



RIVER'S EDGE HAVEN OF HOPE

REVIEW

WINTER 2025

Heartfelt Greetings From The Board...

Fall is quickly giving way to winter, reminding us that as God maintains and upholds His creation, He also upholds and cares for His ministry at River's Edge Haven of Hope.

In our fall update, we mentioned a number of changes that had occurred at River's Edge Haven of Hope in all areas of day-to-day operations: Board, committees, and staffing. Adapting to change is not always easy; it can be unsettling and stressful as we learn new roles and responsibilities. We must put our trust in God, look to Him for help, and pray in patient expectation for His guidance and direction. Ephesians 3:20 calls us to have faith and pray to God, expecting that He can "do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine according to the power [of the Holy Spirit] that is at work within us." God has heard and answered our prayers, and we can confidently say that, even though change is still a common occurrence at River's Edge, we are all adjusting well and have found a good rhythm as co-workers in Christ's work there. Mentioning co-workers, we express joy and thankfulness for the time and talents of a new temporary, part-time staff member, Teresa Sinke. Teresa has been involved at River's Edge Haven of Hope in a variety of ways since its inception, and we are thankful to have her join us.

Our Promotions/Fundraising Committee has also experienced some changes. We bid farewell to Sandra Oosterhof and express our gratitude for her dedicated and enthusiastic service over the past three years. We say goodbye to Sandra and welcome Jeremy Wanders and Sheila Wagter as they join the Committee. May God be with and

bless this team of volunteers as they give their time and talents to help raise the necessary funds for River's Edge Haven of Hope.

If you've driven by the farm lately, you will no doubt have noticed physical changes to the exterior of the barn. The one-on-one mentoring program of Haven of Hope has grown to a point where more space is required to facilitate quiet devotion and conversation time between mentors and mentees. What a blessing it is to experience this growth, but also a blessing to be able to accommodate that increase with an addition. The addition will house the animals, freeing up more space within the program barn.

We are thankful for the support we receive, and we realize that it all comes from God's hand! Thank you to all who have supported us prayerfully, financially, and with their gifts of time and talents! There are no fees for the families who bring their children to participate in the program at Haven of Hope; we operate completely on donations. Please prayerfully consider making a year-end donation to ensure the program and services remain accessible to all families in the coming year, regardless of their financial circumstances.

We wish you and your family a Christ-filled Christmas and a blessed New Year in His grace.

The Board of River's Edge Haven of Hope

***Please prayerfully consider
making a year-end donation to
support our program and services.***

From the Staff...

As we write this update, we have just begun a two-week turnaround at River's Edge Haven of Hope. Our "turnaround" is a break from our regular mentoring program, where we plan for the next 11 weeks of one-on-one mentoring, Christmas events, March Break, our joint "Ignite Hope" conference with the DYIC, and our much-anticipated Summer programming. Yet, in all of our planning, God reminds us through the prophet Isaiah, "...my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways" (Isaiah 55:8-9).

Scheduling for the Winter block of mentoring is now complete, and we have 18 children and youths joining us starting the week of December 8. At one point, we fretted as to how we were going to mentor all of the children who were on our waitlist, but as mentioned above, God's plans and ours don't align. As you may have read in the Board update, Teresa Sinke joined our team as of November 1st. Teresa is a wife and a mother of two who brings with her a strong love for the Lord and many talents, including extensive horse knowledge and expertise. We are so thankful for Teresa, and even though her time at River's Edge Haven of Hope may be short, we are blessed to have her commitment for the Winter block. As if our prayers weren't already answered with Teresa joining our team, the Lord has worked a desire in the hearts of four new people to mentor at River's Edge. We officially and joyfully introduce our new team members: Kristen Oosterhoff, Makayla Vander Spek, Ben VanAndel and Gerald VanDasselaar. During a conference Staff attended in the Spring, a key speaker said that, "If you hear in



your mind the words, 'We don't have enough help', you're hearing a message from the devil because God knows your needs and He will provide." We have been humbled by that fact several times, and now, again, as we see God's provision of these five people. God has blessed River's Edge Haven of Hope with dedicated volunteers who serve on our Board, Promotions Committee, and as mentors. Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!

We want to thank you all for your continued support of the mission and vision of River's Edge—to share the hope and love of Christ with the youths and their families in our community and beyond.

As we head into the Christmas season, may peace, love and joy fill your hearts and homes and overflow into the surrounding community. May God bless you all.

Yours in Christ,
The Staff

SAVE THE DATES

- **Moms & Tots Drop-in begins Wednesday, January 7, 2026, and continues every other week until March 11, 2026. This is a free program for mothers and children under 5 years of age**
- **Come out Saturday, January 31st, for a fun night of fellowship and Euchre at River's Edge Haven of Hope. (1 Haldimand Rd 17, Dunnville). Games begin at 7:30 pm sharp. More details and sign-up information will be available in early January.**



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