

THE BIGGER PICTURE

A few weeks ago I returned from a 12-day vision trip to Rwanda hosted by the Wellspring Foundation. This was an opportunity to take a break from the pressures of full-time ministry while learning from an organization I deeply respect. Two specific areas of interest for me were the healing journey of Rwandans following the genocide of the Tutsis and the focus of Wellspring Foundation's education and leadership development.

In our context, the majority of the youth and families Inner Hope serves come from an Indigenous background, with many of the widespread social problems our families face today directly resulting from a history of racial oppression in Canada. One of the greatest tragedies was our government's facilitation of church operated Indian Residential Schools from 1879-1996 where First Nations children were removed from their families and suffered widespread abuse and malnutrition. The schools' attendance peaked in the 1930-1960's, resulting in most of our youth's grandparents and great-grandparents being raised in these institutions. Some of the resulting impacts today include fractured family relationships, a loss of parenting skills, distrust of Caucasians and the church and high levels of addiction (many have turned to substances to numb their pain).

Vancouver's mayor and councillors voted unanimously to proclaim June 21, 2013 – June 20, 2014 a year of reconciliation in conjunction with a week of events held last September by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Canada. In response to limited involvement from the Christian community at these events, two women from the Chinese Christian community felt called to put on an event to educate local Christians. It was an honour to participate on the planning committee of the *Journey Together, Heal Together* event and invite First Nation Christian leaders to share their stories with us. Over twenty churches were represented at the event with more than 400 people in attendance. It was exciting to return from Africa to help host this event and I trust that God can and will heal our land, just as He is doing in Rwanda.

– Jenny Shantz, Executive Director

For updates on the *Journey Together, Heal Together* initiative, visit www.jhtogether.com. ▲



Mexico Missions Adventure with YWAM



Photo from Mexico Service Trip in 2011.

Serve - Learn - Grow. For 10 days in August (6th-15th), 18 members of the Inner Hope community will be participating in a YWAM Mission Adventure experience in Ensenada, Mexico. This international service trip consists of a camp-like training experience, followed by cross cultural community outreach which includes building a home for a family in need. The cost for this trip is \$22,000, with youth and volunteers contributing \$6,000. We invite you to partner with us as we provide a life-changing opportunity for our youth to experience and wrestle with life, poverty and faith in a developing country. As with our 3 previous trips since 2006, we anticipate seeing our youth maximizing their potential on the trip and arriving back in Vancouver with new vision, determination, and hope for their own lives.

Visit www.innerhope.ca or email carla@innerhope.ca for more details.

INNER HOPE youth ministries

Hope Through Relationships

Faith Leaps

Spring 2014



GIRLS VALENTINES PARTY

This February brought our annual Girls' Valentine's Party! Thirteen beautiful girls were pampered and loved in the form of chocolate fondue, mani-pedi's, a wacky photo booth and a heartfelt discussion on God's love and our identity in our Father. It's such a gift to offer the truth of real love and who God says we are in contrast to how our girls often understand love and themselves. Everyone shared much laughter, made new traditions and all left with shiny toenails and full hearts!

5 Rides in May 2014: Cycling Challenge



Last Spring, Mike McDonald, a friend of Inner Hope, initiated a bike climb challenge to raise money for our Boundless Life Skills program. As an Indigenous lawyer who specializes in capacity building, he has a heart to see youth develop the necessary skills to lead a healthy, stable life. He felt that Boundless, which matches our youth with one-on-one adult mentors, is an effective way of helping our youth grow into healthy adults.

This year, the challenge is back bigger and better, now open to more cyclists to join in! Mike will be gathering a team of four riders to do five long rides in the month of May 2014 and challenges other teams of five to do the same. He invites other riders to join the challenge as well and ask for donations and support. The sum of each team's longest distances from their top five rides will be recorded and submitted into a competition. Similar to last year, a barbecue finale will be held and prizes will be given to the team with the longest distances ridden, as well as to the team who raised the most funds. For information, to join the challenge, to join a team, or donate, please visit www.5ridesinmay.weebly.com.



Due to an issue with the placement of our return address on our envelopes, many of your tax receipts were mistakenly sent back to us. This problem has been resolved and all receipts have been resent. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. If you have further questions or concerns, please contact us at office@innerhope.ca.

The staff and board are pleased to present our 2013 Annual Report, enclosed inside!

