



Founded 1985 905-528-7625 www.livingrock.ca

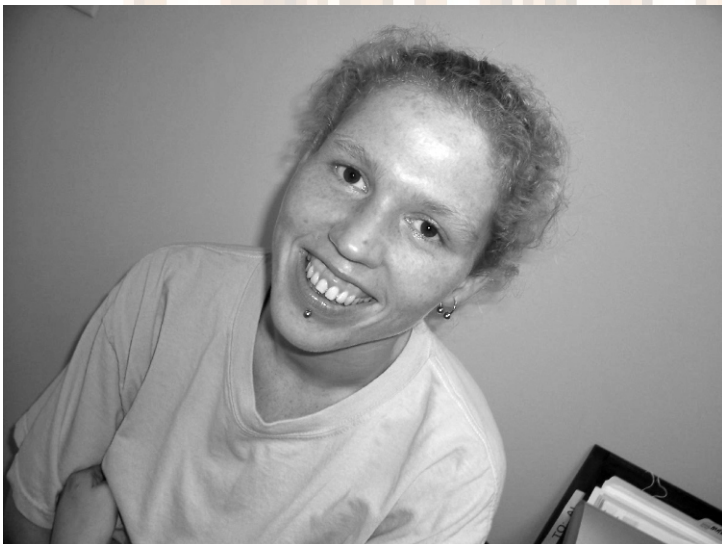
# THANKS for GIVING!



**CELEBRATE WITH US AT OUR ANNIVERSARY DINNER 22 Nov 06**

**J**olie wants to say thanks to all who have given to Living Rock. Because of you her life has been radically changed.

"I loved school when I was younger. I, like any other child, had big plans for my life. I was going to go to university and was going to become a vet." Jolie said.



Jolie's life changed drastically when she was 15. Her mother's health failed and six months later, Jolie lost her mum. She was in grade 10 and too young to manage her life without adult supervision, so in the midst of her grief and loss, she quit school. "Everything went downhill from there." she explains. "I started associating with adults that were alcoholics and had no job. They taught me bad things. I learned how to drink all night and sleep all day. I did nothing productive. Then when I was 17, I was introduced to drugs."

Jolie explains that by the time she was 23, she had been high for 6 years. One day she woke up and looked at the lives of these "friends" and knew that she didn't want to be where they were for the rest of her life. She moved out of town to get away from these destructive relationships and eventually ended up homeless in Hamilton.

**THE  
SUPPORT  
YOU  
SOW IS  
BEARING  
IT'S HARVEST**

**Continued inside!**



From the Director

When you think of ministry, what do you think of? One of the definitions in the dictionary is “a period of service”.

At Living Rock we find we often have these special “periods of time” with youth. Most often it is in the form of little happenings. Some that immediately come to mind:

- We made a place for one youth to sing in the band during our lunchtime Gathering service. Despite confused beliefs and many struggles in her life, she belted out “Amazing Grace” and even suggested we sing it again at the end of our service! Other youth take turns playing percussion or base guitar.

- Another youth popped by my office and asked me to pray with them for a parent that is in very bad health.

- At a graduation ceremony for a TRI-Rock youth , people stand up and pronounce the positive gifts that they have seen in that youth in the weeks they have journeyed with us.

- We have a prayer request book in reception that’s full of requests from youth. In fact, when visiting a youth in jail this week, he read a letter to me in which his girlfriend had written that she was asking the staff and youth at the Rock to pray for him.

I’m passionate about this type of chaplaincy... It all about accepting the youth just where they are and bringing Jesus to them in all sorts of ways at that moment they are open and seeking.

*Rev. Alan Craig*

# THANKS

## Algonquin 2006



In July, Hamilton Police Officers and Living Rock staff teamed up to provide a unique experience for half a dozen of the youth that frequent the Rock. This was a 3-day canoe trip in the back country of Algonquin Provincial Park.

The trip provided an opportunity for police officers and street-involved youth to interact outside their normal settings, and helped break down barriers between them, both real and perceived. The trip was deeply meaningful for the youth and also the Living Rock staff and police officers who took part. It made lasting positive impressions on them all.

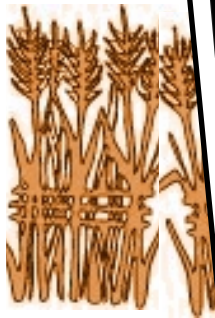
Thank you to the Hamilton Police officers who organized this event and found funding for it; Steve Bull, Mike Fleming, and Kevin Murphy.



### BACK TO SCHOOL



Living Rock took part in a Back to School Initiative, in which youth encourage youth to stay in school. Youth from the Southern Sudanese Canadian Development Association (SSCDA), Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre and Living Rock displayed booths at summer events and gave out school binders containing a list of resources to inspire youth-at-risk to make plans for starting the new school year. Christ’s Church Cathedral also helped support this initiative and sponsored the binders.



# for GIVING



## JOLIE'S STORY - CON'T

Dustin (featured in last season's newsletter) told Jolie about the Rock, where she was welcomed and immediately helped to connect to supports. On her first day at the Rock, Jolie went from the Breakfast Program to connect with Sara from the Adult Basic Education Association who comes on-site to Living Rock. Jolie started on a practice GED test right away. Within the month, Jolie was at Mohawk College passing the real test and she now has her High School Diploma!

She shares, "I wish I'd had the Rock years ago. At first I did chores for soap, dishes

and shoes. I liked being productive. Now I'm in the TRI-Rock employment program and I've been clean of drugs for 16 months. I heard the other day about a young girl on drugs who was found dead on some railway tracks. That could have been me, instead I have hope. I'm thinking of working in a detox centre to help others who want to get free from drugs. I think someone who has been there can be a great help."

