



BREAKING CYCLES OF DEFEAT SINCE 2007



A MINISTRY MOMENT HOPE LIVES HERE

ARTICLES

Ministry Moment
Page 1

Desert Road
Page 2

What's New
Page 3

2023 Highlights
Page 4



Rising Above's Executive Director and Operations Manager baptized participants in early September, 2023!



It's easy to lose hope.

Last night one of the participants relapsed and overdosed not far from our facility. It took three injections of Narcan, but they survived. This afternoon I had a man in my office who was ready to give up on life. "There's no hope", he said as he described the pain of losing his family because of his addiction. On a larger scale, we look around our world and we see increased divisiveness, polarizations, and conflicts breaking out. Hope fades quickly.

I recently read an interesting statement by B. H. Liddell Hart, he said. "History attests that loss of hope and not loss of lives is what decides the issue of war." Hope is a powerful, life-giving force.

At Rising Above we often say that we are in the HOPE business. The heartbeat of Rising Above is to come alongside people who have lost their sense of purpose, worth, and have lost hope. We believe that transformation is possible and that with God's help, there is hope for people who feel hopeless.

What excites me most about the Christmas season is that it can be summarized in one word - hope. The four words commonly associated with the Advent celebration are Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. Hope, in the Advent season, celebrates the anticipation of a savior.

The Christmas story radiates hope as Jesus, the savior, has come into our world. Hope has come! Hope lives here.

What our staff love about their jobs at Rising Above is that we get a front-row seat to watch hopelessness and despair turn to hope as people allow God to enter into their pain and bring life, peace, and hope. So, when someone we care about relapses, we know there is still hope. When someone who has lost all hope walks through our doors, as a man did this afternoon, we can look them in the eye and confidently say there is hope. Hope Lives Here.

This Christmas season, may you experience the gift of hope in your life. Thank you for partnering with us to share hope with others.

Blessings,

Mel Siggelkow



DESERT ROAD

Kim Peters, an Inner Healing Facilitator at Rising Above, shares a beautiful message of hope in the brokenness.

"Most of the time I feel so rewarded by the work I do at Rising Above. Most of the time it is uplifting and fills my spirit with such hope. Not only hope for me, but hope for others. I am often encouraged, even in the hard moments, it still feels hopeful.

From time to time I get a wave of difficulty. Not difficulty in the way I feel I can't continue doing God's work, a wave that reminds me how broken the world is. The wave often feels hopeless. Hopeless in that the world will not change, that things are always getting worse. I know Jesus heals those who are broken, those who call on him even with an ounce of faith, they will be healed. I am never without hope because of him.

Recently we had a number of our previous participants pass away from drug-related deaths. Those who had received healing and found faith and hope in who Jesus is. The sting of losing them lingers in our hearts, the war outside of our doors is stronger than ever. It is not a safe place for those who do not have hope, and sometimes not safe for those who do. I prayed that God would continue to lead the broken-hearted, the hurting and the lost to Rising Above, I continued to pray that people would find refuge here.

The wave.... An enormous amount of wounds caused from childhood trauma have poured out and into our doors. I feel God's presence, knowing this is his work, and he will find a way. This work can be very uplifting and filled with encouraging days. But sometimes, there is a heaviness and a huge amount of grief for those who have lost so much to trauma and sin in our world. As staff, there are days we don't always feel 100% ready for the task before us. We know God will equip us and strengthen us as we move forward in what he has called us to do.

Last week, the heaviness seemed to follow me. It is not often I feel the weight of others' trauma (a gift from God). Last week seemed to be one person, one story, one broken, wounded life after another. Those carrying the weight, with no hope. I felt tired, almost weak, saddened by the lives these people were forced to live with no control of their own. I spent my 20-minute drive home praying and giving it all to Jesus. I was reminded of the song Desert Road by Casting Crowns. As I began listening to this song, I felt the words in my soul. By no mistake, it timed perfectly with the fact I was driving on a rough gravel road, where leaves were falling and the fields beside me were brown and looking a little hopeless. The words, "where you lead me, I will follow, I will walk with them as you walk with me" I came to an intersection and the sun was shining so perfectly across a green field lined with still green trees, as the wind moved the grasses and the leaves, I just sat there, parked, staring in awe of what God had just spoke into my life, my heart, and my mind. Sometimes the bigger picture is hard to see, but that desert road that seems so hopeless for those I walk with is only leading to a field so full of life, hope, and beauty. It is my job to keep the hope, and hold their hand because I know what comes next!

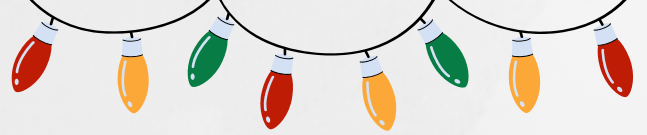
I was called 11 years ago to Rising Above. God not only blessed me and healed so many areas of my life by being a part of this ministry. I get to allow him to lead me as I follow him to the places some can not walk alone. I will continue to hold their hands. I will continue to hold on to the bigger picture. When I let go of their hand in that big beautiful field, filled with hope, and life, I will turn around and start back at the beginning with the next soul in need. Jesus has sustained me, and will continue to do so. There is freedom from pain, there is hope in a new future. There is healing from things unimaginable to some of us. Most of all... There is hope."



Rising Higher

A New Facility for Rising Above

Learn more about this exciting project and help us reach our fundraising goals!
www.risingabovegp.com



Christmas Stockings

- Hand warmers
- Mittens
- Towels
- Loofahs
- Notepad/Journal
- Pens
- Coffee
- Sugar
- Chocolate
- Candies
- Hot chocolate
- Coffee cups

Help us bless program participants this Christmas season by contributing to our stockings! Donations can be dropped off Monday-Friday 8:30am-5pm

UNDERSTANDING SHAME

Hope Lives Banquet

03.23.2024

RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW!

Email rhonda@risingabovegp.com. Tickets will be available for purchase early February 2024!

Join us on Wednesday, November 22nd at 7pm at Rising Above Park Campus to gain a deeper understanding of shame, where it comes from, how it can manifest, and the steps to finding freedom.

Understanding sessions are FREE and no registration is required! Visit risingabovegp.com for more information.

Save the Date

2023 Highlights

Rising Above Fort St. John

Rising Above FSJ hosted their first fundraising event where they raised \$65,845! Please be praying as they continue working toward opening a facility in their community.

Hope Lives Banquet 2023

The 2023 Hope Lives Banquet was attended by 750 individuals and raised \$292,000.00 for the organization!

Rising Above Peterborough

God is taking the message of hope to neighboring provinces. Rising Above is excited to announce the development of location in Peterborough, Ontario! Stay tuned for updates as the PTBO team work toward opening.

PTFN and PRBI Partnerships

The partnerships established with Peerless Trout First Nation and Peace River Bible Institute continue to flourish! Thank you for partnering with us in helping individuals break cycles of defeat!

2023 Share-a-thon

September's Share-a-thon raised \$107,448.99 in community donations! These funds are used for operations of our facilities. Thank you to all who supported us during our 2023 Share-a-thon!

2023 Statistics

Since January 2023, there has been close to 500 applications submitted to Rising Above. Of those numbers, there has been 100 admissions into the program.

Merry Christmas

On behalf of the board and staff at Rising Above, we want to wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas. May God's love and peace surround you this season. Thank you for your continued support of our Ministry.

God Bless!



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