



Winter 2018

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Hello everyone, my name is Bill Schmidt and I am a case manager for Rising Above. A lot has happened since our last newsletter, so I am excited to be able to share some updates with you.

Firstly, we have been in our new building and dorm located at 11007 106 St for just over a year now, and we have filled up all the beds, and now house 19 men at the dorm on a regular basis. (Praise God). The facility is great, and we love it, and as you know every new space comes with its own set of growing pains. As with any organization, we have had some people move on and some have joined us as new staff, all of which have many different amazing talents and abilities, making it an exciting time to be working at Rising Above. Our life skills training center has transitioned well, we are now teaching classes on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays each week. There is never a dull moment around here, we're always moving and growing.

Secondly as you may know we made a decision to close the Second Chance furniture location in December . We found that as we grew we were not able to sustain that employment initiative with all the new people in the program. We have moved to a job coaching program where our participants volunteer in the city for 10 hours a week. We have found an amazing partner with Mission Thrift store, in the Town Center Mall, who helps us with giving placement for our participants to volunteer. We also teach a job readiness class that helps our participants with resume writing, interviewing questions and confidence. As for the Employment side we are in the process of developing some employer contacts who would be willing to take some of our participants into their workplace and give them a wage earning position and a second chance at employment.

Thirdly, with a lower than normal number of ladies in our program, we have transitioned one of our houses into a Men's House and have 3 of our guys currently living in it. The guys are loving it and say it has given them a new sense of life and freedom.

As always, it's amazing to see what God is doing through this ministry and we are excited to see where He is taking us this year.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our many sponsors and donors for their continued support over the past year. We acknowledge know that many of you have dug deep, helped and supported us over the years both through the good times and the bad and without you we wouldn't be where we are today. You are important, and you are valued!

God Bless You All;

Bill Schmidt

What are participants saying ??

Hello, my name is David Carlson, a Class 1 truck driver of Grande Prairie, Alberta. Rising Above has become my main support in an ongoing struggle with addiction. The Staff did not give up on me, but instead have been the first to show love and respect during many of my destructive behaviors. They have given me a hope of a future where I am in control of a healthy life. And a dream of overcoming addictions. Grateful to be working this program.

Sincerely, Dave Carlson, a current participant of Rising Above.

Other News for Rising Above Ministry

Participants Stats:

Currently we are housing 18 men in our campus including our Lakeland Home, 9 ladies in our other two homes with more individuals from our community interested in entering our program. At this time our men's wait list can be up to 2 months but can change sometimes on a daily basis. To date, most of our participants are coming in from Detox or Treatment, Rotary House and community.

Second Chance Furniture

Second Chance Furniture Store is now closed. We have two Cube Vans that are for sale.

If interested please contact
Bill Schmidt at :
780-380-0784 or the office at
780-533-3025



Participants Needs:

We are in need of items that may sound simple to some but are very important to our participants who come to us sometimes with only the clothes they are wearing. Some of the items we are needing are:

*Towels, face cloths, personal hygiene products (shampoo, deodorant, body wash, {no toothpaste or toothbrushes, we have an abundance of this} lady hygiene products, chap stick, lotions. Both for our males and females.

Mentors Needed!!!

1 Thessalonians 2:8 . . . so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the Gospel of God but our lives as well.

You may not believe this, but you have what it takes to be a great mentor. The word mentoring means to “empower another person by sharing your experiences and resources.”

In every season of life, it helps to have someone walk along with you, cheering you on.

This is how I started with Rising Above. By meeting with a lady who needed someone to love her and encourage her. Its been 2 years , we still keep in touch and have a loving bond between us. In my insecurity, not always knowing what to say, God used me to make her life a bit brighter, just knowing I was there for her.

Mentors, whatever time you and your mentees have together, know that you will leave a mark on their lives, and they will probably leave a beautiful mark on your life too.

If you are interested please email Rita Reimer - rita@risingabovegp.com



Irene Hamm
Inner Healing Facilitator
irene@risingabovegp.com

Rita Reimer
Case Manager
rita@risingabovegp.com

Lynne van der Raadt
Program Manager
lynne@risingabovegp.com

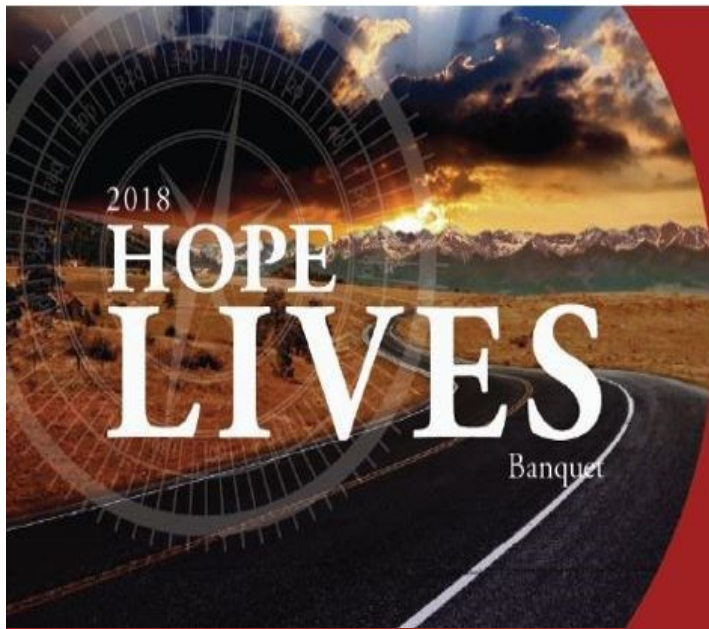
Rhonda Short
Administration
rhonda@risingabovegp.com

Bill Schmidt
Case Manager
bill@risingabovegp.com

Mel Siggelkow
Director
mel@risingabovegp.com

Bruce Cook
Inner Healing Facilitator
bruce@risingabovegp.com

Missing from Photo
Jane Wheeler
Marketing Manager
wheelerjane222@yahoo.com



Committed to Breaking Cycles of Defeat

Saturday, March 17

Tickets \$60 each or Table of 8 for \$400
Go to Risingabovegp.com for more info

Tickets only available until March 8th, 2018



Presents

"Understanding Anger"

- An overview of the sources of anger
- Recognising "Hidden Anger"
- Why is it hard to let go?
- The power of forgiveness

When: Thursday, April 19, 2018

TIME: 7:00-8:30 pm

WHERE: Rising Above Park Campus, 11007 106th Street

- FREE OF CHARGE -

www.risingabovegp.com

780-533-3025