Jolie recently spoke at Living Rock's Arts of August Grand Finale and touched many people.

## DID YOU KNOW?

A Portrait of 'street' youth in the Hamilton / Toronto Area showed that 67% of street youth are abused on the street, 43% attempted suicide, 83% were not in school. Addiction Research Foundation/ Hospital for Sick Kids, Toronto Star (95/03/04).

"Mistreatment is often cited as a factor in youth homelessness. A number of studies have confirmed that many homeless young people have been victims of sexual, physical or psychological abuse. A 1992 study by social service agencies in the Ottawa-Carleton region indicated that 75% of the street children interviewed had left home because of sexual assaults or physical and/or psycho-emotional abuse. However, living on the street is no protection; although street life is a violent environment for anyone, it is even more violent for homeless young people and women, and is often accompanied by multiple risks." Canadian Children's Right Council Website April 2005.

## URGENT BULLETIN ! ...DON'T LET THE BREAKFAST PROGRAM END!

**We don't usually issue urgent requests but Living Rock Ministries is faced with losing \$45,000 funding for our Breakfast program in a few months time!** If we can find 200 donors who will pledge a donation of \$20 a month (only 60 cents a day) we can make up this shortfall and continue for the long-term with this amazingly effective program for youth-at-risk. That's why we are sending out this special request to our supporters and asking people if they would consider a special donation so we don't lose this chance to impact 60 youth a day!

The Living Rock Breakfast Program is the only open breakfast program for at-risk or homeless youth in the City of Hamilton. Most of the youth are dealing with multiple barriers that cause poverty in their lives. Working in partnership with the Aboriginal Health Centre, we've also formed relationships with a high number of Aboriginal youth. The Breakfast Program is a critical contact point for these often hard to reach youth. With the theme of "It's a New Day" Breakfast Program, it provides an opportunity for goal setting, relationship building and support. There is partnership with other community agencies to bring important supports on-site. It's a nutritious meal for youth that usually do without, but it's much more than a meal...it's a friendly face and positive incentives at the start of the day, plus

important connections to addiction counselling, housing and employment supports, police services, health services, educational assessments, Ontario Works worker, anti-racism programs, and much more.

We humbly ask you to consider this request. Maybe your church or workplace would partner with us? If you would like to come and tour the Breakfast Program and check it out for yourself or your group, don't hesitate to call us at 905-528-7625 ex 37.



**NEW! You can now donate easily and securely online at [www.livingrock.ca](http://www.livingrock.ca) Just Click the Donate Button**

# The 10th Annual Golf Tournament

**Winning team:** Barry Hordyk, Alan Agnew, Fred Bennink and Mark Van Anandel

**Most Honest Team:** Larry Barron, Alderman Golding, Scott Gauvin, and Wayne McCauley

**Chip-the-ball-in-the-boat:** Alan Agnew and Arend Kersten

**Putting Contest:** Craig Bevan

**Ladies closest to the pin:** Betty Devries

**Men's closest to the pin:** Fred Bennink

**Men's closest to the rope:** David Weland

**A big thank you to our volunteer golf committee. You have done such a great job helping the Rock in this way!**

Dick & Betty Devries,  
Peter Barnes, Arnold Gerritzen,  
John & Yvonne VanWyngaarden,  
Neil & Linda Vanderkruk

**JOIN US FOR NEXT YEAR'S  
GOLF TOURNAMENT  
THURS. 7 JUNE 2007**



## **LIVING ROCK MINISTRIES** contact info:

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Charitable # 88345 8812 RR0001

### **YOUR RIGHTS AS A DONOR**

If at any time you would like to change the amount of mail you receive from us, please contact Kim McInnis 905-528-7625 ex 37 and we would be happy to comply with your request.

In addition, Living Rock Ministries assures its donors that personal information is not used for commercial purposes. We do not rent, sell, trade or share our donor information. Personal information is kept confidential and is used to mail information about our services to donors.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Phone and ask about our **Street Retreats for youth and adult groups.** A great learning opportunity and chance to experience the challenges faced by homeless youth.
- **Living Rock 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Dinner Wed. 22 November 2006;** 5:30 pm call to purchase tickets 905-528-7625
- **Living Rock Soupfest V Tues. 30 January 2007;** 11:30am to 8:00pm

## **Anniversary Dinner**

**Wed 22 Nov 06**

**Call for tickets NOW!**

**905-528-7625**

## **MEMORIALS**

The following is a list of donations made to Living Rock Ministries in memory of past friends and colleagues:

<u>Received from:</u>	<u>In Memory of:</u>
Julie Picyk	Glen Paul Weir
Georgina Hewitt	Dianne Conway
Mary Anne Bulmer	Dianne Conway
Mr & Mrs Siddall on behalf of Ladies Friendship Bible Study Group	Tom Yates

### **LIVING ROCK MINISTRIES PROGRAMS & SERVICES**

youth food bank ▪ breakfast program ▪ evening meals ▪ positive recreation programming ▪ anti-racism initiative  
employment readiness training ▪ chaplaincy ▪ visiting youth in custody ▪ urban ministry training ▪ addictions counselling  
health clinic and medical supports ▪ volunteer opportunities ▪ educational assessments and supports ▪ youth work-to-earn incentives ▪ computer resource room ▪ housing help ▪ supports for pregnant and parenting youth  
creative art competition celebrating diversity ▪ self care and health promotion for young women