

2021 FALL NEWS BULLETIN



Dear Friends,

Last month marked Next Step's 20th anniversary! Sr. Carol and her four 'founding fathers' went to a restaurant back in August 2001 with the spirit of supporting one another through the uncertainties of life outside of prison. With such humble beginnings, who would have thought all these years later that it would have evolved into a non-profit organization like Future Hope!

This celebration was tempered, however, by the loss of Sr. Carol and Fr. Dave earlier in the spring. We are still figuring out what life means without their guidance and wisdom to draw upon. This summer we also said goodbye to another friend of Future Hope, Noah. He was a member almost 10 years ago and lived at Quixote House. He was quite a charismatic guy, and was never single for long! Being a sensitive person with a great sense of humour, he will be missed.

It has been some time since we've given an update of our members and alumni. Erv is busy in school getting a certificate in welding. Frank is taking a money managing workshop through

SEED and says he is learning so much. Grant found work with a roofing company and says he very much enjoys the people he is working with. Hal has been struggling with some health issues but hopes to join us again soon now that we are meeting in person. We hope you enjoy the two newest biographies from Ice and Jay.

Qualmus was very excited to tell us that he applied for a job and then felt disappointed when they didn't hire him due to his record. He says he will keep trying though. Zacharias dropped in one Thursday night to visit. He has a small apartment and a cat named Oscar. He says after 40 years of being in and out of prison, he is finally content with his life. He has a church community and new friends that make his life fulfilling. Sometimes life is hard, he admits but says adamantly that he never wants to go back to his old life. He brought the gift of hope to the men in group that night.

Zacharias and the men at Massie Apartments show our current members what life can look like after incarceration. And our members are taking the message to heart. We have a remarkably stable group of guys right now and their commitment to a better life has remained strong over the spring and summer. We currently have 7 members coming from the community but no one from the prison yet. As the guys are released, I meet with them and later introduce them to group.

It is not our preferred process but under the circumstances, it seems to be working. Just recently we started meeting in person at Quixote House again, with some Zooming in. We will try this approach for a while to see what happens. Visits with the guys in the prison have continued to be via WebEx.

Our volunteers have hung in there, too. Along with group, we had an in-person, socially distanced meeting in the park. The theme of the meeting was View from the Bridge. The volunteers were updated on the capacity-building activities over the last year. There was also an opportunity to receive their feedback and thoughts about the future. It was a successful morning, made even more so by Sr. Peter's homemade muffins!

In conclusion, we thank Holy Rosary Parish and the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary for their donations to Next Step this summer. In addition, we at Future Hope have been incredibly blessed by the support of many people and organizations like yours. Your financial support and love have sustained us all of the 20 years and for this, we are profoundly grateful!

Kind regards and Happy Thanksgiving to all,
Kathleen

Hope you enjoy the two newest testimonials from Ice and Jay.

TESTIMONIALS

[Ice & Jay's Testimonial](#) - **new**

[Hal's Testimonial](#)

[Grant's Testimonial](#)

Join our community of Hope as a volunteer! [Click here](#) to find out more about the skills we are looking for - we need people with lots of compassion, ideas, and energy!

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**Doing good
Feels good!**

contact@futurehope.ca



Happy Fall !



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