

River's Edge **REVIEW**

HAVEN OF HOPE

March 2026



Please pray for us:

- That God preserves our freedom to share the hope and love we have in Christ
- That we can meet our financial needs so that we can continue to offer our programs for free
- Those who need community, freedom from brokenness, and a source of joy will find out about River's Edge.
- That God will continue to provide volunteers.



Greetings from the Board of River's Edge Haven of Hope.

As we transition into Spring, we look forward to longer days and a season of new growth and beginnings. This past winter, we were grateful to fill our Program Director position. Hannah Vermeulen, who has been a volunteer at River's Edge since 2020 and became a staff member in 2024, has joyfully accepted this role. We are thankful for Hannah's ongoing involvement in this ministry and are excited to see how she will continue to develop the Program Director position while supporting and encouraging both mentors and mentees. We are also pleased to announce the recent hire of Kate Lof. Kate will be joining us as a part-time Program Support and Mentor. She brings experience walking alongside youth and caregivers who are going through times of grief and transition in life, and we know that she will be a blessing to the River's Edge team. *continued.....*



Regular mentoring sessions continued throughout the winter months here at River's Edge. As a Board, we are encouraged to hear how this programming is impacting the lives of those who are enrolled. What a blessing it is to know that the Gospel is being shared with those who come here—whether it is their first time hearing it or an opportunity to build on what they have already been taught in their homes.

This winter, our Fundraising & Public Relations Committee was hard at work organizing a euchre tournament at River's Edge. With deep gratitude, we are thankful to announce that the event raised \$4,850 in support of the ministry. It was an enjoyable evening, and we extend our sincere thanks to everyone who attended, as well as to the committee for their dedication and effort in making the event such a success.



"He gets so much confidence attending River's Edge..When at school, his anxiety and low self-esteem get to him..River's Edge, and working with his mentor, is what he looks forward to. I'm loving this program for my son. It gives him something to look forward to, where he can be himself and not worry about what his peers or others are going to think of him. I love seeing and listening to him after his sessions; he's so happy and confident with what he has accomplished."

"My daughter struggles at school with peer-to-peer interactions. I'm not sure how, but mentorship seems to help with this. She is also navigating good versus evil in the world, and having mentorship as a positive faith-based environment is helpful as my daughter grows."

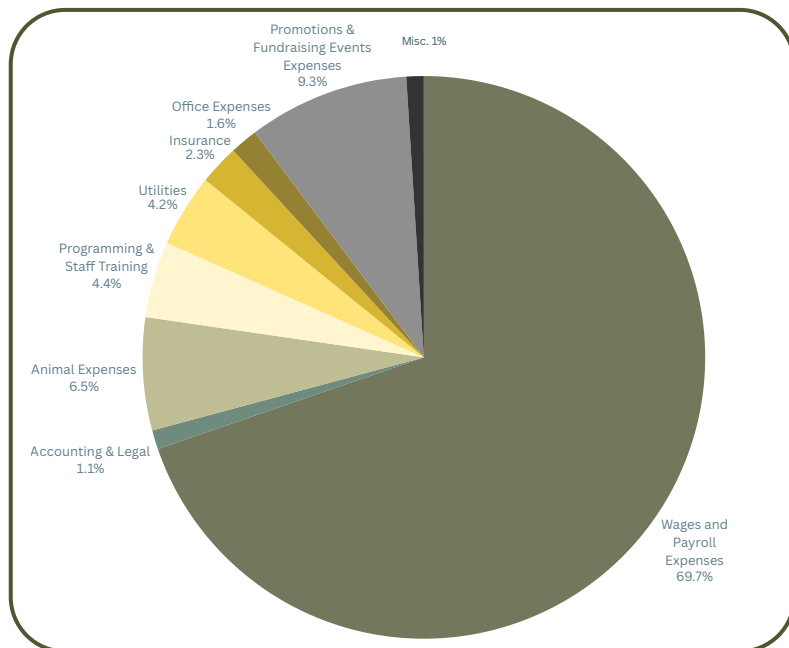
We love because He first loved us - 1 John 4:19

We were also excited to see the return of the skating rink this year! The Winter Skating Fundraiser was launched in December, with the broader church community invited to enjoy the rink, with donations supporting the ongoing work at River's Edge. The rink was enjoyed by many, and it was a pleasure to welcome so many of you to our beautiful facility.

