



# SUMMER 2011 NEWSLETTER

## What happened to the "lazy, hazy days of summer"?

Committed to breaking the cycles of defeat by providing...

- Housing
- Employment
- Life-skills
- Personal Development
- Spirituality to Grande Prairie's less fortunate

**Inside:**

- Page 2: Thank You!!
- Page 2: Grand Opening
- Page 3: My Story
- Page 4: Illusions & Reality
- Page 4: contact info.

This summer at Rising Above we have been busy getting ready for the opening of Rising Above Second Chance Furniture. Of course, that is in addition to our housing and supports program that keeps us busy no matter what the season. Rising Above continues to expand and stretch. The latest stretching was the lease of the former Swan city Auction/Splatter Paintball site at 9613-98th St. (just West of resources Road on 97th Ave.) This building will house our Second Chance Furniture store as well as provide a centralized office space for our Housing and Supports services and Life-Skills classes. Please join us on site for our Grand Opening BBQ with Shine FM on September 10th. The Board has been stretched even further by a lease agreement that gives us the option to purchase this building with 100% of the lease rate being put towards the purchase. With this in mind, we will be embarking on a major capital campaign to step out and purchase this facility to provide long term stability to Rising Above Ministry. This step is important because the work that is being done is positively affecting lives of broken individuals and families in the Peace Country. For a glimpse of one person's story please read, "My Story", on page three of this newsletter. Rising Above Ministry is making a difference. Please call me at 780-533-3025 to discuss ways to help the

**Rising Above Second Chance Furniture**  
will be open for business at 10:00 am, August 29th!  
at 9613-98 Street

We are now gratefully accepting donations of quality, used furniture.  
Please call Ryan at 780-533-3070 to arrange delivery or pick-up.





### Second Chance Furniture - Operated by Rising Above Participants

The store will be staffed by Rising Above participants who will carry out the duties of operating of the store. Rationale for this are;

- Supervised employment experience and training makes it easier for program participants to pursue career oriented jobs.
- Consistent evaluations and job coaching for participants ensure growth opportunities.
- A "clean" work environment lengthens sobriety and decreases the risk of relapse.
- Rising Above Second Chance Furniture provides a training environment in which our participants are pursued by other employers in the community.



### Thank You!!

Rising Above Ministry would like to thank the following for their generosity:

- Henkel's Handyman** - \$3000 donation toward our new Cube Van
- Giovani (John) Coco, Realty Executives Northwest** - \$1000 donation toward our new Cube Van
- Christ Lutheran Church in Sexsmith** - hosted a dessert night and \$1050 was raised for Rising Above

*Fast Fact: Rising Above has room to house 20 individuals at a time, 16 men and 4 women, in four GP locations.*

### Rising Above Second Chance Furniture Grand Opening!



**Saturday, September 10th**  
**10:00 am - 2:00 pm**  
**9613-98 St.**



**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at noon**

**Shine FM will be live on site.**  
**Join us for a BBQ and tour our new store!**

### My Story.....

I didn't start out my life planning to become an addict. My parents were divorced and I bounced back and forth between them across Canada throughout my teen years. I was athletic and played hockey and soccer. By age 11, I was good enough at soccer to travel across Canada playing for teams with kids ages 12-16. At 12 I used my first inhalant, Pam cooking spray. My mom knew about it but didn't really do anything about it. Soon I started stealing from them. I stole tobacco from my step-dad, marijuana and money from my mom. Smoking pot didn't make me feel very different so I figured that it couldn't be real bad. From very early on in life I was told not to be an alcoholic like my father, my grandfather and my uncles. But I was never told not to do drugs.

My interest in sports diminished as my interest in drugs grew stronger. I tried acid for the first time because one night while my uncle was visiting us I heard him tell my mom that he had dropped 1000 hits of acid in his room and could only find 900 of them. When he left I went into the room and found 36. My mom sent me to a private school for high school, thinking that I would get involved with a better crowd. I found a "better" crowd alright. I found new friends who had a lot of money and no supervision. Good drugs, alcohol and a place to do them were now in my grasp. And, at about age 14 my aunt introduced me to cocaine.

