

## Our Amazing Volunteers

As we embrace community this season, we would be remiss if we did not take time to celebrate the work of our volunteers. As we work together we witness the transformative power of God's love.

We are grateful to every volunteer involved in:

- Mentoring. Each of our youth is paired with a mentor.
- Cooking or preparing frozen meals for Post Secondary gatherings (every second Wednesday) and Boundless workshops (monthly).
- Games nights (monthly).
- The Board.
- The Community Advisory Committee.
- Preparing gifts for Christmas.
- Doing odd jobs (cleaning, painting, gardening) around The House and The Home.

You are all amazing and the seeds of what you plant has incredible fruit.

"Through Inner Hope my faith has been strengthened by many people – one of them definitely being my mentor. He picked me up once after I made some bad decisions. I talked to him about it. He never changed the way that he saw me. He still saw me as an equal. I was absolutely surprised and that's when I knew it was God's love."

– from a Boundless Youth

"My wife and I have committed ourselves to serving Inner Hope's Boundless youth program. I was placed with my mentee last fall. He had exceptional needs, but my wife and I immediately saw amazing potential. Through his commitment, he has flourished!

We look forward each week to sharing dinner, catching up, talking basketball, playing chess, and working together toward his next accomplishment. We have formed a close friendship. We have learned that he is driven and pushes himself to rise above his next challenge. He has become a true leader within his family, circle of friends and classmates. He reminds us of God's illuminating hope."

– from a Boundless Mentor



## Christmas at Inner Hope

Dec 7: Boundless Christmas Party  
Dec 11: Post Secondary Christmas  
Dec 15: Family Christmas  
Dec 21: Christmas at The Home



*"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

## 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](mailto: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](http://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 youth 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



## A Place of Community

This season we are taking time to reflect on community. Mark, who is exceptionally good at building community in the Boundless Program, shares these thoughts.

Community to me means family. It means supporting our youth when they are doing well, picking them up when they struggle, and participating in the things they're interested in. Having grown up in East Vancouver, and having experienced similar challenges to our youth, has inspired me to pair each of our youth with someone who can care for them, support them, and be a good role model.

We have several youth who are at high risk this year – who are not getting the support they need from their parents. There are lots of reasons for this. Some have



Mark with the youth at The Ride

parents who act more like friends – who don't tell them to go to school. Others have parents who are struggling with serious issues like violence or addiction.

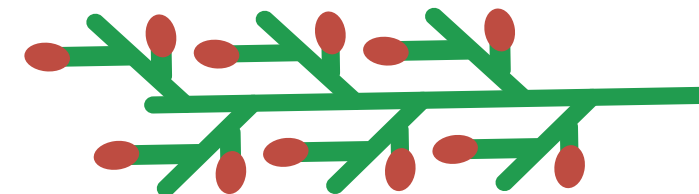
As a result, I have been doing a lot of pickups to get the kids to school this fall. I've been keeping tabs on our youth: texting them, talking to teachers, and calling schools. I'm trying to figure out where our youth's lives are at and what their motivation is. When I understand, then I can talk to them and help change their minds.

My goal for our youth is to encourage them to be open and able to talk about their challenges. My goal for the mentors is to equip them with the understanding they need to support each of our youth. Basically to become that supportive family to them.

Filling in the gaps for our youth is

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HOPE THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS  
Winter 2019 NEWSLETTER



Mark with the youth at camp

so important. For example, one of the youth, who is struggling the most this year, called me up the other day because he forgot the PIN for his bank card. So I picked him up from his friend's house and we went to the bank to get that sorted. He was able to once again get a working bank account. With that he can get a job.

I am trying to equip our youth with the skills to succeed – not just to get by. Sometimes, this is just doing small things, but these are so important in the long run.

Mark Ang  
– Boundless Coordinator

## WHAT'S INSIDE:

*The Gift of Community, The Gift of Relationships*

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## The Gift of Community

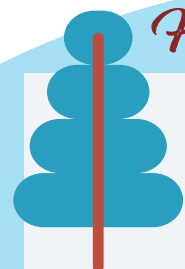


Community is one of the greatest gifts we give to our friends. It is in every fibre of what we do here at Inner Hope.

The reality is that the people we walk alongside face enormous struggles. There are life-or-death issues in our city that are overwhelming. You've heard about them in the news: homelessness, ageing out of foster care, addiction, broken families, and racial oppression.

These are trials that our families

### Giving Hope to:



#### Homelessness

"I was homeless for eight months before I found Inner Hope.

When you're in shelters, you're in survival mode, always sleeping with one eye open. I don't have to do that anymore. It's really healing for me."

– from a resident in The Home

In 2018, 681 youth experienced homelessness in Vancouver. The main reasons were family conflict (52%), substance abuse (40%) and mental illness (33%).

face each day. Yet, there is hope. Your gifts enable us to be a stable, loving presence in our community. Through this, God brings about miraculous transformation.

We hope you will be encouraged and blessed this season as you experience the impact that your gifts have made! Keep an eye out for the five videos stories being released in December.

Please walk with us as we seek to raise the \$75,000 still needed to make this year's budget.

*"But God has so composed the body, giving greater honour to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.*

*If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together."*

1 Corinthians 12:24–26

### Ageing out

Each year in BC, around 780 youth age out of foster care. Although some youth are resilient, they face more challenges than their peers. Not having a stable family network means limited financial help, poor life skills, and psychological scars linked to childhood trauma.

We are able to walk with youth as they navigate this and move into adulthood – offering community and providing support. Practical things like help with moving or a place to do laundry are given. Often, Inner Hope becomes an extended family, offering aid and friendship in times of trial.



In October, we all gathered together for our fourth Ride for Refuge! This year was fantastic. Thank you to all who participated or gave. We exceeded our fundraising goal and it was amazing!



### Addiction

Life expectancy rates in Canada have stopped increasing for the first time in four decades, due to the current opioid crisis.

Inner Hope offers the chance to break bonds. Through partnerships with other organizations, and the maintenance of a substance-free home, we equip every youth that comes to us struggling with addiction with resources and skills for recovery.

## The Gift of Relationships

Everybody has a part to play here at Inner Hope, and we are so grateful for each of you! Here are some recent highlights.



On Halloween, the youth gathered for an evening of fun and fireworks! Being able to provide a safe place to be on a high-risk night was awesome.

Mid-October, we gathered at The Home to celebrate in a spirit of gratitude and friendship. Inner Hope's "hīlāk'w tōne weyəl" – which means "a day of joy that is beyond understanding" – was a blessing to all who attended.

Our two fall Boundless youth workshops ("Getting your L" and "Self-Confidence") were both well-attended and well-received. Praise God for our motivated youth!



### Broken families

Of the 7,000 children in care in B.C., 63% are Indigenous even though they make up less than 10% of the population. Our desire is to see Aboriginal families stay together when possible.

In the past five months alone, we provided guidance and advocacy to keep three families together. This is a complicated process and each family has its own needs. However, for the three aunts who gained custody of their niece or nephew, who are thriving, we know this process was worth it.

### Racial Oppression

More than 150,000 students attended residential schools and there are roughly 80,000 survivors alive today. The trauma of broken relationships, abuse, cultural destruction, and racism continue in East Vancouver.

The Inner Hope community is made up of a diverse set of people – including many First Nations brothers and sisters. It is our hope that as we grow together, listen, and learn, we can heal from the atrocities of the past and discover who God truly made us to be.