

GIVE HOPE, SAVE LIVES



Inner Hope Youth Ministries continues to grow as we seek to respond to the constant needs among youth, children and families in East Vancouver.

In the past few weeks alone, families of past and present participants faced the following challenges: a 19-year-old sibling overdosing on fentanyl, homelessness, police and social services visits and children apprehended to foster care. Even with a growing staff and volunteer team our resources are stretched on a daily basis.

In 2016 Inner Hope needs to raise \$558,000 or \$46,500 monthly to meet our budgeted income. Would you help us reach this goal by partnering with Inner Hope in one of the following ways?

- Host an awareness dinner to introduce family and friends to Inner Hope with Jenny attending as a speaker and facilitator
- Become a Friend of Hope monthly donor (see information below)
- Make a one-time donation towards Inner Hope's 2016 operating expenses
- Invite family or friends to join you in your support of Inner Hope

Friends of Hope Relaunch

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One of the ways Inner Hope can become more sustainable is to grow our Friends of Hope monthly support team. Currently Inner Hope has 68 monthly donors who contribute \$8,150 per month.

Within the next few months we are seeking 32 new monthly partners to increase our Friends of Hope team to 100 monthly donors. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to join us in sharing God's love practically in East Vancouver. Would you help us by praying for this initiative, spreading the word and/or joining our Friends of Hope team? To become a monthly supporter, fill out the enclosed reply card and mail it in along with a VOID cheque to Inner Hope's PO box.



WWW.INNERHOPE.CA

Inner Hope Youth Ministries' mission and goal is providing hope and belonging to at-risk youth through ...

- housing
  - support
  - life skills
  - discipleship
- providing a safe, stable home, free of drugs, alcohol and abuse  
helping youth in practical ways in their everyday lives  
mentoring youth as they develop the skills needed to build their futures  
guiding youth in a relationship with their Creator



Hope Through Relationships

Leaving a Legacy

Spring 2016



CARLA

This spring, three special people from the Inner Hope community are moving on from their staff roles with Inner Hope.

Following a six-month leave of absence, Carla Dickinson, co-founder of Inner Hope and past Director of Programs, has released herself in order to effectively carry out her responsibilities as a foster parent to the four children from our community who have been in her care for the last 19 months. Sarah Hartung began a maternity leave this week and is expecting the arrival of her second child any day. Marco Sotres has been pursuing a Bachelor of Social Work and needs to leave in order to complete his practicum and final year of studies. We are thankful to have filled each position with wonderful individuals who will be introduced in our next newsletter.

Of Faith, Miracles, and Joy

"There has always been a strong desire, calling, and ability to welcome children into my home. Combining abilities and talent with Jenny, engaging support and resources from our church, family and friends, and relying on the Lord for miracles and grace, this resulted in the birth of Inner Hope in 2007. How humbling and encouraging to recently sit through our AGM as a guest, and see how the Lord has grown our meagre offerings! Although it is rewarding as a co-founder to see growth and leave a mark, our call as Christ-followers is for obedience, and results are up to the Lord. And so it is with much joy

as I look back over my staff time at Inner Hope, and much gratitude as I think of all the faithful supporters who stand behind us, as I fully transition from my many staff roles at Inner Hope, to my many mother roles in my home. What an honour it has been. To Him be the Glory - past, present and future. Amen."

We are extremely thankful for Carla's 8 years of service with Inner Hope! Without Carla, Inner Hope would not exist today. Carla applied for Inner Hope's name, submitted our society status application, became our first bookkeeper, was one of the original two House

Parents, was our first Volunteer Coordinator, developed our discipleship programs and much more. We are very thankful that she continues to remain tied into the Inner Hope community and willing to share her wealth of wisdom with staff and volunteers.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Apr. 23	Boundless Workshop
Apr. 30	Games Night
May 1	BMO Marathon (Tenth Eastside running for World Vision/Inner Hope)
May 14	Volunteer Training
May 21	Boundless Workshop
May 21	Post-Secondary Social
June 18	Boundless Workshop



# COMMUNITY LIFE

*A Reflection from Sarah*



**Sarah** is our one-of-a-kind, compassionate, hard working, dynamic Volunteer & Community Life Coordinator who has been in the Inner Hope community since 2009 (Inner Hope launched in 2007!). Over the years Sarah has worn many hats: part-time house support for our housing ministry, a temporary role in 2010 assisting in the launch of our Boundless Program, two years as Volunteer Coordinator and in this last year our Community Life Coordinator overseeing the community space at The House.

