

# SUMMER 2016

Rising Above Ministry, Grande Prairie

July 2016

## Our God is a Good God

**Who would have thought? Long having dismissed the impossible dream of occupying the empty Young Offenders Centre because we were not youth focused, twelve months ago the Board was diligently seeking ways to enlarge our ministry Centre and improve our men's residence. Apparently God chose to dynamite our expectations apart and we were gifted with a tremendous 13,000 square foot facility from the City of Grande Prairie, all for the staggering amount of \$1 per year for fifteen years. We shake our heads in wonder and have set ourselves to the task of transforming the former youth prison into a home where men find freedom and learn to live independently.**

**The Board is looking ahead, projecting future needs of the ministry and how we can send wisdom to meet them. Obviously, with doubling our capacity to house men, we will need to increase staff. Yet, the sharp decline in our economy has also been felt in the coffers of Rising Above. We are examining creative ways to ensure we continue to grow without spiraling into debt. We are also examining our operating roles and have identified a need to enhance marketing, donor relations and strategic planning to move us forward. Your prayers are much appreciated for these needs.**

**Park Campus is perched on the cusp of a hill. I cannot shake the sense that once Rising Above is settled in its newly renovated facility, its impact and presence will begin to sweep open. This is only the beginning, folks, of much growth ahead. Thank you for linking arms with us and believing in what we do; we would not be here were it not for you.**

**Ria Millwater  
Board Chair**

## In this Issue

- Message from our Board Chair
- Family Fun Day
- Participant Highlight
- Park Campus Update



# From Participant to Staff

by Sam Beals

Two years ago my life finally hit rock bottom after being addicted to the party scene, doing drugs and drinking. A party for me was getting high by myself in a dark room, the only people I associated with were drug dealers. I had a daughter who lived with her Grandma, who I didn't care about, all I cared about was getting my next fix and how I was going to get it. I stole, I lied, I manipulated everyone I crossed paths with, especially my family. I was using to die. I couldn't handle coming down and reality setting in, I had to stay high, hoping for an overdose. I thought I was stuck in this cycle of addiction forever. One day when I got some real sleep I woke up saying to myself, "Well if I'm not going to die, something needs to change, I can't live like this anymore". I reached out to my family and I was sent to detox. My family was tired of hearing I'm sorry, it was time for action. While in detox I applied for treatment and graduated, and while in treatment I sat there wondering, where am I going to go, what am I going to do. A counsellor from treatment mentioned a sober living program called Rising Above. I called them, had an interview, and got accepted right away. I was broken, lost, alone, and absolutely terrified, but was so ready, open, and willing for the change. Rising above taught me life skills I thought I had lost forever. They taught me how to forgive myself, how to deal with my anger, how to have healthy relationships, how to set boundaries, how to set goals, and how to be open to the concept of God. While in the program, I found God, got baptized, and learned how to be a member of society. After graduating the program I took everything I learned with me. Sitting in the life skills classes I realized how much I enjoyed learning and wanted to learn more. I applied for college at the GPRC and got accepted. I recently just finished my second year of Bachelor of Arts and currently working at Rising Above, as staff, for the summer. In the fall I will be continuing my education to finish my Bachelor of Arts, then will move on to a Social Work Degree. I am extremely grateful to the Rising Above program, I always said when I was a participant in the program that I wanted to work here one day, and now I am! I have a great life today, and have an amazing relationship with my family and my daughter. I still attend narcotics anonymous meetings on a regular basis and sponsor women in the fellowship, and my favorite part about working at Rising Above is that I get to share my experience, strength, and hope with the participants to show them living clean is possible. Dreams do come true.



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## Participant Highlight

Jamie has been in our program now for over 3 months. After years of repetitive incarceration and personal defeat, he has finally found the help he needs, here at Rising Above Ministry. Jamie accepted Christ during his inner healing session and feels he is now becoming the man and father he envision he always wanted to be. Jamie is a hard worker and always willing to help out. His kind and gentle heart shows in all he does. We love having him here in our program and look forward to seeing him continue to grow in his journey.



## **Park Campus Update**

by Dan Rigler

**It's been 4 months since we took over the young offenders center and we have been busy preparing. In March we held an open house with a roof top campout of which seen several hundred people tour the new facility. We partnered with Bearistos for our project planning and engineering services and are currently awaiting permit approval ,so we have been limited to the scope of work we are able to do at this point. We have already had a few crews come in to remove the old beds and the old plexi glass windows in preparation for the transformation. We had a kind donor supply us with around 10,000 board feet of lumber which works very well as a woodland lodge theme that has been selected. Bob Steer with the composite high school has been working with us and has designed and completed the first of many custom made bed frames for the new rooms. We continue to see Gods hand in Rising Above and the new Park Campus. Some of the donations have been unexpected such as a zero turn lawnmower ,from Prairie Coast, for looking after the facility, the lumber, appliances, someone even put a new sign on the building anonymously. God is Good. We have hired a project manager, Randy Wiseman, to oversee the volunteers and project once we get going and he has been busy on the planning stages. We are still looking for people or groups who may want to take on a room as their own for transforming or even sponsoring the cost of a room. With all the lumber we are also looking for people who like wood working as we will be building wardrobes and other furniture as well as creating a feature wall, window casings and finishing trim. The flooring in the residential part of the building will be able to be refinished, thus saving a great deal of time and money.**

**We would like to thank each of you for your support and prayers as we know we can not do this with out you. Thank you also to our decorating committee for a great vision of turning this into a freedom center.**

**If you or someone you know are interested, willing or able to help volunteer, sponsor, donate supplies, or tools, please contact our office at 780-533-3025 and as always we could not do this with out your prayer support.**



# SECOND CHANCE FURNITURE PRESENTS



**July 23 2016 between 10am-4pm**  
**Join us for a BBQ, Carnival Games, Bouncy Castle**  
**Dunk Tank and Face Painting !!!**

**This is the day the Lord has made; we  
will rejoice and be glad in it.**

**Psalm 118:24**



**[www.risingabovegp.com](http://www.risingabovegp.com)**

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