

The Grads of 2023

On June 27th, we celebrated our grads with a Blanket Ceremony led by John Johnstone, who is Stó:lō from Leq'a:mel First Nation. Blanketing is the highest honour given in Coast Salish communities – and it is well deserved for our graduates!

Statistically, an average of 49% of Indigenous students in Vancouver graduate within five years and 63% within 6 years, compared to 84% of their peers (Aboriginal Report 2019/20 – School District 39). Many of our parents didn't graduate with their peers so it's really touching for them to see their children achieve this milestone.

The words of affirmation that their parents shared at the Blanketing Ceremony were powerful. One mother shared that her mother was a residential school survivor and seeing her son graduate brought her hope.

Thank you! Your support helped make this milestone possible for our youth!



A Young Adult's Journey to Leadership



Chris, a young adult in the Post Secondary Program and a recent Capernwray Bible School graduate, is now interning with one of our partner churches – New Beginnings Baptist Church. This is his journey.

"In 2022, I was signed up for leadership at camp, but it didn't feel like the right decision. I felt a call for another place to be. That's when I heard about an opportunity for an internship at New Beginnings. I thought I had very little chance for the job, but I did get an interview – and I got hired! This is my second year, thanks be to God, doing this internship.

My favourite part of the internship is the community.

The close and deep relationships are wonderful to witness and experience.

This summer, I hope to experience growth – personal and spiritual as I serve and continuously seek the Lord. I want to let God use me to inspire the new East Vancouver generation."

Each young person that we journey alongside has a unique set of goals that they pursue after high school. We are thrilled to walk with each of our young adults as they pursue and achieve their dreams with the support of the Post Secondary Program.

This summer will you pray for our Post Secondary young people as they take critical steps towards their life goals? It's going to be a summer of transition, as our Post Secondary Coordinator is going on Maternity Leave at the end of August. We also hope that it will be a summer of joy and growth. Thank you for walking with us this season.

WWW.INNERHOPE.CA

HOPE THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS
Summer 2023 Newsletter



The Ride for Refuge is one of the highlights of our year! This event gives us all a chance to cycle or walk together, connect, and learn as a community + it's fun too!

Place: First Christian Reformed Church of Vancouver
2670 Victoria Drive

Time: 3pm – Meet
4pm – Move
5:30pm – Munch

To join or support the Ride go to:
innerhope.ca/ride



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 journey alongside youth and their families in East Vancouver; nurturing hope, belonging and growth through support, discipleship, life skills and housing.

- support nurturing community and loving youth, young adults and their families in practical ways
- discipleship providing opportunities for youth, young adults and their families to grow in their relationship with the creator
- life skills journeying alongside youth and young adults while nurturing the development of skills needed to build their futures
- housing offering a safe, stable and supportive home for youth, young adults and their children

WHAT'S INSIDE

Future Priotirites and more!



Future Priorities for 2023 to 2027 What Incredible Provision! Current Needs

We have just approved our next 5-year plan. There are four key areas that have risen as the greatest needs for focused time and resources. The goals below will take time to implement, as good changes are rarely accomplished quickly.

1. Increase Indigenous Representation & Cultural Integration

- Currently our community is around 85% Indigenous and we all desire to have more staff and volunteers from the community.
- We plan to increase Indigenous representation on the board, among staff and volunteers.

2. Strengthen Inner Hope Youth Ministries' Volunteer Department

- Volunteers are critical to many programs and services at Inner Hope – especially the Boundless program where each youth is matched one-on-one with a mentor.

- We plan to grow our recruitment strategies and increase volunteer support, strengthening the volunteer community (the last plan had a strong focus on staff support).

3. Increase Community Support

- In order to better address the impacts of intergenerational trauma, there is a need to increase support for parents and alumni and expand our capacity for crisis support.
- We plan to develop a new Community Support position within the next few years as finances allow.

4. Restructure and Contextualize the Discipleship Program

- We believe that God made all cultures to uniquely reflect His image. We are not made the same and we do not see and experience life and faith through the same lens.
- We plan to restructure and contextualize the Discipleship

Program with guidance from Indigenous leaders.

An overarching goal that weaves through all of our programs is to address four chosen calls from the Truth and Reconciliation reports' 94 Calls to Action.

In order to address the inter-generational impacts of colonization and residential schools, we commit to:

- Helping strengthen families in order to reduce the number of Indigenous children and youth in foster care,
- Helping increase educational attainment of Indigenous students to reduce poverty rates
- Helping youth build a supportive community and healthy coping strategies to reduce the number of Indigenous people in the corrections system, and
- Helping churches learn the history and legacy of residential schools to prevent future spiritual violence.



After over a year of waiting, Chris and Debby (our House Parent and his wife) have had their permanent residency approved! As a result, Debby (who was waiting for the approval in Nigeria) joined Chris in Canada on June 28th.

We are so pleased to be able to welcome Debby to the Inner Hope Community as our second House Parent!



We have a new van just in time for summer activities! Thanks to generous gifts from several of you, we were able to purchase a gently used van that we hope will serve us for the next 10 years! This van is vital to our community, helping with rides to everything from camp, to moves, to graduations. We are relieved to have a vehicle that is functional and reliable again.



Our recent Volunteer Workshop was incredible! Engaging discussions and an expert speaker, from Credence & Co., helped us dive deep into the theme of Conflict Transformation.

Thank you to all the volunteers that came, our guest speaker, and everyone who made this event possible.

We continue to be amazed by our large community of financial supporters and the ways the ongoing needs of Inner Hope Youth Ministries continue to be met. The last couple of years we received a lot of designated support for special projects like moving costs and renovations for our new home as well as a new van that was purchased last month.

The move and the new vehicle were critical needs beyond our control. The van we had used for the last 10 years had developed a growing number of serious mechanical problems and was no longer safe to take on trips outside the city. Again, we are incredibly grateful for the generosity of all of you who have and continue to invest in Inner Hope.

Now, our greatest need is for donations towards our operating expenses. In January – May we had an operating deficit of approximately \$70,000. In order to meet our current needs and also have the funds necessary to begin to work on our new strategic plan, we need to refocus on our operating budget and supporting the Inner Hope community through the vital programs and services we offer.

