

our community

Sandra Delorme grew up in Vancouver. Her mother was Cree and her father was Cree with a strong Metis background. She is a fourth-generation Residential School survivor, and was sent to Indian Day School as a child.



For many years, Sandra was involved with gangs and dealing drugs; "it's what I knew, these were the people I grew up with." She had a wake-up call when her oldest son was killed in an accident in a stolen car, four days before his son was born. She turned her life around and did the work so she could become a caretaker for her grandson. She wanted a better life for her children and grandson, and knew education was a part of that. A few years ago, the school board told her that her grandson was 5 grades behind, and would never catch up.

Sandra knew about Inner Hope because two of her nieces had lived with Jenny and Carla at the House on 29th. She saw what a difference it made in their lives, and she wanted her children and grandson to have the same safe, supportive environment. Two of her kids and her grandson now have Inner Hope mentors. She also worked with Inner Hope to get her grandson into a private school called St. Regis, where he is catching up with his peers.

OCTOBER 3RD, 2020

We are thrilled to be participating in our 4th Ride for Refuge! Our fundraising goal is **\$30,000** to go towards support, lifeskills mentorship, discipleship, and housing for youth and families in East Vancouver



Check out these teams to support participants from our community:

- Pedal Pushing Prodigies
- Inner Hope Boundless Riders
- Homegrown Heroes 2

Each donation of \$100 or more will be matched (up to \$10,000)!

Join our virtual kickoff to meet our teams, hear some good tunes, and learn more about Inner Hope!

Oct. 2nd, 6:30-8:30 pm on the Inner Hope Facebook page

Head to innerhope.ca/ride2020 to sign up, donate, or learn more!

DO WHAT YOU CAN, WHEREVER YOU CAN.

Sandra has been a vibrant part of the Inner Hope community for the last 2 years. She, like many other Inner Hope parents, has formed good relationships with her children's mentors. She is a regular attendee at many Inner Hope gatherings, and she recently facilitated drum making workshops for our youth and young adults. We are so grateful to have her in our community!

Sandra has written about her experiences in an article called "The Legacy and Future of the Buffalo People", published by BC Studies.



Sandra facilitates a drum making workshop



With so many summer activities cancelled because of COVID, connecting with and supporting our youth was more important than ever. We had to get creative and adapt our usual programming to fit within social gathering and physical distancing restrictions.

We weren't sure how this summer would go, but we trusted God to work through it. And God did! Being in smaller groups allowed relationships to grow deeper between youth and mentors, Inner Hope staff, and each other. It also meant more opportunities for life-skill development, like cooking and setting up camp.



Jenny with some members of the Community Advisory Committee and a board member

ways we can work towards change

A few months ago I shared some of my experiences with systemic racism. Some people began asking what they can do to address this issue. Below are a few ideas:

1. Learn about Canada's relationship with Indigenous people (past and present) through reading books, watching documentaries, and attending lectures or courses. Greater awareness will help you be a better friend and advocate. *You can find a recommended reading list at innerhope.ca/blog*
2. Build mutually supportive relationships with those struggling with oppression. Building trust takes time, so be in it for the long haul.
3. Speak up when you witness racism, prejudice, or systems that are oppressing particular demographics of people. The more people speak up, the faster things will change.
4. Help ensure our education system teaches a more accurate, balanced view of Canada's history. Canada was not "discovered" by Europeans. If you have school-aged children or are a teacher, you can advocate to bring Indigenous presenters into the classroom. Share your appreciation to teachers and principals who are working towards change.
5. Work on changing policies and practices in our social systems — one of the biggest current challenges. Often institutions are not operating in ways that are sensitive to the unique background of Indigenous people. Be an advocate in your workplace (health care, policing, etc).
6. Give to organizations who are working actively to help overcome systemic racism, for example, legal aid organizations who help to represent people who are wrongfully charged or wrongfully convicted.
7. Help to increase the number of oppressed minorities in leadership roles. When we vote, do we help ensure diverse voices are heard? Do we encourage diverse leadership in our organizations and churches? I need to work on this more too. If you are in a management position in your job, you have the opportunity to hire people from diverse backgrounds and support their leadership development.

