



# RIVER'S EDGE HAVEN OF HOPE

# REVIEW

FALL 2025

## *From the Board...*

We pray that the summer season has been a time of fellowship with family and friends and enjoying God's creation! We are thankful for all the times in which the farm has been a busy place full of summer activities, partnerships with local ministries, volunteer involvement, and the growth fostered through one-on-one mentoring. Over the past five years, River's Edge has been a blessing, revealing God at work through daily interactions, volunteering, programs, and the meaningful connections formed through this ministry. Dedicated staff and volunteers continue to answer the call to share God's love with the children and youth that participate. We are truly thankful for every person who has given of their time and energy, especially as we continue to see new connections and relationships with families and supporters in our community develop.

As the fall season brings changes in nature, River's Edge has also experienced many changes. We thank our retiring Board members, Nick VandenOever, Rik Reinink, Tricia DeBoer, and Lisa Wagter. Their time and dedication have been a blessing and we are thankful for their

continued support of River's Edge in various capacities. We welcome Ed and Lorraine Feenstra back to the Board and their willingness and desire to see this ministry continue. We also thank our dedicated book keeper, Ann-Marie Sjaarda, who has for the past 3 years served in this capacity and is working hard to make the transition for a new book keeper to go smoothly. Two of our staff, Melanie Heemskerk and Megan DeVries, are moving on to other endeavors. We are thankful for their contribution to River's Edge over these past years, especially in this past year continuing the daily ministry at River's Edge as the Board worked through a time of reflection and transition. We pray for God's blessing on them.

It is with joy and thankfulness that Jackie Nordeman has accepted the Executive Director position. Her joy and passion for the Lord and this ministry have been demonstrated since the beginning of River's Edge in a volunteer capacity. Now, as she humbly takes on this role, we trust that the Lord will continue to work in and through her to lead the ministry of connecting with the Lord and others.

*Continued on next page...*

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

***Mark your calendars for this upcoming event in support of River's Edge Haven of Hope:***

**Fall Fun Fest & Vendor Show** Saturday, September 20th from 10 a.m.- 2 pm at River's Edge Haven of Hope (this is a family event)

We are looking forward to this coming year and are always looking for more people to become involved. Reach out to Jackie at [info@riversedge.ca](mailto:info@riversedge.ca) to find out how you can make an impact on the lives of the youth that come to River's Edge. The Fundraising

### From the Staff...

POOF!! And just like that, summer is over! The adage "Time flies when you're having fun" has been proven true once again. As in the past, we were blessed to host the Dunnville Youth Impact Centre on Mondays for their "Mission POSSIBLE" day camp. We also got to participate by planning and executing different woods and horse activities. The horse activities were a bit of a challenge this year as our herd is aging and ailing, but thankfully, two staff members imported their own horses to the farm for a portion of the summer.



**The hot humid days did not deter the youth**

Committee has been dedicated to the planning and organization of the Fall Fun Fest in September. We pray that Lord willing, we will see many of you there to find out more of what God is doing through River's Edge Haven of Hope.

*On behalf of the Board, Nicole VanHuizen*

Streetlight Ministries brought just over 100 participants, leaders, and volunteers for the 5th anniversary of "Bright Hope" camp at River's Edge. At the end of our three days together, Streetlight presented us with a banner to commemorate our partnership. We held five of our own day camps at the farm this summer: auto mechanics, horsemanship, sports, art, and water activities. New this year, the auto mechanics camp was planned and led by Mr. Mike Koetsier of Round 2 Tires. The youths learned the main components of a lawnmower and raced against the clock, and each other, to put the mowers back together.

Working in teams, the youths also learned how to change a spare tire and finished the day with a used tire obstacle course. The hot, humid days did not deter the youths from having fun!

Wednesdays were set aside for one-on-one mentoring - the focus at River's Edge year-round. Our summer mentoring block is our shortest and most challenging to plan, but with the help of

our volunteer mentors, we were able to mentor 10 youths for eight weeks.

On Thursdays, we held our youth volunteer days. We had eight weeks of help from 17 high-school-aged youth who collectively donated a total of 309.5 volunteer hours! We were blessed to watch these young people get to know each other, forge new friendships, and work together. Volunteers are fundamental and foundational to everything that we do at River's Edge! It is impossible to accurately count the number of people who selflessly serve this ministry in various ways. At the outset of the summer, we wondered how we were going to manage the mentoring and all of our planned activities because we had so few committed volunteers. The Lord humbled us each week by supplying helpful hearts and hands at the perfect time. We were challenged to practically apply to ourselves the very lessons we were trying to teach the youths through our theme based on 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, be thankful in all circumstances". While explaining to the youths that Philippians 4:4-7 is a parallel verse to our theme text, we were reminded in verses 6 and 7, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus". The youths offered examples of times and circumstances in which they have experienced anxiety or stress, and

together we thanked God that He is always near, and no matter what we're going through, there are things to be thankful for. With the Lord's blessing, this Fall, we will continue to focus on one-on-one mentoring while also hosting curriculum-related school visits, tours, and weekly visits from our friends from the various Anchor homes. Our Hope Alive Youth group, which consists of older male and female youths, will be put on hold for the Fall block while we look for a male and female tag team to facilitate this group. Our ability to mentor children and youths depends entirely on the number of volunteer mentors we have each block. We are so thankful for our volunteers! Please prayerfully consider joining our team of mentors so that we can share the love, hope, and joy of Christ with the children waiting to get into the mentoring program. As we move into a new season, we are encouraged and comforted knowing that "Our help is in the name of the LORD" (Ps. 121).

*In His service,  
The Staff*



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RIVER'S EDGE HAVEN OF HOPE'S

# Fall Fun Fest & Vendor Market

September 20<sup>th</sup> 10-2



**Come on out and Support Local!**

**Farmer's Market • Bake Sale • Lunch • Vendors  
Bouncy Castle • Hay Bale Toss & more!**

*All proceeds except vendors will go towards the ministry of River's Edge*

***INTERESTED IN WAYS TO HELP AND  
SUPPORT THE MISSION AT RIVER'S EDGE?***

Please visit our website and click on "Donate" for ways you can help today.

**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.***