



try to put yourself in my shoes

My name is Leah. I'm seventeen years old and I live on the streets. I've been here for 2 years. I ran to the streets because home was not a safe place. In fact, that's true for most the kids I've met out here—home has not been safe. We are on the streets because we've been abused, neglected and even thrown out of our homes. But, we discover that the streets aren't any safer. Every once in a while, you run into a kid who has run away from home cuz' they don't like their parents' rules. But they're only out here for a short time, then they go home. See, that's the thing. For many of us, home is not an option anymore. I ran to the streets hoping for something better, but, as the months passed, I realized that I have exchanged one nightmare for another.

There is only one way to survive on the streets. Get them before they get you. I have to eat and I have to sleep. Those are basic human needs, aren't they? I need money to do those things. So I cheat. I steal. I do anything I need to survive. "Why don't I get a job?" you ask. Would you hire me? I don't "handle authority" well. Survival comes first so sometimes I can't make it to work. On the nights I have to sleep outside, there's no alarm clock to get me up in time for work. Then there's the shower issue. Or the ID issue. You can't get a job without ID or an address. I can't get ID without money. I am homeless, so I don't have an address. The list of things that interferes with me getting a job continues to grow. It's easier to get money doing things that are illegal. I figure, once I get my act together, then I can get a real job. But until then, I've got to survive.

outreach

I was spangin' (spare changing) when I first ran into people from New Horizons Ministries. Two women approached me and said they didn't think we had met and asked if I was new to the streets. Why were they talking to me? They asked me if I had a place to stay that night. I said I did cuz' I didn't want them to know anything about me. Then they did something really weird. They asked me if I had some time to get a cup of coffee with them. I looked at my friends. They just shrugged their shoulders. I thought maybe I could get some money out of them, so I went. We had coffee and talked. Just talked. They asked me questions about myself, but not questions about why I was on the streets. They bought me a latte and half a sandwich. It turned out that I liked the same mystery author as Carol, one of the women. They told me about New Horizons and some of the services I could get there. They said good bye and left. That was it. They didn't want anything from me. It was just three people having coffee and talking.

youth contacted on outreach 1,085
late-night outreach contacts 402
(outreach to young women involved in prostitution)

drop-in

It was a couple weeks before I ventured into New Horizons. I began to hear about their drop-in center from the other kids. New Horizons is definitely the place to go for meals! The meals are this great home-cooked affair. I've had everything from grits for breakfast to vegetarian lasagna for dinner.

The drop-in center is kinda crazy. There are about 40 kids running around. Some are eating. Some are just hanging out. There is a pool and a foosball table. There are couches to lounge on. The staff (both volunteer and paid) actually sit and hang out with the kids. They have dinner with us. Sometimes we play cards or work on a puzzle. Sometimes I just eat my dinner and sit on the couch and read my mystery novel. Carol, my caseworker, leaves one for me every now and then. I love to read.

number of youth in day drop-in 4,801
number of youth in evening drop-in 7,833
total meals served 9,223
total mornings breakfast was served 63
total evenings dinner was served 247

miscellaneous drop-in services

youth at Christmas celebration 300
youth at Thanksgiving celebration 118
youth accessing therapeutic counseling 14
appointments made with the therapists 163
percentage of appointments kept 70%
youth visits to Dental Van (duplicate count) 58
youth accessing dental services 42

the youth

New Horizons had contact with 1407 different youth during the 2003 fiscal year (July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003)

female 41.4%
male 58.6%

ages

17 and under 23%
18-20 42%
21-22 22%
23 and over 13%

ethnicity

african-american 13.5%
asian/pacific islander 2.8%
caucasian 67.7%
latino 4.7%
native american 6.7%
other 4.6%

prostitution

over 50% of the youth we serve are involved in prostitution

self-care

I go to New Horizons regularly. During morning drop-in I shower and wash my clothes. You go through a lot of clothes when you live on the streets. You don't have a big closet or dresser to keep things in. You just have the clothes on your back and what you carry in your backpack. Sometimes you can leave them at a friend's place, but they are often as transient as you are and you never see those things again. Plus we mix and match with our friends and everyone just takes what they need from each other. You don't often get your stuff back or you find yourself missing items. There was a great skirt in the drop-in center today. I even saw some shirts that looked new and a couple had the tags still on them. I love new clothes. There's just something about wearing new clothes that makes you feel special.

clothing items 6,770
underwear 945
pairs of socks 1,863
blankets 442
hygiene items 3,697
showers 1,142
loads of laundry 531

life discovery program

I'm a member of the Youth Advisory Board at New Horizons. We meet every Monday after Morning Drop-in. We get to have lunch together, then we spend an hour talking about how we can make New Horizons better for us (the kids). It's pretty fun to see our ideas really happen. The staff let us have a lot of say and leadership in the things we do. I'm most proud of the art work we painted on our sally port wall as well as the huge garage sale we held to raise money for New Horizons. We've also been volunteering in the self care center during drop-in and at the New Horizons Walk-a-thon T-shirt Table. After we've worked hard for a few months, we got to take a trip together. We went to Wild Waves. That was my idea, I even called and told them about who we were and asked if they'd donate tickets to New Horizons. And they did! We had a great time!

