

Spring 2015

hope

MISSION

**Celebrate with us
at Spring Banquet**

THURSDAY, APRIL 9TH

ALSO INSIDE

VERA'S STORY

THE CALGARY STORY

KIA 5 KM RACE

EDWARDSON PLACE

VERA'S STORY

FINDING PURPOSE

"I'm so in love with life, and with God," says Vera. "I honour every moment as sacred." Today Vera lives in Hope Mission's Green Manor. "I love it here; this is my safe place."

Vera is from Hay River, N.W.T. "I grew up in a large Metis family—nine kids. There was love, but there was also alcoholism, abuse and poverty...unfortunately, like many families who endured the residential schools."

"When you grow up—shunned in your community—being call a half-breed, or just breed...you come to understand yourself as not quite human. It sets the stage for a bad self-image."

Throughout her formative years and into her first marriage, Vera experienced the horrors of every kind of abuse, all of which she believed were somehow her own fault. Then came the bouts of depression, the drinking, "it was a way out," and the suicide attempts.

In spite of this, and because of Vera's tenacious will and strong work ethic, she survived. "I was the first in my family to graduate high school." Fleeing the abuse, she moved to Grande Prairie. She stayed at a shelter, then found a place, worked and earned a social work diploma. She was employed for a time at a family therapy clinic in Yellowknife. She found purpose, stayed sober for many years.

"It was the loneliness. I went out, and slowly, I began to drink again. It got bad. It was like I was feeding a monster. The withdrawals got worse. I was hospitalized. Then I heard about Wellspring."

"At Wellspring I was able to deal with my rage. I could be angry here, learn to speak for myself."

"And I discovered God's presence...I truly surrendered...the confusion began to drop away. I came to terms with the sexual abuse. Before, I didn't know how to let go. But I finally got it; I began to forgive."

Vera is well into her third year of sobriety. "Now I'm prepared to go any lengths to stay clean. I remember what keeps me alive. God is faithful."

"Here, in my little kitchen, my heart sings...I have so much gratitude."





KIA 5 KM RACE

VALUE OF FITNESS

On May 30 at 10 AM, a starting gun will pierce the silence. With months of preparation kids will spring into action. 200 kids will run 5 km to achieve a goal they set in September.

Kids In Action (KIA) shows kids the strength and endurance that come from months of training. Through KIA, Hope Mission offers kids the love of Jesus.

This year, these kids will run in new shoes. Real running shoes that many families cannot afford. Kendall Barber saw the need first hand as she ran last year

(every kid runs with a supportive volunteer). She called on River City Runners, her local running group, who launched a 24 Hour Treadmill Challenge. Their goal? Raise \$10,000 to outfit the kids with shoes and support. At the time of this writing, their fundraising has exploded past \$23,000!

Kids realizing their potential.

This is a remarkable response to remarkable kids. Kids realizing their potential. Kids learning the value of fitness and reaching goals. This 5K run is just part of the faith, hope and love KIA offers every day.

To run with a kid or volunteer, visit hopemission.com/5krace.

EDWARDSON PLACE

A NEW HOME

A new apartment complex is being built in Edmonton's Oliver community. Edwardson Place will be completed Summer 2015 to provide formerly homeless women a safe and beautiful place to call their own. The Oliver Community League has given the project a warm welcome—no small feat for a new development in a historic neighbourhood.

Hope Mission's Wellspring Recovery Program leads women out of addiction and into the freedom and love of Jesus. Once they graduate it can be a tough transition back into everyday life. Edwardson Place will change that.

17 one bedroom apartment suites will give graduates of the Wellspring program a strong start. Rev. Harold & Hillie Edwardson, the buildings' namesakes, would love that.





THE CALGARY STORY

ADVENTURE, HOPE, LOVE

The story of Hope Mission in Calgary is full of adventure, hope and love. There are caring staff, kids full of potential and miraculous transformations.

Christmas deserves its own chapter. The grins and joyful tears of kids and families make Christmas at Hope Mission magical. As a Ministry Outreach Worker, Charly get to serve meals and deliver gifts to kids and their families.

One of the ladies receiving gifts had recently delivered a premature baby. She was so thankful for the unexpected and useful gifts.

"These gifts mean a lot to the families," says Charly. "It's heart-warming when the community comes together like this and ultimately it shows the love of Christ."

That love runs through the entire Calgary story. For three years now, it has made its way into Radisson Park School.

