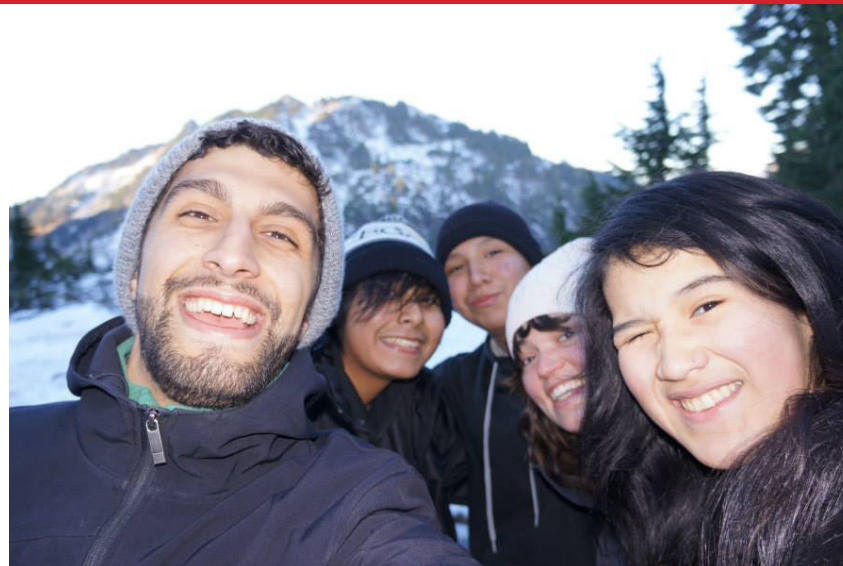


# MOUNT BAKER RETREAT 2014

Marco and Katherine spent a weekend on Mount Baker with eleven youth from Vancouver. This annual Christian Native youth retreat included upwards of forty youth from various First Nation communities and was a wonderful time away for our youth. Though there was not as much snow on the mountain as hoped for, **their time was filled with games, adventure, relaxation, worship, and teaching about God.** Many youth jumped at the opportunity to learn traditional crafts such as making dream catchers, mini drums, and beaded pouches. Others welcomed the opportunity to hike up the mountain. Youth were challenged spiritually, learning a lot from the speaker and participating in great group discussions. This was a weekend full of memories that youth will remember with nothing but joy! 🏔️

- Katherine Savage  
Boundless Coordinator



Thanks to all our supporters, for without your financial support we would not be able to walk alongside youth as they develop into responsible adults.



[WWW.INNERHOPE.CA](http://WWW.INNERHOPE.CA)

inner hope youth ministries' mission and goal is to 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

INNER HOPE  
youth ministries

Hope Through Relationships

Growing Deeper - Whatever it Takes

Winter 2014



LESLIE

Carla and Jenny first met Leslie when she was 5 years old, but lost contact a couple years later. Shortly after Inner Hope launched Boundless, Leslie reconnected and joined the program. Four years later her involvement has grown immensely. This past summer Leslie attended her first Mexico service trip with Inner Hope and a few weeks after returning became the first resident of the new home.

Leslie is currently attending Vancouver Community College in preparation for future post-secondary studies and faithfully attends Reality Church. Leslie has a heart to help those around her who are struggling.

## Fall Wrap Up

The last few months have been a joy at Inner Hope. After numerous growing pains and challenges over the last couple years, it has been exciting to see the ministry flourish with the opening of a private home for full-time residents in September and therefore more adequate space for our community programs at The House. **1 Peter 1:6 says, "So be truly glad! There is wonderful joy ahead, even though it is necessary for you to endure many trials for a while."** Please celebrate with us this season of joy. This past Saturday we hosted our annual volunteer training event (photos below). We were encouraged to see the commitment of so many who have joined us on the journey, entering into transforming relationships with our children and youth. I invite you to read the following articles to better understand the needs Inner Hope strives to address and the model of service we provide.



Our Executive Director, Jenny Shantz, will be hosting a workshop at Missions Fest this year! The workshop feature is *Hope Through Relationships: Creating a Community of Care for At-Risk Youth and Children*. Check Missions Fest's event schedule for the time and location. Feel free to drop by our booth at **F04!**

**Our new website is live!**

Please visit us at [www.innerhope.ca](http://www.innerhope.ca) and share the link with friends. We're thankful to Kitty for her expertise in this area. She did a fabulous job for her first website!

