



RIVER'S EDGE

HAVEN OF HOPE

REVIEW

SUMMER 2024

From the Board of Directors

Welcome to the June 2024 Newsletter of River's Edge Haven of Hope (REHH)! In the past number of years we have put out a Newsletter quarterly, but since this spring has been somewhat unusual and challenging we had to forfeit the March issue. We apologize for that, and hope to provide you with a little more insight as to the reasons.

At this time I would, on behalf of the Board, inform you that our Executive Director, Avery Linde has moved on from REHH. The Board thanks Avery for her years of involvement with REHH, and we wish her well in her future endeavours. The words of Philippians 4 came to mind as I was writing these lines, where we read "do not be anxious about anything"! We therefore believe that challenges are put on our path(s) for a reason, and that our gracious Father has a plan for all of us, which includes this ministry.

Other changes have taken place as well over the last number of months, and one of them is new faces around the Board table. We would like to thank Ed Feenstra and Jackie Elgersma for their many years of service for the ministry by way of their position on the Board. We have been blessed by their insight and dedication.

Subsequently, we would like to welcome to the Board Nicole VanHuizen and Lisa Wagter. Both have attended a couple of meetings already, and

their willingness to serve in this capacity was evident. Both are also from the Dunnville area, so perhaps you can actually put a face to these names.

The various committees that serve the Board and ultimately the ministry, have not come away unscathed from changes! The Programs Committee saw 2 members leave and 2 new members join. Fred Vandenbos, who was a part of the committee since its inception in February of 2022; first as secretary and later as chair, was called to serve in God's kingdom in a different capacity, and has therefore resigned. The other member to be replaced was Avery Linde, and due to her leaving Melanie Heemskerk took her place as Staff Liaison. Kevin Oosterhof was found willing to be part of this committee; we wish them both blessings in their roles.

Finally, our "newest" committee, Human Resources, lost Nathan Kok (hey, that name rings a bell) who with his family will be moving to Calgary soon. Bruce DeBoer was found willing to fill that vacancy. We are deeply thankful for all these people who have served the ministry of these years, and we acknowledge God's providing Hand in all this. We pray that this same God of Providence will bless all those who are new and current involved in this Kingdom work.

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NEWS AND EVENTS

Open House is on Saturday, August 17th, 10 a.m-2 pm.

There will be a bake sale, BBQ lunch, dessert, face painting, bouncy castle, tours, horse demonstrations and more! Bring the family and enjoy an afternoon exploring the grounds and happenings of River's Edge (1 Haldimand Rd 17, Dunnville). A free will monetary donation of your choice would be appreciated. Hope to see you all there!

SAVE THE DATE: Fall Fest is October 26th, stay tuned for more details!

On behalf of the Board we also would like to compliment our Staff, Megan DeVries and Melanie Heemskerk, for their willingness and zeal in keeping this ministry going, “where the rubber hits the road”! Their dedication to keep the regular mentoring on track for the planned 11-week stretch, as well as planning and organizing the Summer Program for parts of July and August, is a testimony to their commitment.

As I review the report so far, I do mention a lot of names and spotlighting them. While fully deserved, this does come with the risk of

forgetting to mention others, who also play a very important role. Some I probably forgot in ignorance, others because I know they are possibly not wanting to be put in the spotlight.

In sum, we thank God for you all, and it remains our prayer that He will continue to bless River’s Edge Haven of Hope, and that we may continue to be a blessing to all who come through the doors.

On Behalf of the Board,
Nick VandenOever, Chairman.

At the Farm this Summer

We are very excited to be hosting and holding a number of groups and events at the farm this summer!

For the 4th consecutive year, both the Dunnville Youth Impact Centre and Streetlight Ministries will be joining us here at the farm. As in the past, the DYIC will be running their day camp on Monday afternoons for the entire summer (holidays excepted) and Streetlight Ministries will be bringing a cheery busload of 50 happy day-campers for 3 consecutive days in July. These camps bring so much life and joy to the property. As hosts of these groups, we are blessed to participate alongside the youth in various ways, expanding the opportunities to connect with youth through the ministry at River’s Edge.

We also have a number of “firsts” at the farm this year! On Tuesday afternoons we will be holding “Volunteer Days”. Alongside adult volunteers, youth—in particular those who need community hours—will help around the farm by doing chores and farm related work. On Wednesdays, from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM, we will be holding mentoring sessions. This is a great way to get some of the youth, who have been on the waitlist, into the program and be able to mentor some of our existing youth who will benefit from ongoing

support. As you can imagine, summer can be complicated for scheduling so we are very thankful and excited to have 11 willing volunteer mentors available to walk alongside these young people. Finally, each Thursday of the summer (except 2) River’s Edge will host 25 youths aged 8-14 for “Activity Day Camps”. Each Thursday will be a different activity: art, woodworking, sports, water activities, woods, and horsemanship. Our summer programs are free so we rely heavily on the generosity of our community and program participants to bring a snack or drink to share. Please keep us in mind when you are baking or out shopping, we would thankfully accept any contributions you can make for the benefit of our program participants.

The planning does not stop with summer camps and activities—preparations for our Fall block of sessions are already underway. With the Lord’s blessing, we will begin our regular mentoring sessions on September 9th. We daily see God’s hand in providing River’s Edge as a place to minister to youth and the broader community. The Lord continues to bless the ministry here at River’s Edge and we covet your prayers and ongoing support.

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.***