

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VOLUNTEERS

Inner Hope's mission is to walk alongside youth and families in East Vancouver nurturing hope, belonging and transformation through: support, discipleship, life skills and housing. We couldn't do this without our superb volunteers and we wanted to celebrate them this spring. So thank you, you amazing people!

In 2018
134 Volunteers
gave their time to Inner Hope

Boundless mentors gave
800.5 hours
to mentor youth one-on-one

Volunteer groups:
PAINTED the home
HELPED residents move
COOKED for events
PREPARED Christmas Gifts

50% of our Young Adults
volunteered with Inner Hope or
another organization

3 of our Young Adults
sat on Inner Hope's community
advisory committee



"Inner Hope's passion for relational ministry and long lasting solutions to pressing needs has deeply impacted my relationship with God. At Inner Hope, I'm constantly encouraged to use my head, heart, and hands in the service of others; this holistic approach to loving others reminds me daily of the selfless love of my Saviour, and his overflowing care for me."

Boundless youth mentor

SPOTLIGHT ON THE BOARD

The board gave over
300 hours

to guide Inner Hope
last year. We are truly
blessed by their expertise and
leadership.

We are currently looking to fill 3
board positions. If this leadership
role interest you, contact Jenny
at jenny@innerhope.ca



GO PAPERLESS

Help us save on printing costs and be good stewards by receiving our updates electronically! To get our newsletters by email, send us a note at office@innerhope.ca

JOIN OUR PRAYER TEAM!

Partner with us in prayer, one of the most pivotal and foundational ways you can support us. To receive our monthly prayer letters, 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 promoting positive community engagement and loving youth, young adults and families in practical ways
- discipleship guiding children, youth and young adults in a relationship with their Creator
- life skills mentoring youth and young adults to develop the skills needed to build their futures
- housing offering a safe, stable and supportive home for youth, young adults and their children



NEW GROWTH WITH THE YOUNG ADULTS

This spring, we asked Sam, our Post-Secondary coordinator, to share about her first few months of working with Inner Hope. The Post-Secondary program is full. Our young adults are setting some fantastic goals and are making huge strides in achieving them.

One of the best parts of being in my role is building relationships with the young adults. I love having moments when they share their stuff with me – sometimes it's a crisis but often it's good. They call me up with what they are proud of.

One of my favourite stories is about a young adult, let's call him Ethan. One of the participants told me I should meet him for coffee. So I did.

When Ethan got to the coffee shop he was obviously very nervous. He was shaky and could not stop fidgeting. Wanting him to relax I offered to treat him to anything in the shop. He ended up just wanting a cookie. So we sat down, me with my coffee, him with his cookie. Somehow as I sat there I was almost overcompensating in my relaxation. As we talked, Ethan began to open up, revealing that he just had a huge falling out with his father. This threatened his living situation and he had spent the last two days sleeping in a park.

In the span of our conversation he went from shaking and nervous to filled with calm. At the end I prayed with him.

Since then, we have helped him find housing and he has joined the Post-Secondary program. He has become really involved. We have been able to work well with him, addressing one key issue at a time.

I really enjoy this role. I am doing work that I have always felt that I ought to be doing. It's what Jesus did. One thing that I have noticed is that worship matters more than it ever did before. I need God to show up in a way that I haven't before.

ISAIAH 25:1

Lord, you are my God; I will
exalt you and praise your
name, for in perfect faithfulness
you have done wonderful things,
things planned long ago.



*Erica & Sam having some fun on
Valentine's Day with the ladies*

YOU ARE INVITED TO: INNER HOPE'S ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

April 24 2019 | 7-9pm

Reality Church

808 E 19th Ave, Vancouver

Gather with our community
to hear powerful stories of
impact, meet others
involved, and pray
together. Snacks and
inspiration provided!

Please join us and RSVP
jenny@innerhope.ca

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Reconciliation - Doing our part

TEMERA'S TALK

In January, we were blessed to have Temera Millar spend an evening with our young adults sharing about her life and her faith. Temera grew up on the Mt. Currie reserve outside of Whistler. She shares the following:

"It was an honor to come to share my life story with the Young Adults of Inner Hope. At 18 years old I put my trust in Jesus and the course of my life changed dramatically through His transformation. Studying scripture, prayer, research and seeking wisdom from other believers has helped me gain an understanding of my identity as both First Nations and Christian. Early on in my faith there were very few Indigenous Christians and it became a passion of mine to encourage other believers in their faith."



