

Get to Know Us

Included with your newsletter is a copy of our fifth “Get to Know Us” edition. These stories share about the students and staff of Rock Solid Refuge and give you a glimpse into the personal lives. Transformation is taking place because of you.

If this is the first time you’re seeing a “Get to Know Us”, we might not have your email address yet. If you’ve missed the first four editions, don’t worry! You can go to www.RockSolidRefuge.com/get-to-know to read previous editions of this new, informative letter.

Make sure not to miss another edition by signing up to our mailing list! You can sign up by visiting www.RockSolidRefuge.com/newsletter or by calling our office at 306.297.3663 and asking to join!



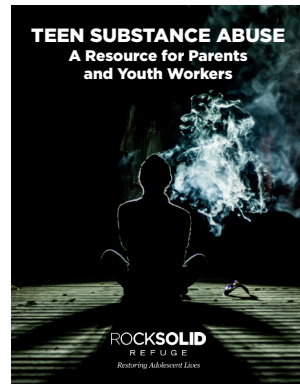
Substance Abuse

Last year we announced that we were working on a Substance Abuse Web Series. In this series, Steve Frew, Tyler Dueck, and James Simpson talk about youth addictions from the perspective of a long time youth worker, a school teacher & principal, and a counsellor. Each brings their unique observations and advice with the goal of both informing you more about addiction and how to help young people fight the temptation that the drug and party lifestyle offer.

Due to a significant illness this series was delayed. We are pleased to announce that the first video in this series is now available with the other two set to be ready before the end of February!

You can watch the first video at www.RockSolidRefuge.com/series

We’d welcome your suggestions for resources that would be beneficial to your family, church or community to partners@rocksolidrefuge.com so we know what YOU need to reach young people!



Student Resolutions

Going into the New Year, students at Rock Solid would appreciate prayers for:

Many of our seventeen year old students have a personal goal to graduate highschool this year

Staying sober

Getting along with their parents

Building new relationships and creating a new social life around good people

Upcoming Events

Feb 6: Compass Immanuel Church - Rapid View, SK

Feb 13: Paradise Valley Church of God - Paradise Valley, SK

Feb 27: Eastside Church of God - Swift Current, SK

Mar 13: Trinity Lutheran - Leader, SK

Mar 27: Bow Valley Baptist - Cochrane, AB

Apr 29 - May 1: Missionsfest Manitoba - Winnipeg, MB

WINTER
2022

ROCKSOLID REFUGE NEWSLETTER

Thank You
Christmas Cheer
Get to Know Us

Dear Friends,

Dear Friends, Philippians 3:14 says: “I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” (ESV)

God has been faithful in so many ways and on that basis, we press on toward the prize set before us. We believe what YOU have made possible in 2021 has been so worthwhile, yet I think God has even more in store.

As the snow drifts melt away and are replaced by green grass, we ask you to continue partnering with us. Our desire is, by partnering together, to help more teens and families in crisis. Through prayer, we’re asking God to increase our student body by providing the resources and staff needed. Would you pray with us as we explore our ability to provide more facilities available for families, including those with adolescent females, desperate for help. We receive numerous calls from parents and guardians of struggling girls and are seeking God for His leading to engage in this need.

Time goes by so quickly, and it’s amazing to count God’s blessings. We count you among those, as well as the families and young men God is reaching, through your partnership.

Three students finished their programs the end of January, which is always a happy and sad time. Their transformations are truly incredible, but saying goodbye is always difficult. These graduates are moving toward doors of new opportunity, and at the same time

new students come to Rock Solid, wide-eyed and wondering what this will mean for them.

Thank you again for your continued partnership walking with students at Rock Solid Refuge as we seek to build God’s kingdom for His glory.

God Bless,

Dallas Block





The volunteers who come to Rock Solid Refuge are our heroes! They brave everything to help out... from cold SK weather and impromptu snow storms, to jumping into deep trenches (or the lake during the summer with students), tending gardens or spraying lawns, painting trailers, laying carpet, helping care for the horses, or providing treats for the guys. To ALL of you we say

THANK YOU!!



To stay informed of volunteer opportunities in 2022, call Dale at 306.297.3663 or email partners@rocksolidrefuge.com to receive updates for upcoming projects. We hope to see you in 2022!

Christmas Cheer!

Every Christmas the students go home for one week to spend the holiday with their family. Here are a few of the things the students shared:

I had an extra long break at home. It gave me a chance to see my family and some of my friends, that was really nice. Going to the gym with my stepdad and eating my grandma's cinnamon buns were highlights for me! I also got to see my little cousin play hockey. He averages six goals a game!



I was able to see family that I haven't seen in a long time over Christmas. Spending time with family was actually a lot better than I thought it was going to be. The expectation I had going in was that it was going to be the same that it was last year. I wasn't looking forward to it, but it was a fun time. It was good. It was really good, actually.

I got a new pair of skis for Christmas that I'm really excited about. We were planning on going on a ski trip as a family, but it was really cold when I was home so we weren't able to do that, which was a little disappointing.



I learned that when we're here, our parents get stuff to work on too. They get homework that they have to do, just like us. Over the break I went to my favorite Chinese food restaurant with my dad and visit my mom and my aunt.

I got a ukulele and an amp for Christmas. I'm learning to play while at RSR and I've even begun to write music on it. I've also got a hook up to meet a music manager backstage after a concert once I'm done the program, so I'm looking forward to that.



I blew up a snowman with my family. The little kids built it just so it could be blown up. There was snow everywhere. Definitely the highlight of my time. It's not every day you get to see that. I also spent some time shooting my grandpa's guns and helping clean up some road kill in the area.

Big smile and thumbs up I was surprised one morning by my cousins who all came to visit for the day. It was really good to see all of them.



Facing My Issues - Ivan

My name is Ivan, I'm 17 years old and I grew up in a caring Christian family. We went to church every Sunday, prayed before meals, and listened to the Christian radio station.

I began smoking in grade 5, and by grade 8, began to smoke weed which became a daily practice. The spiral continued by experimenting with other drugs and drinking. I could not stop. I lied about what I was doing and this became the main issue with my parents.

My addiction led me to breaking & entering and other unhealthy decisions. I did not trust people and felt I was all alone. I kept my struggles to myself.

I used to sneak out at night to do whatever I wanted. My parents would call the police if I left the house, so I started to run from the police. To keep me out of trouble, my parents and uncle decided to just move me around. For a number of months, I bounced between different family members. I hated everyone and everything, and buried my issues in the drug scene.

Everything came to a head when I broke into someone's house. I was charged with breaking & entering and got remanded to Rock Solid Refuge (RSR). I put minimal effort into the program and it showed. I ended up leaving, thinking my minimal efforts would be enough...and they weren't. I fell on my face and kept making terrible choices. I thought I had everything figured out and that my plans would work. After that, I entered the drug scene completely, now using and selling.

In October 2021, I returned to RSR because I desired change. I knew that something had to be different. I learned that if I wanted to stay clean, it would take more effort this time. It has not been easy. I have come face to face with my issues as to why I choose certain activities and decisions. I'm looking forward to graduating from RSR soon.

Hebrews 11:35 says, "I will never leave you, nor forsake you." I cling to this promise because it gives me hope. With the return to RSR, I recognized the 'pull' drugs had on me, the downward spiral I had entered, and how it led me to a dark place which included paranoia and broken relationships.

My success is found in Jesus, who is my Rock and my Deliverer.



Restoring Adolescent Lives

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www.RockSolidRefuge.com



306-297-3663