



RIVER'S EDGE
HAVEN OF HOPE

REVIEW

WINTER 2024

From the Board of Directors

It remains a privilege to update you, by way of a Newsletter, on the activities of River's Edge Haven of Hope (RE)! We all experienced a beautiful Fall Season, which allowed for many outdoor activities to continue, even up till now. We know however, that as the year of our Lord (A.D.) 2024 draws to a close, the temperatures will decrease. We are thankful for an innovative Staff and volunteers who prepare and adjust programs and activities to suit the time of year.

While on the topic of volunteers; we are indeed deeply thankful for all of them. When you enter the main doors at RE, immediately to your left you'll see a picture arrangement of (most) of the active volunteers, who in various ways inconvenience our feathered farm residents – past and present. It is absolutely not my intent to disclose any particulars about the volunteer mentors – let the pictures speak for themselves. However, I do want in thankfulness to God as yet congratulate our most senior volunteer, Dale Tomlin, who reached the beautiful age of 80. In Psalm 90, the 1st part of vs. 10, it is mentioned that those who have reached this age they do so “by reason of strength”. It is our prayer that our gracious God will add many more years to her

life, and that she may continue to be a blessing to her loved ones, as well as to the RE ministry.

In the Staff report in this Newsletter, you'll read that the waiting list for mentees is once again a reality and a substantial one at that. This is unfortunate for those who are on it, but for the ministry it is a healthy sign that the presence of RE in the community and beyond is known and appreciated. An initiative which started last September, called “Hope Alive”, has entered it's 2nd round of group mentoring. We pray that it, and all one-on-one mentoring sessions will be blessed.

The presence of RE in the Dunnville community was for the 2nd year in a row enhanced by participating in the Santa Claus Parade held on December 7/24. Thank you to all who participated and contributed in whatever way.

The Promotion and Fundraising Committee has had a hand in the above mentioned parade. The committee also can reflect on a job well done for the Fall Fest 2024. Many vendors were once again in attendance. As with the Open House in August, the skies (and weather forecast) were ominous and brought worries to the organizers

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NEWS AND EVENTS:

River's Edge Euchre Tournament Fundraiser

Come on out Saturday, January 18th for a fun night of fellowship and Euchre. Games begin at 7:30 pm sharp, at River's Edge Haven of Hope. Monetary donation of your choice, prizes and light desserts/snacks provided. Please register by emailing: promotions@riversedge.ca by January 11, 2024

with respect to attendance. In both occasions our fears were laid to rest in that the Lord blessed us with favourable weather so the events could go on as planned. In total just shy of \$ 20,000.00 was raised over 3 events in 2024. These efforts in fundraising will continue in 2025 with the first one being the Euchre Tournament to be held DV on January 18/25 – look for details.

In closing I would like to mention that also this year a “Mentee & Family Christmas Dinner” is planned for December 24/24. This is the fourth time for it to take place, and we hope that this

From the Staff at River’s Edge

Reflecting on God’s blessings is always uplifting and humbling. Too often we make plans without pausing to recognize that our plans are not our own, “but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.” (Proverbs 19:21). The most notable aspect of our Fall block was the strong sense of community and relationship building which took place both within and outside of our mentorship program. We experienced unprecedented communication with parents and caregivers, and this was not anything we planned! New friendships were established between mentors and mentees and between the youths who found themselves at the farm with their fellow mentees each week. We were reminded that “His thoughts are not our thoughts, neither are His ways our ways” (Isaiah 55:8).

The support that River’s Edge receives comes in many forms and from many sources. We were recently blessed by the support of the grade 7 and 8 students from Dunnville Christian School who came to River’s Edge to share their time and talents in connection with their unit of study on community service. On two separate mornings, we enjoyed working together doing chores and getting the barn winter-ready and rounded off our time together with a game of baseball and dodgeball. A few weeks ago we were humbled when we received word from the grade 3 class at DCS that they have chosen River’s Edge to be the recipient of the proceeds from their class Christmas

event will again provide opportunities for many involved in RE to mingle and chat with the mentees and their families. More importantly, may this get -together also be an expression of the love we receive in Christ’s birth, suffering and death, His resurrection and ascension to His throne, where He rules at God’s right Hand. May this knowledge be a blessing to you all!

Till next time DV,
On Behalf of the Board,
Nick VandenOever, Chairman.

Wishing you a

Blessed Christmas

From your friend’s at River’s Edge



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTINUE TO WALK ALONGSIDE US IN SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST.

Market! We are so grateful to them for this gift and honour. We will have the pleasure of hosting the grade 3 students later in December when we will meet and spend time with our young benefactors. Before the Christmas break, we will also have the pleasure of hosting the grade 1 students from DCS in connection with their study on animals. They will visit the farm to learn about the animals that live at River’s Edge and how they are used in our programs. We have recently noticed a need for community and fellowship amongst the mothers with young children in our greater community. While our focus is one-on-one mentoring, we have provided time in our schedule for a couple of hours, every other Wednesday morning, for mom’s with their young children to spend time at the farm! For our Winter block, we will host a community drop-in for

Moms & Tots (children aged 0-5 years). The intention is to provide a Christian environment where moms can socialize, support, and encourage one another. Staff will NOT be providing any kind of programming or activities but they can make a good cup of coffee or tea. Please see elsewhere in this newsletter for more information." Thanks so much!We are incredibly thankful for all of our volunteers and supporters at River’s Edge. God’s presence is evident here, and He has blessed us in many ways. Youths who come to River’s Edge spend time with compassionate, caring, Christian adults who are committed to sharing the love and hope of Christ. There is a significant demand for one-on-one mentoring, and our waitlist has ballooned. The majority of the youths on our waitlist are boys aged 10 years

and older, and it is essential for them to be paired with male mentors. We are thankful for the men and women who have responded to God’s call to volunteer and support the work at River’s Edge. Our Spring 2025 mentoring block begins the week of March 31st. Please prayerfully consider if you can spare an hour and a half, once a week, to share with a youth. Thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and prayers.
The Staff

Mom and Tot Drop-in Schedule

The time for the drop-in is 9:00 to 11:00 on:

Wed. Dec. 11, 2024 • Wed. Jan. 8, 2025
Wed. Jan. 22, 2025 • Wed. Feb. 5, 2025
Wed. Feb. 19, 2025 • Wed. March 5, 2025

Moms will be required to sign-in upon arrival.

2024 BLESSINGS	
67	Mentee’s
300+	Summer Youth
15	Volunteer Mentors
32	Program Volunteers
70	Partnership Day’s



Join Our Team



SCAN ME

We are seeking male mentors for our spring block!

All that's required from you is 2 hours of your time once a week for 11 weeks (End of March until mid June), and a vulnerable sector check!

We currently have 15 boys on our waitlist for spring and they would greatly appreciate some of your time!

Contact us via email, our website or scan the QR code to the left! We would also love to chat with you on the phone or set up a tour of our facilities!



"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord." - 1 Peter 4:10-11



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.***