and Washington hosted by North American Indigenous Ministries (NAIM).

CAMP QWANOES TRAINING

Inner Hope is blessed with a number of informal partnerships with local ministries, including Camp Qwanoes, a Christian camp on Vancouver Island. Qwanoes has had a close relationship with Inner Hope since our inception as dozens of youth and children we support attend their camp each summer and a number of youth have participated in their leadership training programs.

For many years now, Qwanoes has invited Jenny Shantz along with a team of young people to teach a workshop on supporting at-risk campers, during their pre-summer staff training week. This is an opportunity for us to equip over 100 summer staff with greater understanding and skills to better support campers who come from hard places. One of the highlights of this opportunity is training our youth to use their life experiences as a platform to teach others. This summer 5 youth and young adults joined Jenny in presenting this workshop. They performed skits, hosted a game show and shared their personal experiences.



Top: 3 Inner Hope team members perform a skit. Bottom: 100+ camp staff watch and learn.

BOUNDLESS HOPE

This summer saw a lot of activity within the Boundless Hope Program. Each Friday afternoon in June, youth gathered at “The House” to study for their written driver’s license tests with summer intern Mark Ang. Mark, who grew up on Vancouver’s Eastside, combined his personal experience and teaching gifts to put together a study guide which he used for weekly study sessions. Not only did this study group help youth get their L’s but it also helped foster their test writing and studying skills. We also saw a number of youth secure summer jobs (a couple thanks to the drive of our other summer intern, Nadine) and several successfully applied for school.



During July and August, Kyle and Mark took advantage of the good weather and did outdoor Frankie & Sam pose happily with their Learner’s licenses.

workshops including hiking trips to Lynn Canyon and Deep Cove and a camping trip to Cultus Lake with a focus on healthy living.

It was with mixed emotions that Kyle (our Life Skills Coordinator) resigned mid-August to take a job with the Salvation Army in Chilliwack overseeing shelters and outreach. Kyle helped launch Boundless Hope and worked with us for almost 3 years. He will be deeply missed. We are now in the process of hiring a new Life Skills Coordinator to continue leading the Boundless Program and providing case management and support for 20 youth and their mentors.



Kyle Belton has left an incredible legacy as Life Skills Coordinator.



DONATE ONLINE @ www.innerhope.ca

Walking alongside at-risk youth; empowering them to live healthy lives.