



Partners in Hope Vancouver, BC

Standards for Participants in Activities Sponsored By Partners In Hope

Partners In Hope Recovery Society exists to offer support and healing through Jesus Christ, to victims of harmful circumstances and dependencies.

To accomplish this task we shape our activities around three principles: 1) to be a message of hope by demonstrating the care of God in the gift of Jesus Christ; 2) to create safe environments where men and women can confront themselves and the invitation of God in their lives; and 3) to accompany individuals in the process of building responsible and productive life habits.

Therefore, we have these expectations of guests who come to participate in events sponsored by Partners In Hope:

- Guests will abstain from consumption of drugs or alcohol in our facilities or areas surrounding and refrain from bringing drugs or paraphernalia to facilities or meetings. We ask guests to refrain from coming to events if they are drunk or under the immediate influence of mood altering substances. Those who come under the influence of alcohol or mood altering substances will be considered on a case by case basis as to whether they can remain and not be a disturbance or if they need to come on another occasion.
- Guests will speak respectfully with one another (abstaining from detailed war stories around addictions, swearing, angry and abusive talk, sexualized talk, requests for gifts or loans of money or goods such as cigarettes, or communication for the purpose of exchanging drugs). Harsh or violent talk and behaviour will not be tolerated at any time.
- In order to maintain a safe atmosphere for everyone, we ask that individuals not seek other participants in order to pursue romantic relationships – same sex or opposite sex. Guests will respect another’s “personal space” and not monopolize their time. Respect for verbalized boundaries is also expected. In colloquial terms, we expect guests to not “hit on” other guests.
- Guests will respect the varied use of premises where events are held. For example, at the Eton Street house, public access areas are the main floor and the yards at the front and back. Other areas are for the private use of the residents. Goods, tools, furniture, etc. are the private property of the Society or residents of the house and should not be removed from the premises without permission of the co-ordinator. Clean-up after meals is a community activity in which everyone has a responsibility.
- Sunday dinner and fellowship times are built around the principle of supporting individuals as they seek to know God through participation in a church fellowship. Those who are not interested in church attendance should meet with us at other occasions during the week where we sponsor or co-operate with other groups to provide meals.

- The purpose of fellowship times is to be with one another and to interact with each other. While there will be occasions where such things as sports events or movies on television will be part of the activity that a number of folks will engage in during their time here, those who come to simply eat and isolate at the television are missing the purpose for which we gather.
- At times, as they are available, certain goods or services may be shared with guests (i.e. transportation, extra food, photocopying service, etc.). These are gifts offered when available not services to be demanded. For example, bus tickets are only for the purpose of attending Society functions and are offered only on certain occasions when the vans are not able to transport individuals.
- The main focus of all support group meetings sponsored by Partners in Hope is to introduce a person to relationship with God through Jesus Christ. While we respect each individual's right to hold personal religious beliefs and practices, we do not see support group meetings as the place to hold "debates" or as platforms for religious or philosophical ideas that are in contradiction to truth as recorded in the Bible. Non-Christians are invited and welcomed to attend all meetings and to share thoughts and questions that are consistent with a genuine search to understand God and His plan for our life.

Guests who act outside of these principles will be quietly and privately reminded to change the relevant behaviour. Significant or consistently inappropriate behaviour may result in a person being sent home for a period of time or until a commitment to respect for these principles is established in conversation with a leader.