Both of these fundraisers raise money that goes directly to helping meet the budget of River's Edge Haven of Hope. At our annual member's meeting in February, the 2026 budget was presented and approved. To sustain our programs and cover operating costs throughout 2026, we are working toward a goal of raising \$280,920 this year. We ask that you prayerfully consider giving to River's Edge Haven of Hope, for the furtherance of God's kingdom and His glory. If you would like more information on how to make a donation, please contact treasurer@riversedge.ca.

As we head into our next block of mentoring, we ask that you keep this ministry, our staff, and our Board in your prayers. Please pray that the youth who come here will be blessed through the conversations and activities that take place, and that the love of Christ will be shared. "We love because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19). In His love, The Board of

River's Edge Haven of Hope



Mom, Tots and Goats...

Just before Christmas, six baby goats were born: Goldie, Frankie, Murray, Holly, Noelle, and Shep. They provided hours of fun and entertainment for everyone, including the Moms & Tots who took advantage of our drop-in. The drop-in was very well attended and was offered every other week to help break up the long, and sometimes lonely, days stuck indoors.



From the Staff...

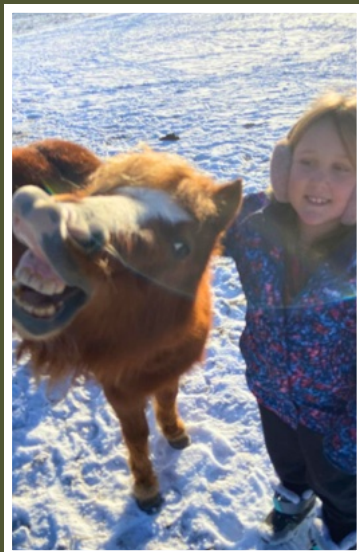
It's hard to believe that the Winter Block of our program is already over! Under God's blessing, we were able to mentor 22 youths and host many and varied group events and visits. Mentoring in the winter is a challenge. The shortened daylight hours, cold weather, and the increase in cancellations due to illness can negatively impact program participation. However, we were blessed with the use of an indoor skating rink this winter, which was a huge help in providing a healthy blend of exercise and distraction. Over the Christmas break, we hosted our 5th annual Mentee Christmas dinner. Just under 70 people enjoyed a beautiful and memorable evening filled with good food, fellowship, and worship.

Haven of Hope is blessed to operate on River's Edge Farm property. They recently built a new animal barn, and as a result, the animals no longer reside in the program barn. These changes will facilitate more quiet spaces for one-on-one mentoring, something we really needed! Also new is a parent/caregiver lounge! We hope this cozy space will be well used by parents as they wait for their children during mentoring. What a blessing it is to have use of the barn, property, and the animals for the ministry here. If you're in the neighbourhood, drop in for a visit!

Amidst the brokenness of this world, we are so blessed to have the truth and love of Christ and His people surrounding us. Thank you for your continued prayers and support!



"So many times my daughter has been forgotten. With her medical issues and her big emotions, she is often left out...River's Edge has given her spark and her confidence back to her. It's nice seeing that bit of my daughter back. We are so grateful to have River's Edge a part of our lives."



Check it out!

- We are now busy planning for Spring and Summer. Please check our website soon for Summer mentorship enrollment, youth volunteer days, and registration for our themed activity camps.
- Our Instagram and Facebook are an easy way to stay up to date on the goings on here, at Haven of Hope.
- Our website has been updated- check it out!