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 13	Boundless Christmas workshop
Dec. 21	Inner Hope Community Christmas Celebration
Dec. 23	Christmas at The Home
Dec. 27	Christmas Outdoor activity
Jan. 17	January Workshop & Games Night
Jan. 30 - Feb. 1	Missions Fest
Jan. 10	Mentor Appreciation Dinner





# Why Inner Hope?



As we enter the Christmas season and the end of another year, I find myself reflecting back on Inner Hope's journey through 2014. I welcome you to join me as I contemplate the importance of **why Inner Hope exists, our dream to see youth grow to lead stable, healthy lives and the evidence of what it will take help them get there.**

The last two months I have been reminded that intensive support for youth at-risk is critical and can often make the difference between life and death. Recently, I spent time on the trauma unit of Vancouver General hospital visiting two young men I had built connections with in years past. One young man died of injuries sustained after falling from a downtown eastside apartment building. I am currently at the bedside of another young man who is on the road to recovery after being stabbed 4 times in the chest.

**Many of the young people we serve face tremendous obstacles to healthy development.** Cycles of addiction among parents and extended family members, violence in the home, experiencing or witnessing abuse, abandonment by one or both parents and movement in and out of foster homes are some of the traumatic events that reduce our young peoples' ability to cope with daily life and impact their development, increasing the odds of falling into the same destructive patterns. At the same time, these youth are incredibly talented with huge potential to live a fulfilling life.

The encouraging news is that **Inner Hope is seeing an increasing number of young people experience growth in their lives, leading to greater levels of stability and ultimately impacting their families and communities.** With intense support from our volunteer and staff team, the holistic approach that Inner Hope provides and our long-term commitment to building lasting relationships, Inner Hope is able to fill some of the gaps and provide tangible support to increase the possibility for healthy development. **We also recognize that prayer and the transformational power of Jesus at work are what ultimately brings healing and renewal.**



Photo: Inner Hope's Community Advisory Committee

In recent years we have seen many youth graduate from high-school, attend post-secondary training, gain employment and begin paying their own bills. We have also seen youth become involved in a home church and take on leadership roles in their families and communities. Our dream is to see each youth who come through our doors to one day flourish.

- Jenny Shantz  
Executive Director

(Mark's story)

# What it Takes

In order to address the numerous obstacles our young people face, we have developed a continuum of support under the umbrella of 4 main program areas: **housing, support, life skills** and **discipleship**. For each youth, the gap is a different size, with some requiring more support than others. Many youth have at least one parent who is involved in their lives, while a few have no stable parent actively involved in their care. What it takes looks different for each kid. **Not all youth need to live in The Home, but they all need a supportive community.**



Mark Ang is one of the young adults who demonstrates that caring, long-term support and a transformational encounter with Jesus can lead to significant, sustained change.

The level of support he received increased to include advocacy with social workers, tutoring with school work, discipleship through Bible studies, temporary housing and eventually a second home to come to on holidays once he left for college.



Today, Mark is a university graduate, married to a wonderful lady, a father to a beautiful baby girl, an active participant in his church and a worker at Inner Hope providing respite services for youth in our new home.

As a child and adolescent Mark experienced a number of the risk factors mentioned previously and was living in daily survival mode when we met him at age 14. Mark first entered our doors with his cousin looking for a meal.



## CONTINUUM OF SUPPORT



A couple years ago for a course he was taking at Simon Fraser University, Mark investigated the level of support received by First Nations high-school graduates.

As most of the youth we currently serve come from an Indigenous background, the information gleaned was very enlightening. Out of the 20 graduates surveyed, 18 had received support from four or more people and 14 had received support from 6 or more people. Support included things such as help with assignments, financial support, encouragement and help with childcare; essentially the things most of us rely on our parents and extended families for. This sends a clear message: **to increase the potential for healthy development, each youth and child we serve needs relationships with 6 stable adults.**

Our goal is not to grow wider, but deeper. Would you help accomplish this through volunteering or contributing financially to help us provide staff and volunteers to provide round-the-clock care for these young people?