

Ride for Refuge

all of you to join us next year for Ride for Refuge on September 30, 2017.



Fall Volunteer Training

Our Fall Volunteer Training was held this year at Tenth Church, and was a great time of training and regrouping as a mix of both old and new volunteers. We were treated to two enlightening and informative workshops, put on by Dr. Jack Young, who discussed childhood trauma, and Linette Schut, who presented on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). We also spent some time discussing our new health and safety policies, and of course, had a great time eating together! Our Inner Hope Team is so thankful for our volunteers and how they graciously and generously give of their time and themselves to our youth and the Inner Hope community.



Camp Quanoes Sr High Retreat

On November 11-13, 11 youth from Boundless went away for a retreat with 2 volunteers and our Boundless coordinator, Katherine. They had an encouraging weekend full of conversations about faith, and had lots of fun too!



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INNER HOPE youth ministries



Hello Everyone,

I have been involved with Inner Hope for years, lived there, worked there, volunteered there, and still drop by when I am home in Vancouver. This spring I graduated from Briercrest College with a BA in

It is always a joy when we get to see our youth at Inner Hope flourish, and Toni is one of them. Toni has been involved with Inner Hope since she was a teenager, and now, having recently finished a degree, will be moving onto a new season working with youth herself! She's shared with us a letter written to the Inner Hope community. Interested supporters can reach her via email at tonigladstone2@hotmail.com. We're so proud of her!

Christian Ministry, and this fall I found work in Vancouver to start paying off student loans before the next chapter begins. This coming year (February) I will be starting a new job in Winnipeg, MB with Inner City Youth Alive (ICYA) as one of the drop-in staff. From what I have gathered it seems like a very healthy ministry in a struggling area of the North end of the city, and aims to come alongside at-risk youth as some of the staff and volunteers came alongside me at Inner Hope.

There are a few things to still be worked through before I move out there for an indefinite amount of time. One is to find support, mainly through prayer and life as well

as financially, but let the emphasis be on the prayer and life partnership and support. At this moment I do not have anything set up yet, but when I am officially a part of the ICYA team I will have a better means of sharing updates and support letters. A minor detail still to be solved is a place to live in Winnipeg when I get there, along with basic furniture if that is required to find as well.

Thank you for your prayers thus far and for the ones to come. You are a blessing to Inner Hope and to everyone in their roles as staff, volunteer, and participant.

-Toni

Christmas Reflection from Jenny

The theme for the second week of advent is "Peace". Recently I was introduced to a Gitksan phrase "Hagwili yin", meaning, "to walk on the path of peace on the down of eagle feathers". It was explained to me that this phrase emphasizes the important work of two adversaries journeying together to create peace. As I've reflected on these powerful words, it struck me that Jesus walked this path of peace. He did the work on our behalf and provided us with the opportunity to join Him on this path. With the increase of the fentanyl drug on our streets causing the death of family members and friends of those in the Inner Hope community and the recent death of a 19 year old living in a tent in Surrey, highlighting the vulnerability of youth exiting the foster care system, we are reminded that more than ever we need the peace that God offers us.

In one of Jesus last conversations with his disciples before his death, he finishes with the following words from John 16:33, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Thank you for walking with us as we extend the hope, love, joy and peace of Christ in the midst of brokenness.

Financial Update

As we enter December, we are humbled and encouraged by the many ways God has provided for Inner Hope. He has provided homes to offer a safe haven for many, committed volunteers to develop long term relationships in the community and finances to enable our us to offer effective, long term support and services. To both meet our operating expenses and continue building our contingency fund to help us through the coming year, we are still in need of approximately \$100,000 by the end of 2016.

Would you consider partnering with us this Christmas? One way to provide practical support is to gift your loved ones with something from the Inner Hope Gift Catalogue (as enclosed in this newsletter) or passing it on to someone who might be interested. We thank the Lord for all of you - you are such a gift to us!

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 youth adults in a relationship with their Creator
mentoring youth and young adults to develop the skills needed to build their futures
offering safe, stable and supportive homes for youth, young adults and their children

Sunday Ministry Changes + Reality Church Partnership!

