

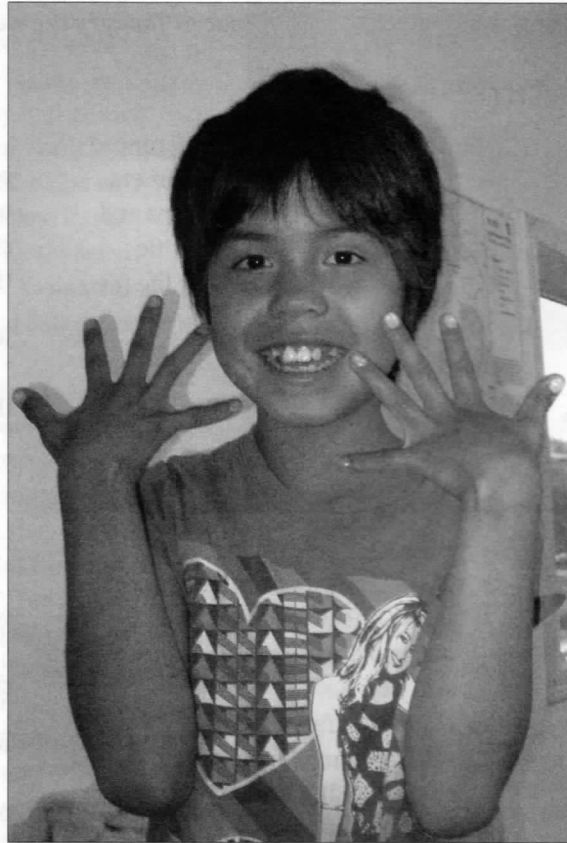
# Ministry to women of the North through spa nights

By Jessica Pixner

Typically the BC Mission Boat Society has served in communities along the B.C. coast through worship nights, Bible studies, Kids Club programs for children after school, youth events, home visits with community members, prayer and other volunteering. The BC Mission Boat headquarters is located in Parksville on Vancouver Island. The society's goal is to make God's love in Christ known through taking mission teams of Christian volunteers into remote First Nation communities of B.C.

Last summer I wanted a new and fun event that would be geared to the women of the communities and allow the opportunity to share God's love while building relationships, and thought of doing a Ladies Spa Night.

I experienced spa nights while living in a dorm



at Concordia College, Edmonton, and it had always been a great way to get to know other girls and start new friendships. So, I thought, "If this worked so well in a dorm, the women in the communities we visit may love it too!"

This event would involve the women on the mission teams giving the women in the communities hand massages and manicures (or they could do it themselves if they preferred). The one-on-one time would allow for good discussions and new friendships to form that would not happen in a large group activity. It would also allow the

ladies to mingle and engage in group conversations with the team members if they wished. We also prepared a special devotion to use when the opportunity presented itself.

We had our first successful Spa Night in Bella

## ***What the women thought...***

Jessica asked some of the women of the communities and several team members about their spa night experience and here's what they had to say.

"The spa night was a great thing for the group to do. I think it was fun and they should do it when they come here again next summer."

- Youth, age 13, Bella Bella

"The spa night we held in Bella Bella gave us a great chance to bond with the ladies in the community. The informal setting allowed

us to spend time getting to know each lady we talked to. We are great at connecting to the kids and younger youth through kids' camp, but Spa Night gave us a chance to minister to more of the community. It also served as a reminder that all of God's children, regardless of age, need to be renewed through fellowship."

- Gina Lougheed, age 21, Team Bella Bella

"It was awesome just talking and doing our nails, sharing laughs. It was a good week!"

- Linda Hopkins, age 18, Klemtu

Bella in July! Then we continued to organize and hold Ladies Spa Nights in Ehattesaht (July) and in Klemtu (Sept). Anywhere from 15 to 30 women and teenage girls attended these Spa Nights! The women on the teams and I were able to get to know some of the women and young ladies during the spa nights, having some great conversations, forming and growing friendships. It was a fun way to bring women from different walks of life together in one group and get to know each other in a way that may not have occurred during another type of event. We were able to pamper the women just as Jesus washed the feet of the disciples, which was pretty awesome to do!

The nails of all the ladies turned out great, and there were many comments about how much they enjoyed themselves and had lots of fun. It was a great way to reach out to the women of the communities



Starting at the left and going around the circle: Jessica Pixner, Julianna Bohlken, Mackenzie Garbe, Carlene Garbe, Mackenzie Howe, Shareen Bell and Katherine Bell in the front.

and share God's love with them and discuss our faith in a unique situation. And we shared a few laughs too!

*Jessica Pixner serves as office administrator for the BC Mission Boat Society and has been involved with the organization for almost three years.*