

I wish that all of you could have been here to help celebrate Christmas with us this year. For the first time, the young women we serve through our Late Night Outreach had a special place to call their own as they gathered with our LNO staff and celebrated Christmas at Street Bean Espresso! On another evening our downstairs Drop-In Center was filled to overflowing with homeless and street involved young people, coming to New Horizons for our annual Christmas party and dance.

This is always a very special time at New Horizons because our staff is privileged to watch a transformation. For a few hours, all of the shields our youth use to protect themselves on the streets are lowered a bit. And when Santa arrives, they allow themselves to once again become kids, lining up, waiting for a moment to sit with Santa and experience Christmas. For that special moment this allows them to bring back happy childhood memories that are not filled with hurt, pain, disappointment, or abuse. It's what I wish that each of you could see.

And yet, in a sense many of you were here that night. Many of you helped to fill the gift bags we handed out with new gloves, hats, and gift cards for our youth. Others sent or served food, or financially helped us to once again keep our doors open and inviting for these young people at Christmas. All of us are deeply grateful for the wonderful folks who partner with us in this way and want to take a moment just to say thank you!

Following Christmas, we all have entered the New Year, a time alive with hope and promise. It's a time when folks make resolutions, start diets, resume exercise routines, or decide to try something new. If one of your New Year's resolutions is to become more deeply involved serving street involved young people, now is the perfect time to explore that idea.

Two Community Tours are happening this month at New Horizons on January 6th and 19th and our winter training (a prerequisite for volunteering) is happening on the last 2 Saturdays of the month, January 23rd and 30th. You can find more information and register for these on the main page of our website.

We all wish you a very Happy New Year and look forward to the year ahead with a Hope that comes from Christ Alone!

Dan