



December 2024

Envisioning what God can do in Whatcom County

Vol. 21 No. 12

Update on Envision

The Mission of Envision is to:

- build authentic community by:
- proclaiming the gospel
- and making disciples of Jesus Christ
- in Whatcom County
- especially through Summit discipleship houses
- as a church missionary effort working in conjunction with local churches.

(Goals/Values and Budget Report Available Upon Request)

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www.envisionthesummit.org

Praise God for what He Has Done!

Celebrate with us what God has done in this past year! The theme for the year was grace and we sought to pass that grace on to our guests and others--and even to ourselves at times ☺

Towards the beginning of the year, two of our guests led Bible studies as part of our vision to make disciples who will make disciples. **On January 20th we also celebrated three of our guests completing their program with us.** The Senti's shared music; everyone had a blast!

We celebrated milestones in the lives of our guests as well in this past year: **one of our ladies obtained her driving permit**, another guest moved into his own apartment and another took his place as the new resident assistant at the Hope in Christ Summit house. God provided graciously for our folks who have moved into their own places this year as well. Another of our guests, Ryan, took over leading a Bible study and is still doing so on Sunday nights.

We got to sing Christmas carols on the streets and at Base Camp, praying with folks, sharing the Gospel as well as needed items for folks on the streets. Many expressed gratitude, receiving socks, coats, blankets, Bibles and more, and especially our prayers. We often sang together with others joining us. Sometimes as many as 30 folks joined us on street nights as volunteers. **Youth groups joined us on the street nights as well, from 1st Reformed, Grace Baptist and more.** Our volunteers encouraged individuals on the streets to go to Base camp and some even expressed the desire to go to treatment and get sober. Others just needed to be encouraged towards Jesus, as of course we all do.

The Summit Thrift Store has just been thriving more and more. It's been so excited to see what God has done in providing through them. Greater numbers of volunteers signed up to help; so many that they had a volunteer appreciation where 70 people showed up just from the volunteers at the store alone. God has blessed that store abundantly, so thank you for being a part of that as well. We cannot thank them enough who have worked so hard to help provide for us.

God opened opportunities to do trainings for us--**trainings on mental illness, pornography, and discipleship partnership all proved to be a blessing.** We also got to attend **First Christian Reformed Church's mission fest and SERVE project** with youth groups from around the country. It especially touched the young peoples' lives to meet our friends on the streets and those who had moved forward from there to Summit houses, to hear their stories of God's transforming power. We also enjoyed a volunteer and staff appreciation barbeque together at Berthusen Park, which was a special and joyful time.

Two more ladies joined us at the Bethel house, both had to move on to different things, but we're thankful for their time with us. Two more guys joined the Second Church house and are still going strong there. At one point all the houses filled up almost totally. Others joined the Hope in Christ house. **And God opened the door for a fourth Summit house connected to Northwest Baptist** in the summer! One of our former guests, Jamey, who completed the program returned to be the resident assistant. Northwest Baptist helped us with a work party and donated furniture and needed items very generously.

Board:
Elder/Pastors:
Mitchell Senti, Ben
deRegt

**Treasurer/Elder-
Deacon:** Dan Obbink

Bookkeeper: Karen
Kooistra

“Now to him who is
able to do
immeasurably more
than we can ask or
imagine, according to
his power that is at
work within us, to him
be the glory in the
church and in Christ
Jesus throughout all
generations, for ever
and ever! Amen.”
Ephesians 3:20-21

We appreciate your
generosity so much!
(Mitchell doesn't see
how much each of you
gives, but he sees who
gives.)

If you'd like to make a
donation, please send
checks to: Envision
Mission, 710 E.
Sunset, Bellingham,
WA 98225

Our vision: to seek the
face of Jesus!

God opened doors for weekly meetings that proved to be such a blessing. **Discipleship classes at the Bethel and Hope in Christ houses stayed strong** through the year. We loved participating in the Belongings class at the local gospel mission to help residents there prepare for the future, which for some will include the Summit houses. Many of our guests also joined game nights/days at both Ascent and Agape programs at the mission. Many of our staff joined us weekly for prayer on Fridays as well as staff meetings. Others of our guests joined us on street nights as well.

This summer we got to the point where we didn't know how we would make it through past one month and a half month in order to pay expenses. **God provided above and beyond through you all and the thrift store so that we now have an abundance of resources.** Thank you and thank God for His provision! We had a celebration in October of four of our guests completing the program, an appreciation for volunteers, sharing a few songs from the new CD of the Senti's, and raised more funds for the ministry even as we ate some delicious desserts. What a great time again and mostly the joy of hearing the stories of our guests as they moved forward into the transformation God has for them.

God raised up an intern from Bethel church named Rebecca to help us this summer also. He also is using Aaron Speyer to lead a small group at his church the Bridge following the Genesis Process and helping some of our folks in the process to connect with their church. We celebrated Aaron being on staff for one year even as he shared with us reflections from his desk. We're so thankful for the team members God has raised up including Martha Kooiman and Dolores Bosman. Missy Taylor helped with media, Miles Davis as our men's program coordinator and Rochelle in the office as secretary.

As we always point out the best part of this is to see the transformation in our guests, **whether getting custody of children, housing, reconciling with family members, finding church, getting licenses, overcoming temptations, leading small groups, becoming AA sponsors, even one has become an elder in his church.** We just rejoice in what God has done!

God provided new mattresses, discipleship partners and teachers, opportunities to share the Gospel, increased work hours and employment, and much joy even in the struggles. Even folks who we've had to exit have found their footing in housing, sobriety, and provision.

We'll never forget the occasions this year when some of **our guests have stepped in to give help those who needed it in the same way they received help** many years ago, whether caring for folks and bringing them to detox and following up with them for treatment as well as keeping healthy boundaries so those folks could move forward as they have.

Thank God for you all and your partnerships with us in this Gospel call to facilitate authentic community in Christ. We are learning to befriend folks who have been through addiction, homelessness and mental illness. In the process we learn about our own tendency towards sin and God's grace. We are trying to learn not to put "poor" folks in a different place in the church than ourselves. We are in this together; a place of mutuality for all who are willing to grow in Christ Jesus. Thanks for your prayers and gifts to that end!

Our Weekly Schedule:

Tuesday: Street Night Tuesdays (5:30-7:15pm), starts at 1st Baptist on 110 Flora St.

Friday: Prayer at the Light of the World Prayer Center (3-5pm)

Sunday: Jesus Study at the Majestic (5pm)