



RIVER'S EDGE HAVEN OF HOPE

REVIEW

SPRING 2025

From the Staff at River's Edge

On the calendar the official start of spring was March 21st; almost 2 months into the season, we can now see the signs. The baby animals on the farm, returning birds, the fresh green leaves, trilliums, and ferns in the forest all herald the season and testify of God's providential care. Spring may feel late in coming, but Psalm 74:17 reminds us that God "set all the boundaries of the earth; you [God] made both summer and winter." God reveals Himself in creation and this gives us ample opportunity to testify of God's "...eternal power and divine nature..." (Romans 1:20)

Winter seems so long ago, and it's easy to forget it as the weather warms and the days grow longer. The often blustery, cold, dark days of winter are behind us, but we would be remiss if we did not mention the blessings we experienced during the winter months.

We were able to host our very first "Mom & Tots" drop-in. Every other Wednesday, from mid-December to early March, the barn was open to mothers with children under 5 years, to come and enjoy a change of scenery and spend a couple of hours in fellowship with other moms. After the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, winter

can be long and lonely. The drop-in was appreciated by those who attended.

The Hope Alive youth group, which is an extension of our mentoring program, also went well over the winter and has continued into spring. This program has been blessed with support and generosity through meals donated by community members who signed up through our MealTrain (which can be found on our website). These donations help alleviate the cost of the program and allow the youth participants to experience a sit-down family meal, complete with devotions—and oftentimes, dessert!

Just before Christmas, we sent out a request for donations for "meal" and "baking" jars; which would be gifted to the mentees and their families at our Christmas dinner. Our request received an overwhelming response! We received so many beautifully decorated jars and were able to send each family home with a meal and baking jar to prepare together over the holidays. The jars were lovingly put together by groups of Kingdom Seekers and individuals from our church communities; some were delivered with commitments to help out again. We hosted over

Continued on next page...

SAVE THE DATE:

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events 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)

River's Edge Haven of Hope fundraising Gala to be held Saturday, November 22nd at 5:30 pm in the John Calvin School auditorium in Smithville. More information and details to follow.

110 people at our Christmas dinner and had some jars left over to use in our kitchen program.

God's blessings over the ministry at River's Edge continue to encourage and inspire! During the March Break, River's Edge hosted a two day "Boots 'n' Roots" camp in partnership with the DYIC (Dunnville Youth Impact Centre). The scriptural focus of the camp was based on Ephesians 3:17 "...being rooted and established in love." On separate days, 24 girls and 24 boys came to the farm and spent time doing activities and devotions that focused on demonstrating God's love—an upbuilding way to end the March break.

Streetlight Ministries has visited River's Edge with children from inner-city Hamilton for the past four summers in connection with their "Bright Hope" summer camp. This past March, we were able to host a group from Streetlight for the first time during the winter! It was so nice to spend time with our friends from Streetlight—albeit with a scaled-down group—ahead of the busy summer.

Recently, the Board and Staff of River's Edge hosted a volunteer appreciation evening. It was a fun and relaxing evening and a real eye-opener in terms of taking physical count of the many volunteers who have kept River's Edge open and running for another year. The physical count doesn't take into account the multitude of people who support this ministry in their prayers, through donations of food, supplies and financially. There is always the risk of leaving someone out when extending "thanks", so from all of us at River's Edge, thank you all, for your continued support and encouragement.

If you are able and interested in supporting River's Edge, we have a new "Gift Registry" located under the "donation" tab on our website. God is providing for this ministry through all of you.

Many people know about River's Edge, but not everyone is certain of what we do. In an effort to share with our supporting community what we do and how we do it, we put together a brief PowerPoint presentation which we were able to

share with two local congregations. Our presentation focussed on the great need for volunteers, especially mentors. River's Edge was also invited to deliver a presentation to the Dunnville Optimist Club. After a few edits to our PowerPoint, we took this opportunity to expand the awareness and support network of River's Edge. If you are reading this and would like to request a presentation for your church please reach out to us and we would be happy to set it up!

While on the subject of volunteers, our summer plans are well underway, and as with many organizations, we are in need of volunteers. We have many options and opportunities to suit your interests and talents, and different dates too. If you are an adult or youth 16+ please prayerfully consider if you would be able to help us on either Tuesday or Thursday afternoons over the summer. As we were blessed to do last summer, we will be holding activity day camps and youth volunteer days again this summer; on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:30, respectively. If you have any questions, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact us by phone, email or register online through our website if you can help us out.

While the sayings "Many hands make light work", and "It takes a village to raise a child" are not scriptural quotes, their meaning and intent are indeed scriptural. Nehemiah 3 is a beautiful account of many people with many talents coming together to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. Proverbs 22:6 says "Train a child up in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it". In Numbers 11:17 God appointed elders to help Moses, so that as a community of believers, "...they shall bear the burden of the people..." together. As in all things, we know and trust that our God and Father will supply all our needs. Thank you for your continued support of River's Edge Haven of Hope where we believe, "No one should walk alone."

In His service,
The Staff at River's Edge Haven of Hope

River's Edge Needs YOU!

If you have a heart for children, whether you have children, nieces, nephews, or grandchildren, then you CAN mentor; it's that simple. There is no special training required to become a mentor. The word "mentor" can be daunting when confused with "counsellor". We are not counsellors. The children and youth who come to River's Edge need one thing...your time. Time is a precious commodity, and we need Christian adults willing to spend intentional, quality time with a child or youth once a week for 11 weeks during the fall, winter, and spring—our summer block is shorter, at a maximum of 8 weeks. God *has* answered our prayers for more mentors, and we are thankful for the Holy Spirit who has worked in the hearts of Bert Vis, Owen Pols, Brad Schutten, and Caleb Vermeulen to join our mentoring team. Some of our volunteer mentors can only help for the summer, and some can help indefinitely, but our waitlist is directly affected by the number of volunteer mentors. Experience the blessing of sharing the love and hope of Christ with a child or youth.

If you have a heart for the ministry at River's Edge and have a talent for organizing events, River's Edge needs you too! Two of our committee members are retiring after 4 years of dedicated support and service. The River's Edge fundraising committee holds 2 to 3 events annually. Please contact Sandra Oosterhof at promotions@riversedge.ca for more information.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER?

Please visit our website, riversedge.ca, and click on the tab "What's Happening" to subscribe.



Please Pray for River's Edge:

- That God preserves freedom so mentors can speak openly to the children and youths of the love and hope we have in Christ.
- That the lives of the children and their families will be impacted by the working of the Holy Spirit through our mentoring program.
- That God provides enough volunteers to help run the day-to-day operations and mission of River's Edge Haven of Hope.
- That River's Edge continues to be supported prayerfully, spiritually and financially.
- For all our volunteers; for their time, energy and dedication.



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.***