-Jenny Shantz, Executive Director

CAMPING TRIPS:

2 BOUNDLESS GROUPS
1 POST SECONDARY GROUP
9 YOUNG ADULTS
12 YOUTH
14 MENTORS



LIFESKILLS:

MUSIC
COOKING
CAMP SET UP/CLEAN UP
GARDENING
DRUM MAKING



1 VIRTUAL COUNSELOR-IN-TRAINING PROGRAM



OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES:

3 CAMPFIRE NIGHTS
2 CULTURAL MENTORSHIP VISITS
7 GAMES NIGHTS
7 OUTDOOR EXCURSIONS



We want to acknowledge our volunteer mentors who have risen to the occasion and kept up with their one-on-one relationships over the summer! Many mentors have included their youth in their "bubbles", and found creative ways to offer support and build relationships. The fall season means goal setting for Boundless youth, and a new year of school for many Post Secondaries. Please pray for our youth and mentors as they navigate their relationships during the pandemic.



INNER HOPE'S VISION IS TO SEE YOUTH AND FAMILIES EQUIPPED TO LEAD HEALTHY LIVES, AND THE NEXT GENERATION EMPOWERED

A PARTING NOTE FROM DIANA

Diana moved to the UK in August to pursue a master's degree in leadership

When I came to Inner Hope from a background of non-profit leadership, I was in for a few surprises. The surprises and humbling experiences of this job are stamped on my heart and memory; they've changed me profoundly and I am so grateful. It's no coincidence; that's how God works.

If I can encourage you, in whatever setting you live and work: step outside your comfort zone and get to know a few people who come from backgrounds very different than yours. Wherever you are, I guarantee you live close to people in need and people who are inspiring overcomers. One of the greatest gifts of my time as Inner Hope's Director of Programs was getting to know people who were dealt a different hand than I was, and learning from their experiences.

Now I'd like to encourage you one step further. If you're part of a church community, think about the riches you gain from it. I grew up in a pastor's family and we frequently received outpourings of generosity. People showed up to help us move, threw baby showers for my parents, and brought meals when one of my siblings was hospitalized. That's the church at its best—being the hands and feet of Jesus! I've seen Inner Hope be that for people who've never darkened the doors of a traditional church. So I encourage you to think beyond the walls of your church, if you're part of one. Bring that kindness outside... maybe to uncomfortable places.

As Jesus said: "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. When you give a feast, invite the poor, the paralyzed, the lame, and the blind--and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

-Diana Squires, outgoing Director of Programs



Inner Hope Staff and two young adults at a distanced send-off for Diana

Staff news

We have some exciting changes to our team this fall:

Amy Baarda joined us in September as our new **Director of Programs**,



Mark Ang, former Boundless Coordinator, has been promoted to **Manager of Youth and Community Programs**,

our summer intern **Nate Hartley** is staying on part time as **Discipleship Coordinator**,



and **Richie Baron**, a former Boundless and Post Secondary Youth, is coming on as our fall **Intern!**

GO PAPERLESS

Help us save on printing costs! To switch your newsletters to email, just ask.
office@innerhope.ca

JOIN OUR PRAYER TEAM!

Prayer is one of the most important ways you can support us. To receive our monthly prayer letter, visit www.innerhope.ca/pray

Inner Hope Youth Ministries' mission is to walk alongside youth and families in East Vancouver nurturing hope, belonging and transformation through support, discipleship, life skills, and housing.

- support
- discipleship
- life skills
- housing

promoting positive community engagement and loving youth, young adults and families in practical ways
guiding children, youth and young adults in a relationship with their Creator
mentoring youth and young adults to develop the skills needed to build their futures
offering a safe, stable and supportive home for youth, young adults and their children