Although a move and a baby led her away from working in a formal role at Inner Hope, she returned each time with greater

passion, experience and commitment to the Inner Hope community. Sarah has walked alongside many youth and has the eyes to see the potential for greatness in each individual. From recruiting and screening volunteers to spearheading fun gatherings at The House to having heart-to-heart conversations with youth, we will definitely miss having her in a staff position as she takes her Maternity Leave for baby number two this April!



"When I reflect on the last 6.5 years of being involved with Inner Hope, what has been the most meaningful is seeing under-valued kids be given the value and love that the Father has created them to thrive under. What does that actually look like? When they are accepted into the Inner Hope family while their own family

has failed them, rejected them or cannot care for them. When they come to truly grasp the truth that they have a Perfect Heavenly Father, who can meet all their heart needs, especially when their earthly father has disappointed. When they



get to experience the abundant, full life that God desires to give them, especially when we are camping under trees or playing in the ocean. When they know they have loving, trustworthy adults to depend on. When we can support them to work through hurts and brokenness. When a volunteer is given a place in a youth's life of trust,

respect and love. When we share food and celebrate birthdays and graduations and babies and sunshine. I love this pocket of people, people that according to statistics and demographic, I shouldn't be walking along-side with, but according to God's

mandate for his followers, and His design for His Kingdom I've found myself sharing life with. It is a true gift!"

*We are very thankful for Sarah and comforted in knowing that she will remain apart of the Inner Hope community regardless of her role.*

## POST SECONDARY

STEPPING OUT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



**"I have had the absolute pleasure to serve in a staff role with Inner Hope for the past 2 years.** First applying to fill in for Sarah in the Maternity leave Volunteer Coordinator position and now running Inner Hope's Post-Secondary Program, I had no idea that I would be as challenged, supported, loved, and accepted as I was. The youth and young adults within the Inner Hope community have taught me so much about myself. I am regretfully leaving my position with Inner Hope due to the demands of my Bachelor of Social Work program at UBC. While I am thankful to have been trusted enough to lead an entire program, I can truly say that Inner Hope and my team members have taught me the value of living boldly and stepping out of my comfort zone to journey with anyone who comes knocking.

I had the opportunity to partner with other Inner Hope staff and World Vision to launch Inner Hope's new Post-Secondary Program. Often cited by social service workers

as a much needed support, the Post-Secondary Program has really taken off in working towards its mandate: To provide the support and guidance necessary for young adults coming from generational cycles of poverty, addiction and/or abuse in East Vancouver to successfully transition into post-secondary education or the workforce after leaving high school. In response to the impacts of systemic challenges, we seek to restore hope and provide tangible support for our youth, helping them seek a future they often only dreamed about."

Over the past year Marco has supported youth with numerous challenges including Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, drug and alcohol abuse, learning challenges, unemployment, unstable housing and post-traumatic stress disorder induced by trauma and abuse. Many of our young people completed high school with low education levels, lacking a full high school diploma. Limited family support, peer pressure, substance use, few role models and limited financial resources make it extremely challenging for these young adults to pursue post-secondary education and the confidence and skills to get and maintain employment.

**Often cited by social service workers as a much needed support, the Post-Secondary Program has really taken off in working towards its mandate.**

Since joining the Post-Secondary program, one participant has developed a budget, accessed financial aid through grants, been accepted to Vancouver Community College, done assessment tests, and registered in 3 courses (1 being a career exploration course and 2 being academic upgrading). She has also acknowledged that she wants a life different from that of her parents. Throughout her year within the program, her involvement with Inner Hope has included social involvement at events, participation in a weekend discipleship retreat as well as life skills development through the Post-Secondary program. It has been wonderful to see her growth in all areas of development. We are grateful for Marco's willingness to serve with Inner Hope these last two years and glad that he continues to be connected our community as a volunteer mentor!