

February brings us Valentine's Day, a day dedicated to relationship and love. This month, I thought it would be fun to have our staff share some of the things they *love* about serving at New Horizons Ministries. I hope that you enjoy these highlights and insights from folks "In the Trenches" who share a calling to serve and love homeless and street involved young people of Seattle.

Here are some of their loves...

"I love that we are a ministry of presence; out on the streets rain or shine, in our Drop-In Center whether it's quiet or chaotic, and in relationship with young people when they are making major strides to getting off the streets and when they are making poor decisions and suffering."

"I love that I'm serving Jesus as I serve the youth. Jesus tells us that even a cup of water offered in His name is a service to Him."

"I love learning so much about resilience and strength from our young people."

"I love realizing that the joy a clean pair of socks can bring someone puts my idea of what's important in perspective."

"I love that I get to serve in an important ministry that I'm not in charge of."

"The work of the church (universal) is caring for the poor and oppressed and I love what we're doing is the work of the church."

"I love that I, as a volunteer, can go there and be lifted up, supported and loved by those who I work with. NHM has an amazing ability to make you feel like a million bucks. If I, as a volunteer feel this, imagine what the youth and young women I serve must feel."

"There's a lot of need and I love that I get to be a part of meeting those needs."

"I love the self-discovery aspect! I love watching and listening to the youth- their views on life and love and remembering I was once "kind of crazy" like that too, but I managed to survive because someone was praying for me. Sometimes I can only love them by way of my prayers."

"I love being able to show the kids how much they are valued -- in really listening to them, in serving them great meals, in helping them discover their gifts."

"I love having the luxury of just being with the youth. There is no pressure to do something *with* them or *for* them like at other organizations. I love truly living out the core of our mission statement."

"I love the support and closeness amongst staff at New Horizons. This support allows me to better serve the youth that I have the blessing of interacting with."

"I love that I get to work with the youth and serve God at the same time!"

"I love the spiritual feeling that invades me every time I walk into Drop-In. I love serving with some very dedicated and passionate paid staff and volunteers. I love knowing that I am serving young people in a way God smiles on."