Temera and her daughter

MICAH 6:8

He has shown you,
O man, what is good. And what
does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your
God.

FAITH. COMMITTED RELATIONSHIPS, COMMUNITY, INTEGRITY

RECONCILIATION — DOING OUR PART

SOME BACKGROUND

Currently, around 90% of the core individuals Inner Hope serves are Indigenous. These youth and families have chosen to be a part of the Inner Hope community and have put a lot of trust in our staff and volunteers. Therefore, we feel a deep responsibility to be advocates of justice; doing the difficult work of acknowledging where we have been a participant in systems of oppression and being part of reconciliation in East Vancouver. God instructs us through scripture to stand up for the vulnerable.

As many of you know, colonialism in Canada has caused much destruction to Indigenous communities and in many cases led to intergenerational trauma. A few historical events in BC that have been deeply damaging are: the intentional spread of small pox in 1862 (which killed at least 50% of the West Coast Indigenous population), the displacement and relocation onto reserves in the mid-late 1800's (loss of land and resources needed to provide for families created a dependency on the Canadian government) and the Indian residential school system which removed children from their parents and raised them in institutions – operating in BC from 1861–1984. The goal of the latter was to weaken family and cultural ties and indoctrinate the children into Canadian culture and Christianity. One of the greatest tragedies was the fact that most residential schools were run by churches whose leaders abused their power and misrepresented the Christian faith. This has led to widespread distrust of churches and Christians among our community.

The impacts of these atrocities, which have contributed to family and community breakdown, are hard to fathom. Currently, 63% of children in foster care and 29% of inmates in the prison system in BC are Indigenous. To respond to the tragedy of residential schools and the destruction they have caused, Canada formed a Truth and Reconciliation Commission about 10 years ago. From 2009–2015 the commission held events across Canada and gathered over 6,750 statements from residential school survivors or members of their families.

In 2015 the Truth and Reconciliation Commission issued 94 Calls to Action in which they implored the Canadian government, along with all Canadian citizens, to work together to instill change. Last year, Inner Hope's staff chose Calls to Action number 1 and 30 to focus on and support.

INNER HOPE'S RESPONSE

CALL TO ACTION 1 We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to commit to reducing the number of Aboriginal children in care by: Providing adequate resources to enable Aboriginal communities and child-welfare organizations to keep Aboriginal families together where it is safe to do so, and to keep children in culturally appropriate environments, regardless of where they reside.

Inner Hope works hard to strengthen family relationships and help parents grow in their capacity to care for their children. In one situation we have been able to advocate in the court system for an aunt to take over the care of her niece who is currently in foster care. We also support this call by:

- Inner Hope hosts holiday gatherings that include extended families and build memories and share holidays in a stable environment.
- Boundless is working on strengthening relationships with parents.
- The Home models healthy boundaries, routines and community with the goal that the residents would be able to break the cycle of abuse and instability and raise their own children. We are also seeking ways to ensure The Home is a place where Indigenous residents feel supported and affirmed in their identity.

CALL TO ACTION 30 We call upon federal, provincial, and territorial governments to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in custody over the next decade,

Approximately 75% of Inner Hope's Indigenous participants have an immediate family member who has spent time in the correctional system. Many of the youth and young adults' also have peers who are caught up in the system. Just last week a 19-year-old male, who was friends with a couple of the residents in The Home, was murdered by an 18-year-old known in the community. We are striving to see the youth and children we serve break this cycle. Some of the ways we are addressing this are to:

- Provide a community where youth and young adults can socialize and build relationships
- Provide healthy role models and adult mentors as well as to provide weekend activities that give alternatives to youth being in settings where they are prone to make poor decisions
- Supporting youth to deal with their pain, learn how to control their anger and avoid a lifestyle of addiction are also critical in helping to prevent youth from getting caught up in a destructive lifestyle

WOMEN'S MARCH



Staff member's children at the march

Several members of Inner Hope's team and the community joined the women's memorial march on February 14th. This march continues to honour the lives of missing and murdered women and all women's lives lost in the Downtown Eastside.

This event is organized and led by women in the DTES because women – especially Indigenous women – face physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual violence on a daily basis.

ISAIAH 1:17 B

Seek justice, encourage the
oppressed. Defend the cause
of the fatherless, plead the
case of the widow.

Youth and families equipped to live healthy lives and to empower the next generation