



RIVER'S EDGE

HAVEN OF HOPE

REVIEW

FALL 2024

From the Board of Directors

Welcome to the Fall Newsletter 2024 of River's Edge Haven of Hope (REHH)! While the beautiful blue skies and bright sunshine are still reminders of the Summer season, the cooler temperatures and certainly the change in colours of the leaves on the trees, are clear reminders that our faithful God has introduced yet again another season. I expect that we all are settled in the routines of this Fall season at home, in our family life, and here at REHH that is also the case!

The Board took a bit of a hiatus from meeting in person during the summer. That does not mean however, that things "stood still"! That means board, staff and committees were in touch with each other electronically, so things kept rolling while allowing everyone to take some personal time away from meetings. One item that receives the Board's attention on a regular basis is the search for an Executive Director to fill the current vacancy. An ad was placed earlier this summer and while we did receive some replies, we have not been able to appoint anyone yet to that position.

As Board we would like to involve YOU as well in this endeavour! If you know of someone who might be a suitable candidate to take this important position in this Ministry, approach him or her, and ask them to search their hearts if this work might be a way to use their God-given talents to His glory and to the benefit of the

organization, and consequently to those who enter through the doors of REHH. The Board is committed to a careful, prayerful and intentional process in filling the vacancy – all in His timing!

The Staff's contribution to this Newsletter introduced you to a new part-time Staff member in the person of Hannah Vermeulen. Her profile will also be available soon on the web-site, so please, check it out. All I would like to add, on behalf of the Board, is a hearty welcome to Hannah! She has definitely shown her love for the Ministry in her willingness to help out and volunteer on many occasions. Her love for her Lord and Saviour and her maturity will be evident to those who will be in contact with her. We thank God for guiding her to River's Edge!

On behalf of the Board I would like to compliment the Staff for preparing and running a very successful summer at the farm. The place was alive with activities for mentees and mentors alike. Now that we are already a few weeks into the next 11 week term, we wish them all blessings from above in their task. Thanks to the many volunteers as well, who unselfishly give their time and talents Soli Deo Gloria.

Till next time DV,

On Behalf of the Board,
Nick VandenOever, Chairman.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Fall Fest & Vendor Show - Saturday October 26th, 11-3

Farmers Market, Bake Sale, Food, Vendors and more!

From the Staff at River's Edge Haven of Hope

On the heels of summer 2024, it's been a common sentiment from many that it went too quickly! We reflect on our summer here at the farm in awe and gratitude; we could never have imagined the blessings we would receive on all our planning and organizing. Proverbs 19:21 reminds us, "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails."

Shortly before our summer plans got underway, we put out a plea for donations of snacks and beverages to assist with associated costs. Our programs are free and the donations we receive go a long way in keeping costs manageable. Once again, we were overwhelmed by the generous and loving response we received from our community and the generosity of our Founders who allowed us to use their property and facilities. We also cannot overlook the gift of time that we received in the form of volunteer mentors and volunteers (adult and youth alike). Thank you!

Between the DYIC Monday day camps, Wednesdays of mentoring; our activity camps, and Streetlight Ministries "Bright Hope" camp, River's Edge Haven of Hope (REHH) hosted over 300 youths this summer! The property was a-buzz with joyful sounds of laughter and excitement. With firm conviction, we confess that God was with us and blessed us richly! Not a single injury occurred and despite the wet summer we experienced, not a single day of activities was negatively impacted by the weather. Remarkably, one storm passed over during lunch with Streetlight's Bright Hope Camp and cleared just in time for devotions around the fire pit. Thunder rumbled in the distance like a reminder that our plans are not our own.

With the approach of the fall season, school and regular routines have begun again. The same holds for REHH—with some exciting new additions! We welcome a new part-time staff member, Hannah Vermeulen. Hannah is no stranger to us at REHH; she has been a regular volunteer over the last few years and also works next door in the strawberry operation. Next, a Wednesday 8:00 AM "early-bird" mentoring timeslot was added this summer in the hopes that it would allow more men to join our team of mentors. With the overall success of that timeslot, we have implemented it into our regular 11-week program. We have started our first-ever youth group called "Hope Alive". "Hope Alive" is an extension of our one-on-one mentoring program. Older youths who have been mentored in the past are invited to come and spend intentional time together working on social skills, cooperation, and building healthy relationships. The youth who come to "Hope Alive" help prepare and share a meal together; they participate in discussions on scripture that teach us about the hope we have in Jesus and how we have been made alive through Him and enjoy a group activity. Finally, we are the thankful recipients of a woodworking shop! A work associate of one of our mentors made the donation after their father's passing. We can't wait to get it all set up so that we can put it to good use. We have so much to be thankful for!

We covet your prayers so that we can continue sharing the hope, love, and saving grace of our Saviour with the youth who enter here. May God's purposes prevail to His glory!

ONGOING SUPPORT

We are thankful for the support we receive and realize it is from His hand! Thank you to all who have supported us both prayerfully, financially, and with their gifts! There is no fee for the participants, so we operate completely on donations. We are looking to build our monthly donor base. Please consider supporting us monthly!

***Ways to Donate: Pre - Authorized Debit • E-Transfer • Canada Helps • Cheque
Visit our website or email us for more information.***