

## A VISION FOR GREATER IMPACT

We are excited to update you on the results of some reflection and planning that has happened over the last few months. As was mentioned in the last newsletter, Carla Dickinson, Karen Giesbrecht (Board Member) and I have been **attending an organizational development course through World Vision Canada, called Freeform**. This year round course (Nov. 2010 – Nov. 2011) includes three residential seminars, homework assignments, and coaching calls with the National Programs Director in Mississauga. Proverbs 21:5 says, “Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty” (NLT).

We have been challenged to spend intentional time reflecting and seeking feedback to set future direction. This process began by gathering input from stakeholders (volunteers, youth, staff, donors) on our Vision, Mission and Values statements and making revisions. We conducted background research and compiled two reports: a profile of our community and a summary of our performance as an organization. This led to two evening meetings with stakeholders to gain their input on our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and risks. The group then recommended **priority steps that should be taken to address our needs and improve and expand our ministry**. A few core leaders also went on an overnight discernment retreat to seek God’s leading on the input gathered.

**God has really blessed us the last six months.** From March – September our house was filled to capacity, this summer a team of 16 joined our discipleship and service trip to Mexico, and Boundless Hope Life Skills participants are constantly developing new skills and moving forward with their lives. Your financial gifts have made this all possible and we are very thankful for your partnership!

We have also been delighted to welcome a **new board member, Leanne Warawaw**, a Business Manager with McDonald & Company, to our leadership team. We are very thankful for the directional strengths which she brings to our board.

Inner Hope recognizes that a weakness in administration has been holding us back from reaching our full potential. This fall we hired a part-time administrator to provide office support and oversee volunteer coordinating. We are also in urgent need of a qualified bookkeeper. These positions will allow Carla and I to better focus on the roles of program directing, fundraising, being house parents to those living in the home and hosting community youth. **To make this possible we need to increase our monthly pledges by \$5000 and raise an additional \$20,000 to cover a shortfall in our yearly budget.** Would you consider partnering with us by becoming a monthly donor or making a contribution to help us meet our fall budget?

Thanks in advance,  
Jenny Shantz, Director of Development and Life Skills

[www.innerhope.ca](http://www.innerhope.ca)

**Mission:** Providing hope and belonging to at-risk youth through:

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

housing ● life skills ● support ● discipleship

**INNER HOPE**  
youth ministries

FALL 2011

PURSuing GROWTH

Toni met Carla through New Beginnings Church when she was 10 years old. In her early teens, she became involved in a weekly teen girls’ Bible study group at Carla and Jenny’s house, and she gradually became a more frequent visitor at “The House.” She moved in during October 2009 and resided at The House until the fall, when she began attending a Camp Qwanoes one-year leadership program called Kaleo, on Vancouver Island.

Toni plays a mean game of Ultimate Frisbee, enjoys Kung Fu and recently passed her ‘N’ driving test. She is a gifted listener who loves spending time with her friends and youth group leaders. She is looking forward to building a solid foundation for the rest of her life in Kaleo, which she describes as her dream school.



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Oct 15** Boundless Hope Workshop
- Oct 28-29** Church & Affordable Housing Conference
- Nov 5** Volunteer Training Workshop
- Nov 18-20** Mt. Baker Youth Retreat with NAIM
- Nov 22-24** Freeform
- Dec 10** Boundless Hope Christmas Party
- Dec 17** House Christmas

**“... it was such a joy and blessing to see these young people pour out love to people who live in a totally different, yet the same, world.”**

- Carla, Inner Hope Co-Director,  
on Inner Hope’s service trip to Mexico

With thanks to all our supporters, for without your financial support we would not be able to walk alongside youth, supporting them as they develop into healthy adults.

Special thanks to



## BOUNDLESS HOPE

*A huge highlight in the life of the Inner Hope community this summer was our service trip to Mexico, which you can read about on our inside spread. Besides the impact for the local families in Ensenada, the trip impacted the youth of Boundless Hope specifically, as the majority of the youth on the Service Team were from Boundless Hope, our life skills program, which aims to link youth with mentors who will help them gain the skills they need to thrive in life.*

*The level of these youths’ participation in Mexico shows us that our program is not only teaching youth the practical skills they need to live a healthy life, but also instilling them with the desire to live a ‘whole’ life: to receive God’s love and healing and to use their gifts to serve others.*

*Other recent highlights from youth in the program include three youth starting college, several youth getting their driver’s licence and one youth getting ready to leave for a 6-month opportunity with Katimavik, a youth volunteer service organization.*

