

COMMUNITY UPDATES



Even Justin Bieber merited a birthday celebration last month! (read more about "The House" inside.)

AFTERNOON OF HOPE EVENT

On Sunday February 19th, Inner Hope hosted our second annual "Afternoon of Hope" at the House of James in Abbotsford. We had a great time connecting with some of our faithful supporters in the Valley as well as making some new connections. Uplifting music by our talented guest musicians, Lorin Friesen and Mel Bowker added to the warm atmosphere of the coffee house space.

Those of you who were able to join us heard testimonies from a youth and mentor in our Boundless Hope program. Jenny, one of our Abbotsford supporters shared why she has become involved with Inner Hope. The Staff at House of James who were such great hosts and we went away encouraged by the display of faithful support from this area. Thanks to sponsorship through Facebook friends, all money raised through the event went straight to our operating budget. We hope to see you at the upcoming Afternoon of Hope, and bring your friends!



Afternoon of Hope

Join us at
**Trinity Western University's
Lower Caf**
7600 Glover Road, Langley
in support of

INNER HOPE
Youth Ministries

Sunday, May 6, 2012
3-5pm

Tickets: \$20

Contact Jenny at 604-767-1357 or
office@innerhope.ca

JUSTPOTTERY
pottery with purpose

Live Music
Local Artwork

CURRENT NEEDS

Looking for creative ways to give towards Inner Hope? Here are some of our biggest current needs:

- **20 monthly donors who would commit to donating \$50, \$100 or \$200 each month**
- **living room chair**
- **set of high quality non-stick frying pans**
- **prayer (e-mail office@innerhope.ca to be added to our prayer team)**

www.innerhope.ca

Mission: Providing hope to at-risk youth through:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Housing | Providing a safe, stable home, free of drugs, alcohol and abuse |
| Support | Helping youth in practical ways in their everyday lives |
| Life skills | Mentoring youth as they develop the skills needed to build their futures |
| Discipleship | Guiding youth in a relationship with their Creator |

Housing • Life Skills • Support • Discipleship

INNER HOPE
youth ministries

Spring 2012

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



ADONIKA

We are pleased to introduce one of our faithful volunteers, Adonika Clark. Adonika was encouraged to join our volunteer team by Sarah (Hill) Hartung, former staff and long-term volunteer. It is through such personal contacts that we find many of our talented and committed volunteers. Do you or one of your friends have what it takes to mentor?

Adonika sure does. A mentor with Boundless Hope since August 2010, she has been extremely dedicated to her mentee, meeting with her weekly and supporting her during personal crisis. Adonika is leaving in July for art school in the Yukon. We are sad to see her go; she has made a lasting impact in the life of her mentee and has found her life also enriched by this relationship. We know she will be staying in contact, encouraging her mentee in her next steps of life, even as she pursues her education.

As I reflect back on 2011, I am reminded of a verse in Jeremiah 29 that says, "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." We often don't understand why some young people have to endure so much suffering, but one young woman who lived at "The House" in 2011 is an example to others that God can heal and restore broken lives. Her story is included in the annual report summary enclosed as one of the 70 young people whose lives were touched by Inner Hope this past year.

In the report enclosed you will find statistics of the youth and families we served in our programs in 2011 as well as organizational highlights and milestones from the past year. Much has already happened in the first few months of 2012 and this newsletter provides updates from many of the events that have already taken place this year. We are excited about the opportunity to serve youth and families in East Vancouver in 2012. Participating in Missions Fest in January was a great reminder that we are part of a larger purpose and we thank you for joining us in our mission.

- Jenny Shantz,
Executive Director

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 23** Passion Vancouver
- March 31** Volunteer Training Workshop
- April 14** Kaleo Program Graduation
- April 21** Boundless Workshop: Self-Confidence
- May 6** Evening of Hope in Langley

Inner Hope needs to raise \$20,000 by March 31st.
Would you consider giving to help us cover our expenses for the first quarter of 2012?

The lives of 70 young people were touched by Inner Hope in 2011.

Read more about Inner Hope's impact in our 2011 annual report, enclosed within.

With thanks to all our supporters, (volunteer, prayer, donations) - your partnership enables us to walk alongside youth, and support them as they gain greater stability and follow their dreams.

Special thanks to **World Vision**
Canadian Programs

P.O. Box 74084, RPO Hillcrest Park, Vancouver, BC V5V 5C8 • Email office@innerhope.ca
Co-Directors: Jenny Shantz 604.767.1357 Carla Dickinson 778.883.4340 • Fax: 604.638.0991 • www.innerhope.ca

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

On March 17, we held our third community advisory committee meeting. This group comes from the community we serve and includes parents, youth, past participants and volunteers. Jenny Shantz (Executive Director) and Karen Giesbrecht (board member) host and are able to hear firsthand of the needs and desires of the local community. The committee’s advice and shared perspectives are what make the difference and shape our planning and program development.

The committee’s input from our first meeting guided us in a revision of Inner Hope’s shared mandate (Vision, Mission and Values). During the last two meetings they have contributed to the development of a three year strategic plan. Committee members appreciate sharing a meal together, socializing, learning more about the organizational side of Inner Hope and having an opportunity to share ideas. When asked what he enjoys about being on the advisory committee, the father of one of our youth said, “Giving back to Inner Hope. The least I can do for what you’ve done for Jordan.”

L: some members of the Community Advisory Committee



“... giving back to Inner Hope. It’s the least I can do for what you’ve done for [my son].”

“... a mid-week Bible study has been started up again at ‘The House.’”

