



Christmas Events

December 4th
Christmas with the Youth

December 11th
Christmas with the Young Adults

December 18th
Christmas at The Home

December 5th
Christmas Family Drive Throughs

December 14th
Staff Christmas

The Gifts of the Heart

It is due to the incredible hearts of understanding and love displayed by our volunteers that we come to the end of this year with joy in our hearts.

This year our volunteers have displayed flexibility, resilience, courage and genuine friendship as they have journeyed with us and with members of our community. We are so grateful for each and every one of them.

Earlier this month, our volunteers gathered to hear from Temera Millar, a member of the Squamish and Lil'wat Nations and Recruitment Director for North American Indigenous Ministries (NAIM).

Temera spoke to the needs of our community, sharing examples of how our mentors can journey well with young people impacted by inter-generational trauma. Her personal and professional insight was a gift to us all. It was a time of growing together in understanding and connection.

As we move into the new year, we ask for prayer for our volunteers. Their journey is not an easy one. There is much learning that we must all do together. Pray for wisdom, understanding and an increased time of connection for our amazing young people, their families, and our volunteers.



A special thank you to the following churches, groups and individuals for providing practical support this season - making Christmas bright for our whole community!

- Kingsway Foursquare Church
- Our Lady of Perpetual Peace Church
- Peace Church on 52nd
- The Giving Truck
- Trinity Baptist Church
- Kalisse's small group
- Rena's small group
- Wendy's knitting team

- Jean Cammarasana
- Catherine Fenn
- Peggy Porter

..And many more!



A Hope and a Future



Francis and Georgia, our house parents, last Christmas

Many of you are aware that the current home for our housing ministry will be put up for sale in the new year. We have fantastic news to share with you! A generous donor has offered to buy a residence for the youth and House Parents!

Right now, the leadership at Inner Hope is working with a realtor to explore our options. Over the last few years, we have realized that it would be helpful for the home to have an extra room that could be multi-purpose as an office/guest room for our respite worker (so that she doesn't need to stay in the House Parent's room).

The real estate market is tight right now, with homes being listed and sold within days. Buying the home we currently possess is also an option for us. Please pray with us for God's leading and provision. We are thankful for donations that have been contributed towards a housing fund that will provide essential resources to help with moving and/or renovation costs.

We are so grateful for the heart of our many longtime supporters, who began their journey with Inner Hope because of the housing program. Our home has been a wonderful blessing in our community. The opportunity to live in a family-style environment while stabilizing and learning life skills has changed many youth's lives.

Thank you all for journeying with us at The Home.



"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11



One of main priorities in all of our programs is to maintain and strengthen family connections. Please pray for our residents as they anticipate spending time with family during the holiday. Regardless of what the future holds, we are entering the Christmas season with hope. The tree is up and decorated and we are committed to sharing the love of the season with our residents and their families.

May God bless you and keep you.

Jenny Shantz

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

Stories of Hope: Hear from our next generation of leaders



Stories of Hope

As another year comes to a close, we wanted to share a message of encouragement and comfort with you. We have the honour of journeying alongside some amazing young people whose growth and perseverance inspire us every day. We wanted to share some of their words with you. These are their thoughts on hope. May they be a blessing to you this Christmas.

Iziah



Hope to me is being able to go to sleep and know that everything is okay and that things are going to be better the next day.

In today's world you see a lot of youth losing hope and succumbing to what the world has to offer (not what God does) and a lot of times that can do a lot of harm. I have friends who turned away from support outlets like school and stuff and started doing their own things, us being youth in the downtown Eastside, these are things like drugs or alcohol. They're in really dark places because of that. It's just really hard to see. I grew up with these people. We went to High School together and now I see them on East Hastings. There are supports that are out there, they just don't take them.

I hope to be a light to my little brother, my friends even, help them see that there's more to life than what we're given.

There's a lot more to life than the world in front of me. My hope is to get into the nursing program at Trinity Western. With Inner Hope's help, I've already been accepted as an undergrad. I hope to sleep someday knowing that God has a plan. That the future is going to be bright.



Drey



Hope to me is a key. People spend a lot of time looking for that key, but don't usually find it. I don't want to lose that key. I keep up my optimism.

I have noticed a lot of people in the city, mostly youth, lose hope. All because something bad has happened to them. They usually turn to drugs and alcohol. They lose hope. Mostly people who keep their hope have faith in God.

Inner Hope has helped me figure out my future. They taught me to ride a bike, two months ago, and started out my music career with a guy named Richie. Richie helped me. I like playing guitar; it's fun when you know what you're doing.

My hope and dream is to begin my filming career in Toronto so I can make things for people to enjoy - for people to laugh, for people to enjoy with their loved ones.

Inner Hope will always be there to support me and to make my dreams come true. The community at Inner Hope is what hope really stands for because all they do is help youth and they keep doing it.

Pheonix



Hope is a gift that is given to you. It grows along beside you. It's something that you are able to share with others. Others who may have forgotten that hope. I find that sharing your hope can make a huge difference. It can put them back on the right track, just like Inner Hope did for me.

When I was growing up I isolated myself and forgot about the hope that was given to me when I came to this world. When you're in that isolated world, life kind of loses colour, it becomes tasteless. Anxiety stretches and negative emotions start to build up. I was like that for a long time. I just put on a fake smile to try and hide that fact.

Inner Hope community decided to pull me out of that isolated world. I started getting more involved with other people and then my life started to have colour again. The hope that they shared with me was just a good community, having fun, learning about the Bible.

My dream is to eventually travel around the world, sharing with kids about my own faith, and teaching them music, martial arts. Guiding them down a path of their own hope.

Rebel



Hope is so big that when you get to experience it, it's mind blowing. It changes your life. It brings excitement, courage, perseverance, joy and comfort into your life. It's the foundation to all of that.

In the East Van community there's a lot of Indigenous families, mine included, and a lot of intergenerational trauma. That creates barriers in life. The youth and young adults have to work harder to reach goals - things that should be easy to achieve.

I have so much hope for the youth at Inner Hope because I see myself in them. I've been a part of this community for awhile. I see so much potential and I see God working in them. I see them becoming professionals, achieving awesome goals in life and becoming these strong leaders in their communities - especially having that Indigenous background.

I think that's something to celebrate and get excited over.