The Youth Advisory Board is just one of New Horizons' Life Discovery activities. Other Life Discovery activities include writing group, mosaics, pottery, acting, dog training, river rafting, rock climbing, cooking, and softball. We also have Life Skill Workshops where we learn about goal-setting, finances, eating healthy food, anger/stress management, computer labs, resume writing and job hunting. It was in a Life Discovery activity that I discovered I really like bead work. I can sit for hours and do this. It's been a fun activity for me and Carol, my caseworker, to do together. One of my favorite activities was a Spa Day just for girls. That was fun!

total number of activities offered 235

number of youth attending life discovery activity (duplicate count) 1,512

average number of youth per activity 6.43

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New Horizons Ministries is a non-profit, interdenominational, Christian ministry that was formed in 1978 in response to the growing problem of youth involved in street activity in Seattle.

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web site
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discipleship

The more I get to know New Horizons, the more I'm willing to do different things with them. You can tell right away that they are Christians. They have a chapel where you can go to pray or just go to be quiet. The other day I saw Michael, the chaplain, praying with a guy I know. He had a court date that he was scared about. He had actually asked Michael to pray for him. I checked out one of their Bible studies the other night. We went to Golden Gardens, on the beach. We made a bonfire and talked about Jesus making fishers of men. You could almost imagine the fishing boats out on the water with Peter and Andrew catching all those fish and being amazed. It was a special night. I learned some things about God that I'd never thought about before. I might be interested in going again sometime.

number of structured events 23
number of participants (duplicate count) 140

mentorships

Some of the kids at New Horizons participate in a mentorship program. They call it Adaptive Life Skills Job Mentorships – that's a mouthful. Remember when I told you how hard it is to get or keep a job when you are homeless? Well, New Horizons has developed a program to help bridge that gap. You work with a mentor, case manager and the Mentorship Program Manager. As a team they help you work through some of the issues that may keep you from being employed, like showing up to work on time, dealing with conflict, and proper work conduct. My friend Frank hates sleeping in the shelters. You've got to get there early, and he doesn't like hanging out with all those people he doesn't know. But if he is going to get to his mentorship on time, then he needs to choose to do that. Frank and his mentor made a compromise. Frank works one morning a week and the rest are afternoon shifts. He chooses to sleep in the shelter that one night. So far it's worked out pretty well. Frank has even been thinking about a going into a housing program.

number of youth in mentorships 13

volunteers

Do you know that there are people who work at New Horizons and they don't even get paid?!!!! They're just normal people with jobs and families and they choose to spend some of their time with us. Jordan invited me to her house for dinner. After dinner she let me paint in her art room. Chad and Rebecca took me to church with them one Sunday. They don't get paid to hang out with me. They do it because they want to. Carol tells me that New Horizons uses all sorts of volunteers like the Board of Directors, office volunteers, people who sort the clothing donations. She told me that New Horizons couldn't operate without all the volunteer support they get. Maybe someday I'll volunteer at a place like New Horizons.

number of volunteers 12

board of directors 42
food groups (3 to 6 people in each group) 14
office/maintenance 41
outreach/discipleship 29
self-care

number of hours volunteered

board of directors 796
food groups 4,960
office/maintenance 854
outreach/discipleship 6,196
self-care 1,709
total number of hours volunteered 14,515

I'm tired of people thinking I'm no good because of how I look or where I hang out. I'm tired of always begging for money. I'm tired of not having anything of my own. I'm tired of surviving. I want to LIVE. I've tried to change, but nothing ever seems to go my way. It's an uphill battle, and I'm often to tired to climb any more. New Horizons has been a resting place for me. When I'm too tired to climb or don't have the proper "climbing tools" they are there to help. New Horizons has been love with skin on it in my life. When no one else cares, they do. When I run out of my own resources and am willing to try something else, they offer options. When life seems so painful that I want to give up, they offer hope. They always seem to believe that I can overcome my circumstances because of who God created me to be. The amazing thing is that they love me no matter what happens in my life—whether I get off the streets or not. They will always be there for me and that gives me the strength to keep climbing.

community relations

speaking engagements 98
people attending 7,879
people attending our training 98
outside groups attending our training 8
college interns 2

University of Washington
Puget Sound Community College
ministry partner
Homeless Children International, Kenya

board of directors

Malia Ansberry David Jennings
Cynthia Cole Janet Moore
Board Secretary Dick Myers
Deryl Davis-Bell Matthew Owen
Doug Engberg Mary Steele
Corinne Hill Roger Winter
David Hill Bob Wyman
Board President

statement of financial activities

	FISCAL YEAR 03 7/1/02-6/30/03	FISCAL YEAR 02 7/1/01-6/30/02
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Individuals	\$706,459	\$645,418
Churches	49,645	57,945
Civic groups	4,829	1,837
Corporations	28,218	33,736
Grants	187,427	152,210
In-kind contributions	131,507	146,567
Other	27,473	47,129
Total Support and Revenue	\$1,135,558	\$1,084,842
EXPENSES		
Drop-in services	\$383,943	\$370,539
Outreach/follow-up	179,140	162,289
Life Discoveries/Recreation/ Life adoptive skills	184,306	150,835
Discipleship	84,696	88,761
Community education	123,611	121,043
Administration	49,970	52,655
Publicity/fund raising	118,830	112,901
Total Expenses	\$1,124,496	\$1,059,023
Change in Net Assets	\$11,062	\$25,819

As a private, non-profit organization, New Horizons Ministries relies on the generous contributions of individuals, churches, businesses, foundations and organizations for financial support. We receive no federal, state or city funding.

We are thankful to the following people who, through their financial giving, became a part of the NHM community and helped serve and love youth who are living on the streets of Seattle.

Those who donated through Washington State Employees Combined Giving Fund are not individually listed.



In relationship with homeless youth, serving and loving in the way of Jesus, equipping youth to leave street life.



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