R: practical Bible study application



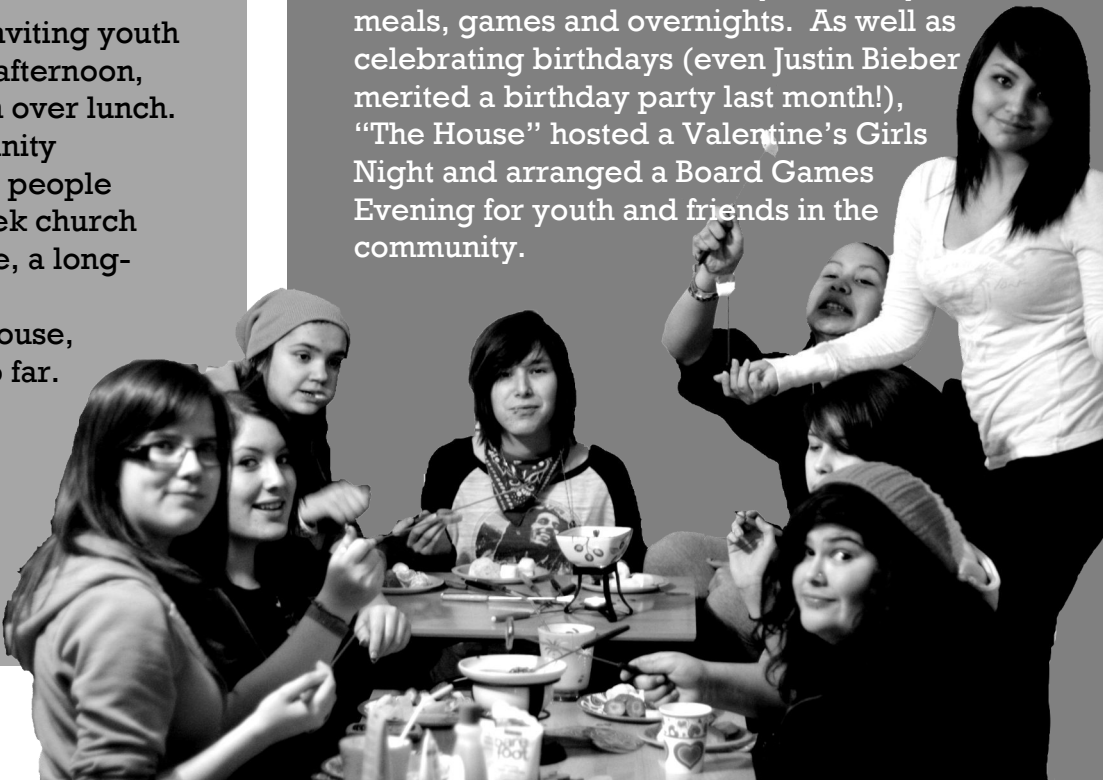
DISCIPLESHIP

Continuing on last year’s momentum, our discipleship focus continues to rely on integrating the young people in our circle into local church bodies.

This past year many of our young people began attending a local church plant called Reality. On Saturdays, we phone, text, and facebook around, doing our best to determine who is coming to church the next morning. Typically this results in some extra overnights at The House, which makes pick-ups a little easier on Sunday morning. Mark (volunteer) and Carla gather at the kitchen whiteboard and draft up a transportation plan, including how many car seats are needed in each vehicle, and the rounds are made.

After church on Sunday we’ve been inviting youth and others back to The House for the afternoon, which includes discussing the sermon over lunch. It has been exciting to see the community continuing to develop, and our young people more readily participating in mid-week church groups and functions. In March, Janine, a long-time volunteer, also started back up a mid-week Bible Study group at The House, which has been attended by 5 girls so far. It is so exciting to see youth drawn to Jesus, and to watch the journey of transformation in their lives – sometimes fast, sometimes slow, but always a beautiful miracle.

R: some girls enjoy fondue at Valentine’s Girl’s Night



LIFE SKILLS

We are seeing youth growing and changing through Boundless Hope! In February, the Boundless Hope workshop attracted the largest number of participants to date. The theme was “Healthy Boundaries within Relationships” and we invited guest speakers to share advice about dating and relationships based on their marriage. We were very pleased to see a high level of engagement from our youth as Yvan and Dayna, of the Blackfoot Nation, captivated their attention.

Within Inner Hope’s focus on Life Skills, we are developing a larger focus on education and employment for youth who are not necessarily participants in the Boundless Hope program. One of our youth will be completing a year-long Bible certificate program in April. Two are entering the third term of a professional hairdressing program at VCC. Two youth within the Boundless Hope program are about to graduate high school and have been applying to colleges. We are excited to see so many youth developing educational foundations and breaking family cycles of low education and poverty.

L: youth and their mentors enjoy a monthly dinner to celebrate the previous month’s accomplishments



“In February, the Boundless Hope workshop attracted the largest number of participants to date.”

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youth ministries

THE HOUSE

This has been a season of change for “The House” as four residents moved out within a few weeks of each other. In mid-January, one youth moved on after six months of living with us and in February a young mom and her two kids moved into a low income housing building after living at “The House” for over a year. After having been filled to capacity for all of 2011, Carla and Jenny were anticipating a pause with a chance to rest and catch up on administrative duties. However, the same weekend the last residents moved out, they were blessed with a vibrant young seventeen year-old who moved in, so that she can get the support she needs to complete her Grade 11 schoolwork.

“This has been a season of change for ‘The House’...”

Though “The House” has less residents this March than it had last year, it is just as busy as we continue to welcome youth daily for meals, games and overnights. As well as celebrating birthdays (even Justin Bieber merited a birthday party last month!), “The House” hosted a Valentine’s Girls Night and arranged a Board Games Evening for youth and friends in the community.

Walking alongside at-risk youth; empowering them to live healthy lives.