

Our 2021 Grads

WE ARE SO PROUD OF THESE AMAZING YOUNG PEOPLE!



High School Diploma



BCIT - Graphic Design



High School Diploma



VCC - Baking and Pastry Arts



High School Diploma



High School Diploma

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JOIN OUR PRAYER TEAM

Prayer is one of the most important ways you can support us. To receive our monthly prayer letter visit 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 youth 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



THE RIDE THIS YEAR IS GOING TO BE AMAZING AND....
YOU ARE ALL INVITED!!

YOU CAN ENJOY

- 1) CYCLING/CRAFTING/COOKING
You choose how you fundraise
- 2) BANNOCK AND BBQ
Trout Lake, Vancouver
John and Jenn's, Langley
- 3) A STORY FROM FRIENDS
A member of our community will tell their story

Details on times and specific locations can be found on our website at innerhope.ca/ride



Blessed are those who mourn

The last two months have been painful for many of our families, especially for our youths' parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents. On May 27th, 2021 the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Kukpi7 band issued a statement announcing the discovery of 215 unmarked graves of children on the grounds of the Kamloops Indian Residential School and now new graves are being discovered regularly.

The majority of the youth we support have grandparents and/or great-grandparents who were residential school survivors as well as many other relatives from past generations.

To provide a bit more understanding, I will share a brief history. The Indian Act was amended in 1876 to support the creation and funding of residential schools in Canada and by 1896 there were over 40 schools. On April 1, 1920, the Deputy Superintendent General of Indian Affairs made attendance at residential school mandatory for every First Nations child between 7 and 16 years of age. As a result, in many Indigenous communities, three to five generations of children were raised in these institutions without the nurture and protection of their parents and extended family. The last residential school in BC, St. Mary's Indian Residential School, closed in 1984.

The ongoing announcements have brought back a lot of painful memories for those still alive who were raised in Residential Schools. Some are experiencing survivors' guilt as they remember a sibling or cousin who died at the schools. Some of the children and grandchildren of residential school survivors are only now learning about their family's history and experiences as their parents and grandparents have found it difficult to talk about. Others have lost parents and grand-parents to early deaths as a result of the trauma and now realise why their parents or grandparents struggled with so much pain and anger.

A few weeks ago, one of our summer interns discovered she was named after her grandmother who was in residential school in Manitoba. In order for her grandmother to save her children from being taken as she was, she moved out to British Columbia so that when people came to round up her children, they wouldn't be found.

On July 1st, I was driving from Prince Rupert and noticed a display on the side of Houston Christian School. It included the words, "we mourn with those who mourn" along with rows of orange shirts. I have been reflecting on the teachings of Jesus to "love your neighbour as

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HOPE THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS
SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER



Orange shirts on a school in Houston



We hang an orange shirt in front of our door in support of our community.

"Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted."

Matthew 5:4

yourself" and "blessed are those who mourn". Your love is holding us up at this painful time. Thank you for supporting us in journeying with our community as they mourn.

Jenny Shantz
Inner Hope's Executive Director

The Blessing of our Homes

“The House” - Community Space

THANK YOU! Our much-needed renos have now been completed thanks to Cabinet Solutions, Canwest Flooring, M&L Painting, Jonathan Bird, Brad and Sharon Snider, Shawn Parker, the youth at John Knox Christian School and others (you know who you are).

Spotlight on one awesome contractor

Shawn is from the Blackfoot nation in Kainai, Southern Alberta. His family has been part of the Inner Hope community for many years. Shawn's help came at a great time for both of us. Our space was largely empty, with most staff working from home, and he was unemployed because of the pandemic. He was able to complete amazing work here. We are thrilled!

These are Shawn's words describing his time with us. "Being the

contractor for Inner Hope's renovation was a very pleasant experience. It was very relaxed and the staff were kind and welcoming. The job alleviated a lot of stress that was going on in my life. It helped me be able to pay the rent right at the time when I was reno-victed from my home. Working with the students was even better than I expected. They were hard workers and it grew my patience. The team work was awesome."

These hard working students!

An amazing team that worked tirelessly completing a host of vital tasks was a group of 10 students from John Knox Christian School. Steve Friesen, their teacher, shares these words about their time here.

"While it was difficult to plan a service trip during a pandemic, we were so grateful that Inner Hope was able to provide us with a tremendous opportunity. Even though our trip was cut short by a COVID exposure on another site we were able to do a lot in three days. We were able to help build a shed, remove grass from an entire section of lawn, build and install five garden boxes, and

prep and almost finish painting three coats for the entire house. The staff and volunteers at Inner Hope were excellent in teaching our students new skills and helped them gain a sense of pride by being able to contribute.

It was very encouraging to be a part of this trip. We were able to hear three testimonies of those who work there and saw some of the many cool things God is doing to help those in our inner-city. It gave our students a chance to see our city from a new perspective and to know more specifically what to pray for and how they can help."



“The Home” - Youth Housing

THANK YOU! We want to express our gratitude to the purchasers of “The Home” who have been financing it for the past seven years. In January 2022, they will be putting The Home up for sale, so we say a grateful farewell as we cement the future of the Housing Program.

The Home fills a vital need in our community, especially for those whose families have been impacted by intergenerational trauma and its accompanying effects. It was part of Carla and Jenny's vision for Inner Hope in 2007- and we hope to continue to house youth for years to come!

In case you're not up to date on what "The Home" is, it is a substance-free environment for youth desiring structure and support in a family style home with live-in House Parents. Youth choose to live with us and participate in education, skill-building, or employment activities. Over 50% of our residents stay for more than a year.

The impact is enormous. 73% of our residents have earned their Dogwood, 50% have continued on to college or university and 70% are currently employed or in school which is significantly higher than their peer group.

The current location of The Home was chosen by the youth and parents on Inner Hope's Community Advisory Committee.

Everything in The Home is organized by our Housing team (including House

Parents Georgia and Francis), who provide mentorship, support, and discipleship to the youth in their care. One of the unique aspects of Inner Hope is that we focus on not only building an individual relationship with each person in The Home, but also with their friends and family. Our Cultural Mentors also are involved in The Home so that residents feel welcomed and encouraged in their cultural identities.

Family connection is critical to our community so we hold regular multi-generational gatherings and welcome parents, siblings and extended family to visit. Residents are able to have a sibling or friend sleep over on the weekend and family members are invited to holiday meals.

This month we are officially launching a Housing Campaign. These funds will be used for either the purchase of The Home or the continued costs of running the Housing Program (should a donor purchase The Home on our behalf). If you have a heart for youth in East Vancouver and a desire to see lives transformed through housing, we invite you to be part of this campaign. You can give today at innerhope.ca/housing.