"During that time," reflects Tracy, the school principal, " [Hope Mission staff] have worked closely with us to provide summer camp opportunities for children who would otherwise never go to camp." Hope staff have volunteered for field trips, filling the gap for parents working two jobs. Tracy says, "Their unending commitment to service and support has allowed us to offer our students amazing opportunities and help them develop 'big picture' skills and understanding of community and citizenship."

There is also struggle and pain in the Calgary story.

One night, Sean entered the doors for Hope Mission's evening youth program. The team saw cuts on the boy's arms and knew things were not right. Sean told them he had run away from home. Hope Mission was the only place Sean felt safe. The only place he could turn. Sean could be honest and trust our staff.



Of course, you are a main character in the Calgary story, too.

Thank you to the many donors and volunteers helping us show love to Calgary's vulnerable children and families. Thanks to churches and organizations.

Thanks to our loving God who is writing this amazing Alberta story.



SPRING BANQUET CELEBRATE WITH US

You are invited to a celebration!

Like any good party, the Hope Mission Spring Banquet will have great food. There will be decorations and servers and smiling faces. There will be honoured guests.

However, servers and chefs are unlike any you'll encounter anywhere else. They are connected by the life-changing power of Jesus Christ, made real through the work of Hope Mission. The cooks and servers are the same staff who care for the homeless, hurting and hungry. The honoured guests have known that hurt and hunger.

This Banquet honours achievement. Our honoured guests are recovery graduates. They will cross the stage, receive a certificate, shake a caring hand and beam with pride for a photo. Some will celebrate 6 months free from addiction. Others, a full year. Just months ago, many of these men and women were homeless and unsure of their next meal. A banquet like this was just a dream.

Sometimes—with faith, hope and love—dreams come true.

In the battle against addiction, even the smallest of gains is a miracle. Will you join us to witness miracle after miracle marching across that graduation stage? Will you listen to heartfelt stories of transformation, and clap along with children singing for joy? Were it not for your kindness, these children may be caught

in the cycle of addiction and poverty themselves. Surely you are reading this because you care for the homeless and the hurting. Most likely you have given money, time and prayers to end their suffering.

Will you join us to witness the transformation that your care and compassion have brought? Our Spring Banquet will introduce you to men and women proud of their accomplishments. They'd like to thank you over a shared meal.

This celebration will touch your heart. You are invited!



Call today to reserve your ticket
780.453.3877

Thursday, April 9th at 6:00pm
Location: Sherwood Park Alliance Church
Tickets: \$10

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



“According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ...” -1 Peter 1:3

New birth into “a living hope” is the core message of Easter. And it’s at the heart of what motivates and steers the ministry of Hope Mission.

As you’ve read, our Annual Spring Banquet is just around the corner—I think it’s fitting that it’s held during Easter season. Besides the great food and simple pleasure of gathering together with friends of the Mission, it features the graduation of many men and women who have found this “living hope” and are now on the road of recovery. I do hope you’ll come and celebrate the lives reclaimed because of the message of Easter, and because of your compassion.

It’s through your prayers and your gifts that we are able to reach out daily and meet the critical necessities of our neighbours in need.

Thank you and God bless you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Reith".

Bruce Reith | Executive Director

MORE WAYS TO GIVE

GIVE \$2.70 This small amount makes a big impact: it gives more than a hot meal to a hungry person, it gives hope.

GIVE MONTHLY Your continued support helps us respond effectively just as the need arises.

VOLUNTEER We are always seeking passionate, dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers to join us. Email volunteer.coordinator@hopemission.com to get started.

LEAVE A LEGACY Remember Hope Mission in your will. Call (780) 453-3877 to find out how a planned gift will uplift people in need for years to come.

DONATE GOODS As winter cold sets in, we are in need of warm clothing, especially jackets, ski gloves, underwear and socks, toques, boots, hoodies and jeans.



THANK YOU FOR WALKING Thank you to everyone who participated in Coldest Night of the Year. Whether you walked or volunteered you helped us bring hope to the streets of Edmonton. We are already looking forward to next year and hope you will be there to freeze with us!

CONTACT HOPE MISSION

Edmonton
780.422.2018
we.care@hopemission.com
P.O. BOX 953 Edmonton, AB
T5J 2L8

Calgary
403.474.3237
we.care@hopemission.com
P.O. BOX 85082 Calgary, AB
T2A 7R7

Sign up for our e-newsletter
www.hopemission.com
Facebook: [facebook.com/hopemission](https://www.facebook.com/hopemission)
Twitter: [@hopemission](https://twitter.com/hopemission)