By grade 9 and throughout high school I was doing weed, hash, acid, mushrooms and drinking regularly. I smoked pot every day before school, at lunch time and after school. The weekends were for the harder stuff.

I got married soon after high school and the drug abuse continued. My wife and I split up for the first time when I was 21. Soon after, I was introduced to Crack. It was love at first sight. I began spending \$100-200 a day on it. I went to rehab for the first time when I was 22 but I called my dealer from the parking lot when I got out. Though I continued

to use heavily, my wife and I got back together and I became a father when I was 25. My addiction to crack was full blown at this time. I was fighting with and cheating on my wife, missing work and lying. One day I came home to find that my wife had cheated on me, too. I smashed up our house and I assaulted her. I was arrested and spent 90 days in jail. I was not allowed to see or talk to my daughter, I was suicidal and severely depressed.

In March of this year I moved to Grande Prairie. My addiction and depression became the worst they have ever been. I hit my bottom on May 10<sup>th</sup>. I felt like that would be the day that I would die so I went to detox and begged to be let in. It was there where I was introduced to Rising Above. At this point in my life I had no faith, no guidance and no God. I wanted to know about it but I also wanted to fight it every step of the way. So I attended the classes and went to my meetings with staff. I also went to NA meetings and everywhere I kept hearing about God. I was always full of questions for each of the staff and they each answered the same way, with conviction and truth. Through the

*"Today I want to live.  
Today I want life  
without addiction."*

camping trips, classes, spiritual guidance and constant reassurance from staff, I assured and gave God into my heart. He is my God and I know that He knows me. He has placed me here because He knows that this is where I need to be. God is no longer a quiet word that I speak; He is the name I call to daily for guidance. I know that without faith and God in my life my chances are not the same as they are with Him.

Since my residency here at Rising Above; I have new people in my life, I have councillors that listen, help & guide and now I have forgiveness in my heart. I



The staff and Participants of Rising Above would like to thank Roy and Kali Family Medical Centre for all the support and dental care they have provided!

**Roy & Kali Family Dental Centre**

### LOU LEVENTHAL PRESENTS

# ILLUSIONS & REALITY

Rising Above Ministry is pleased to host internationally acclaimed illusionist **Lou Leventhal** who will present his fun and highly entertaining program, **ILLUSIONS & REALITY**.



**Friday, September 9th at 7:30 pm**  
**at the Grande Prairie Alliance Church, 15502-102 St.**

Tickets are \$17 for ages 13 and over, **12 and under are free when accompanied by an adult.**

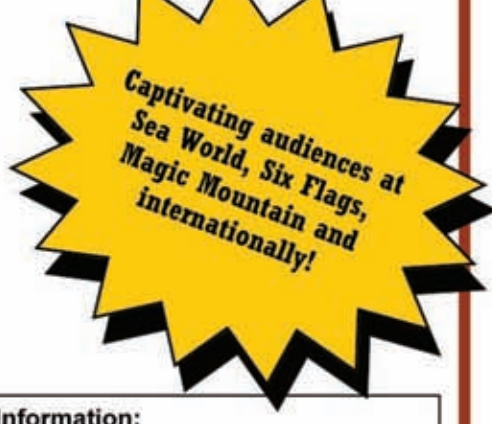
The show begins at 7:30 with doors opening at 6:45. Tickets may be purchased at Shepherd's Fold, GP Alliance Church and Rising Above Second Chance Furniture.

Call Rising Above at 780-533-3025 for further information.



*"Illusion and Reality performances are often complete sell-outs.  
Don't be disappointed - get your tickets early!!!"*

**ILLUSIONS & REALITY** is a family oriented program for children age five through adult.  
It's an entertainment experience you won't want to miss!



**Rising Above Ministry, Grande Prairie Contact Information:**  
9613-98th St, Grande Prairie, AB, T8V 2E3

Housing & Supports 780-533-3025	www.risingabovegp.com	Second Chance Furniture 780-533-3070
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