

It's amazing how God's blessings can arrive in small and unexpected ways. Thursday is not a regularly scheduled evening for our Drop-In Center to be open. When I heard voices coming from downstairs, I investigated and found a team of young people busily cleaning all of the chairs, tables, and areas where we serve homeless and street involved young people. They were part of a 9th grade class from the Bothell campus of Cedar Park Christian Schools. One of their teachers attended our Dessert Extravaganza last November, shared the story of New Horizons with her class, and they asked if they could help in some way with our ministry. What a blessing it was to see so many young people giving of their time to help others! But there was yet another surprise in store for us that evening.

One of the young women in the group then handed us an envelope and explained that she already had an abundance of material blessings in her life. So this year for her birthday, she asked her friends not give her presents. Instead, she asked them to contribute the money they would have spent on her to help the homeless young people we serve. Inside this folded envelope were \$20, \$10, \$5 & \$1 bills representing contributions from her friends and classmates to help New Horizons Ministries.

This young woman didn't know about the financial challenges so many non-profits are facing right now, or the many hard choices about programs and personnel this presents. All she knew is that God put it upon her heart to help and she was faithful to respond. This small gift arrived like a ray of sunshine in the midst of a stormy sea to say, "Peace be still! Jesus, the Lord of the wind and the waves is still in control, and our Father still loves and cares for the young people we serve here in His name."

I shared that story of hope with you to let you know just thankful we are for each of you who respond to the invitation to partner with us in ministry - be it through regular volunteer work, helping with a special project, sharing the story of New Horizons with others, or saying yes to an urging to help out financially. There are numerous partnership opportunities detailed throughout the pages of our website and each person's special gifts adds a vital part to the multi-hued fabric we call New Horizons Ministries. We look forward to hearing the ways that an invitation into partnership and mission speak to you!

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