*A new 3-month cycle started with youth and mentors on October 1 and we look forward to more positive change this fall. We still need volunteers who are interested in developing a one-on-one mentoring relationship with a youth in East Vancouver. Interested? E-mail Bethany at [bethany@innerhope.ca](mailto:bethany@innerhope.ca)*



## MEXICO

This past August 16 Inner Hope participants travelled to Ensenada Mexico to participate in a Mission Adventure with Youth With A Mission (YWAM). YWAM is an international, non-denominational, non-profit Christian organization which exists to enable young people "to know God and make him known," as they mobilize and train young people to share the reality of Jesus Christ with the nations. Mission Adventure is an 8-day program YWAM runs for youth, which includes a camp-like training experience followed by cross cultural community outreach, involving a house-build.

This was the third trip in 5 years for myself and two other participants. Although we have gone to the same location each time, each trip has been unique. This was by far the easiest group, which is a real testimony to the spiritual pulse of the group. Whenever I was in danger of losing the first time "awe" I only had to look at the younger, first time members. With this group my "holy ground" moments started before the trip, at church each Sunday morning, looking down my row and seeing half my team.

The Mission Adventure staff highlighted to us that we were the only non-Caucasian or non-Asian youth group that they'd had all summer. Our team was also unique to the non-Mexican Mission Adventure teams in that including leaders, only 25% of our participants grew up in Christian homes. Everything about the preparation for this trip is a challenge, from passports (we picked up the last one the day we left), to commitment, to raising the funds, but it was such a joy and blessing to see these young people pour out love to people who live in a totally different, yet the same, world.

As I watched our young people build, serve, perform, lead, and love on children, I knew that for a few moments I was witnessing them live out their full potential as the people God created them to be.

- Carla Dickison, Inner Hope Co-Director and Mexico Team Leader

# INNER HOPE youth ministries

- countless hours spent preparing
- 9 hours in transit
- 2 days spent building
- 1 Mexican family housed
- 16 Inner Hope community members changed



“ I’ve never been this happy in my life. My stomach is happy too. ”

- Rebel, first-time Mexico Team participant, at the house dedication



“ Even though I didn’t know the language, I could have sat and visited with that family all day. I grew so much through this experience. ”

-Desirae, second-time Mexico Team participant, after visiting the house that she helped build during our first Mexico Trip in 2006

“ I’ve never done anything like this before. [...] You guys and your family will be imprinted in my heart forever. ”

- Jordan, first-time Mexico Team participant, at the house dedication

**THANK YOU**  
for all the prayers,  
words of encouragement  
and financial support that sustained us in Mexico! We couldn’t have done it without your faithful giving.

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

## WITNESSING CHANGE

Over the past several months, it has been amazing to see our youth become excited about serving others. In the weeks leading up to our trip, they worked their hardest to make sure that we could make this service a reality. However, I think that it surprised us all when those who went to serve in Mexico ended up blessing us more in return.

During our time in Ensenada, it was amazing to see each of our youth become involved and building relationships with everyone we met, and to witness the growth that each member of our team experienced over that period of time. God truly made Himself known to each team member during that inspiring week, and in many ways ignited a power for social justice. We are grateful to everyone whose prayers, gifts, and support were essential in allowing this to happen!

## DISCIPLESHIP

During our existence as an organization, we have never seen so much draw towards church involvement from our youth as we have experienced during the past couple of months. We have been so excited to see a number of our youth commit to attending church regularly. This last Sunday there were 22 Inner Hope youth and family members at one local church, ranging in age from 3-50. One of our youth was baptised, and two others made commitments to Jesus. After 4-12 months of attending on Sunday, many are transitioning in to mid-week church community life. Recently, 4 young people did training to help with the Sunday morning kids program, and others signed up for mid-week groups. Praise God!

We also anticipate the Mt. Baker Snow Camp, coming up in November, as an opportunity to continue in discipleship. Snow Camp is a unique opportunity for our First Nations youth to connect with other Christian First Nations youth and leaders from British Columbia and Washington, empowering them to embrace their culture and their faith in a fun, encouraging and life changing weekend. Our youth have been attending this camp for 12 years, and it is hosted by Red Soul Rising (RSR), the youth division of North American Indigenous Ministries (NAIM).

Would you sponsor one of our youth at \$100 in order to keep the weekend affordable at \$50 per participant?

