

THE RIVER'S EDGE REVIEW

Vol 1.2 March 2021

As I write this newsletter, I can see the beautiful spring day beginning. As the seasons change, it is good to reflect on God's goodness and his providence in the seasons. God does manifest Himself in creation. In Psalm 19: 1 *"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge."*

We continue to experience growth here at River's Edge. We currently have almost 35 participants each week come here to experience God's creation and spend time with our Mentors. To continue with the growth of our program, we could not do without the help of regular volunteers. I am thankful for the work of Kent and Monica Gabel and what they continue to do each week here. I would also like to welcome some of the newer additions to our team of Mentors. Recently, Jackie Nordeman and Fred Vandebos have joined our team, and are settling nicely into their role. We are also blessed by the continued volunteer work of Vivian Jans, Kailyn Lof, and Hannah Vermeulen, keeping this place in tip top shape! The LORD willing, as our program grows we will be in need of more volunteer support! In future newsletters I hope to more formally introduce our volunteers! Apply on our website!

Our Participants

Some of you might wonder what type of participants come to our program. Perhaps you know of a child struggling who would benefit from 1 on 1 mentoring. Some of the main challenges we are seeing are: broken families, poverty, past abuse, anxiety, depression, and substance abuse. Parents/Guardians can enroll their child in our program using our website.

www.riversedge.ca/enroll/

1-on-1 Mentoring – How it works

Some of you may wonder, what exactly is done in a mentoring session, or how it exactly works.

Most sessions start off with some sort of chore based on the level of the participant. Chores can be simple like sweeping the barn, getting some hay for the horses, scooping manure in the stalls or paddocks. Some participants love to work and we find ourselves working for the entire session! Typically, however, after about 15-30 minutes of work, we engage in an activity, this can be horsemanship, crafts, woodworking, small animal care etc. Then over time, we build a relationship with the participant and are able to speak into their lives. In some of the sessions we are just having fun working on the relationship, some of the sessions are spent talking about life issues and Godly matters. This is varied on the many different types of participants and situations. Horses are a particular asset in helping forge these relationships of which I will explain more in future newsletters.



---1 Haldimand Road 17, Dunnville ON N1A 2W4 ---

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April Break - Family Tours – April 12, 13, 15, & 16

We are looking forward to the April break tours. With thankfulness I can report that we are pretty well booked full! If you are disappointed and would have liked to come and check out the place, do not fret, there will be more opportunities in the future. I can also arrange for a tour during the week as well. Call the office and we will see what we can set up! **289-426-0481**.

Staff Introductions

Some of you may know our staff as you may see us week to week, however, some of you do not. I do hope that you plan to come for a visit and meet us all first hand! Pictured on your right - Megan Devries, Avery Linde and Chris DeBoer. Megan, our Horse Manager and Lead mentor, has a long history with horses and her vast knowledge of all animals is certainly a blessing when working in this environment. Megan has also worked with women in abusive relationships as well as with children with behavioral challenges. Avery has a lot of experience working with children of many different abilities and levels. Avery has a unique ability to figure out how kids are thinking and what makes them tick! Chris is a Registered Nurse by training and has worked with people of all ages of functional and mental abilities. Together, we make a great team working to create a positive environment for the participants.



Support Us

We are thankful to those who support us in a variety of ways. Consider being a regular supporter of River's Edge. Firstly, we covet your prayers that the LORD may bless the organization. Consider volunteering, come for a tour, tell your family and friends! Our programming is a free service to families in need. We run completely on generous donations. Consider financially supporting River's Edge by send funds to treasurer@riversedge.ca or through Canada Helps. Alternatively, you can send payment to 1 Haldimand Road 17, Dunnville ON, N1A 2W4!

Until next time, Chris DeBoer, *Director*

Staff – info@riversedge.ca

Chris DeBoer – Executive Director
Megan Devries – Horse Manager, Lead Mentor
Avery Linde – Lead Mentor

Board of Directors – board@riversedge.ca

Bruce DeBoer- Advisor
Ed Feenstra – Vice-Chairman
Jackie Elgersma – Board Member
Tim Hutten - Chairman

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