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

World Vision
Canadian Programs

WWW.INNERHOPE.CA

inner hope youth ministries' mission and goal is to providing hope and belonging to at-risk youth through ...

- housing
 - support
 - life skills
 - discipleship
- providing a safe, stable home, free of drugs, alcohol and abuse
helping youth in practical ways in their everyday lives
mentoring youth as they develop the skills needed to build their futures
guiding youth in a relationship with their Creator

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MORE TRANSITION: *Leap* A BIG FOR INNER HOPE



It is with excitement and some trepidation that we share with you Inner Hope's plans in the coming months. With the opportunity to expand to a second site, **2014 has the potential to be the most significant year since we launched Inner Hope in 2007.** We are stepping out in faith, knowing we have been called to serve youth and families in East Vancouver and trusting in God's leading.

As many of you know, Inner Hope Youth Ministries was initially founded with the vision to provide supportive housing for at-risk youth. For the first few years of our history, Carla and I (Jenny) were the only full-time staff and our focus was largely housing. In response to the many youth approaching us for

support with life skills, we partnered with World Vision Canada to launch our Boundless Life Skills Program in 2010 and began expanding support services for youth who live outside of The House. Over the last few years our partnership with Reality Church and the recent addition of Sunday community lunches at The House have further expanded the depth of mentoring for non-residents.

Growing our life skills and discipleship initiatives have required us to add staff positions (Life Skills Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator & Program Assistant and Administrative Assistant), which eventually resulted in taking over the lower floor of The House for office space. An additional challenge is that as the organization grows, my responsibilities as the Executive Director are increasingly intruding on my ability to be a House Parent in the home. Ultimately, our growth as an organization has compromised our ability to offer a private home for residents with the current structure.



To respond to these needs, we are pursuing the opportunity to secure a second home with the help of a Christian foundation. **This new home will become a private residence for youth needing supportive housing and allow our current home to be the office space and "hub" for our non-resident youth to gather for meals and support.** We will be provided with the home at minimal rent, but will incur the added costs of utilities, food, staff and maintenance for a second site. We have hired a new Director of Programs, Kiersten Ballard to begin April 1st to assist with the expansion and management of all frontline staff. Carla will focus on managing our discipleship and community programs, continue to do our bookkeeping, as well as mentor the new House Parents.

We are needing to raise \$100,000 by the end of April to ensure we have the funds available to move forward in May with hiring a house parent couple and securing the home. Our goal is to move into the new home in August and have it operational by September 1st, 2014. Would you consider partnering with us in one of the following ways to enable us to expand and increase our impact in 2014?

FAITH. RELATIONSHIPS. INDIVIDUALS. COMMITMENT. INTEGRITY. STEWARDSHIP.

Meet Kiersten, our new Director of Programs!

Many of you may already know Kiersten and be familiar with her love for God and contagious energy as she has volunteered with us this past year. Kiersten has been a dynamic addition to Sunday Afternoon Lunches at The House, and spent hours of time involved in the everyday lives of our children, youth, and young adults. Kiersten comes to us from a corporate background. Over the last year, the Lord has drawn her heart towards our community and she feels very clear in both calling and direction. She is thankful that God has directed her life to this place and is thoroughly looking forward to journeying with Inner Hope in this new capacity. We are excited to welcome her onto the staff team and see how God is going to continue to use her to build his kingdom in East Vancouver.



partnership opportunities



FRIENDS OF HOPE

The Friends of Hope campaign allows a steady monthly income, which provides greater stability for Inner Hope and also allows donors to fit their giving into their monthly budget. Would you consider joining our team by giving \$50, \$100, or \$200 a month? To become a Friend of Hope, contact kitty@innerhope.ca.

5 RIDES IN MAY

Mike's bike challenge is back! Last year, Mike McDonald initiated a bike climb challenge which raised \$20,000 towards our Boundless program. This year, he is inviting other bikers to join him with the goal of raising \$50,000 towards Boundless. For more information, visit www.5ridesinmay.weebly.com.



ONE TIME GIFT

An opportunity to help us cover our operating costs for the current year and assist us with the expense of opening a second home this summer. If you are considering the contribution of a large one-time gift, a cheque is the most helpful way of donating as online donations have 4% deducted for administrative costs. Please visit www.innerhope.ca for more details.

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