Over the last six years, many youth, young adults, children and parents have become involved in the Reality Church community. Rides to church grew to require multiple vehicles, and youth and young adults began coming back to The House for lunch after church. A few parents began attending church with their children and soon additional past house residents began requesting Sunday morning pickups for their children. Within a couple of years about 100 Inner Hope community members had attended a gathering or event at Reality Church. What began organically created the need for volunteer drivers, cooks, and individuals to invest in the lives of our young people.

Initially Carla Dickinson was the main coordinator of our Sunday ministry and Kiersten took over much of the responsibility when she joined us as our Director of Programs 2 ¾ years ago. Last September Darrell Bedford took on the role of Sunday Coordinator with an increased focus on the children. In August 2016, Darrell stepped down from this role shortly before his wedding to Carla Dickinson (and becoming a father of 5) mid-September.



During this last transition it was impressed upon our hearts that there was an opportunity to increase the integration of the Inner Hope community with the Reality Church Community. As a result, we have matched individuals and families at Reality with Inner Hope families/children who need rides to church on Sunday mornings. Sarah Hau has stepped up to coordinate a monthly community lunch after church in Reality's basement, providing the opportunity for Reality members and Sunday drivers to spend part of the afternoon further developing relationships with Inner Hope's young people and families. We're so thankful for God's provision, and look forward to see how God will continue to work in this ministry!



Hi, Sarah!

With all these changes for the Sunday Lunch Ministry, we're excited to introduce Sarah Hau as our new Sunday Coordinator! She and her husband John are passionate about loving their neighbourhood and working for the flourishing of their city, having moved their family of 5 into Gastown, in downtown Vancouver. A long time member of Reality Church, she learned about Inner Hope through Reality and began building relationships with staff, volunteers, youth and families. In addition, her love and investment in the children Inner Hope serves grew too as she taught Sunday school each week, and in her new role as Sunday Lunch coordinator, she now serves as a bridge between Inner Hope and Reality Church.

What are you looking forward to most in taking on this role?

Sarah: "A vision for the future that inspires and motivates me is to think of the kids who join us for Sunday Lunch experiencing the love of Jesus through our volunteers and leading the way of reconciliation between the Canadian church and the Aboriginal community. As we love the kids, live life with them, and build relationships with their families over time, I am praying to see healing that only Jesus can bring."



Carla and Darrell on their wedding day with their five kids, and Dez (a past resident) and her two kids.



Housing Expansion Update

We are thrilled to announce that the housing expansion and transition November 1st went exceptionally smoothly and we give all glory to God for His provision. As Ben and Deirdre prepared to transition out of their role of House Parents in The Home (our family style residence) and open a Parental Suite below their new home (a supportive living basement suite for a young parent and child) they miraculously found a home half way between our two current sites. With the help of donations, the basement suite was fully set up and furnished for only \$1,000. This new suite has allowed a father and son who have lived at The Home with Ben and Deirdre for the last 1 ½ years to move into the Parental Suite below them and continue the mentoring relationship.

It is with gratitude that we announce that Cherise and Josiah Abubakar have stepped in to fill the role of House Parents in The Home. We are very thankful for their heart to live in community with our young people and provide a loving home environment for those who have been through much trauma and instability in their short lives. After a short adjustment period of 2 ½ weeks, two young adults moved into the two empty rooms and The Home is filled back up to capacity. We look forward to seeing how God will work in the lives of all of those living in our homes.



Meet Our New House Parents, Cherise + Josiah!

Cherise and Josiah are a real answer to prayer. They come to us with a wide range of ministry experiences – Cherise attended Hillsong International Leadership College in Sydney, Australia and worked in a women's addiction recovery center in Edmonton, and Josiah worked with Youth For Christ in Nigeria, YWAM in Medicine Hat, and Hope Mission in Edmonton. They met in 2014 in Edmonton through a mutual friend, got married in May 2015, and relocated to Vancouver this fall. They are a calm and steady presence, and we are thrilled to have them on board!

What brought you to the Inner Hope community?

Cherise: "Both Josiah and I wanted a home that served as a place of refuge for youth or anyone who doesn't have refuge in their own home. When we came across the posting for the House Parents role, it was almost a perfect fit for what we would eventually do once we owned our own home. In getting to know more about what Inner Hope does for inner city youth and the quality of all the programs they offer, we knew we wanted to be a part of it. We are most looking



forward to developing relationships with youth that will hopefully serve to encourage and empower them to grow into their God-given potential."