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about their talents and gifts while building a strong sense of self-worth. We at New Horizons know that kids don't leave the street because they break a bad habit, they leave the street because they discover the person that God created them to be. The Life Discovery Workshops are the place where this process begins to happen.

Youth who come to NHM are often looking for jobs. They feel daunted by the long process of looking for employment while they are facing many other life challenges. To support them, NHM has developed many referral relationships in the community for Education and Job Training programs. We are committed to providing additional work opportunities for youth that are graduating from our 'in-house' mentorships, and hope to expand in 2006.

Please take a moment to review the questions that are listed beside this article to see if there are ways that you can help support the process of employing our youth!

Youth Employment Opportunities Through Community Partnership

Would you like to work one-on-one with a street-involved youth, teaching life and social skills?

Do you have resources to pay the salary and taxes for one youth, 3-12 months for 10-30 hours per week?

Do you know of entry level jobs that might suit our youth?

Would you like to create jobs at your workplace for our youth?

Do you represent an organization that would like to accept referrals from NHM?

Do you know of any other organizations that would make a good partner with NHM?

If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions, please contact Joshua Sendawula @ joshuas@nhmin.org or 206-374-0866 ext. 119 to discuss how you can help!

INSIDE LOOK



New Horizons Ministries Quarterly Newsletter

April 2006

My Story

Contributed by **Brittany Hanenburg**
Hospitality Assistant, NHM Mentorship Program

I was never given a strong chance to actually change my life for the better. Six years ago, I was being moved from one group home to another when finally on my 18th birthday I was kicked out. At this point in my life, hope didn't exist for me anymore. I became an adult who was expected to magically know how to survive as a functioning part of today's society. I was never given the skills to accomplish this, so I had to rely on all I knew: survival on the street. This is the direction my life went.

I got used to living on the streets, but even being as stubborn as I am, I began to melt after a while. I had nothing left



anymore except my own prayers and the prayers of others who knew me. This was really the breaking point for me, and it was at this same time that my wonderful case worker, Nora, came to me with the opportunity to participate in a New Horizons mentorship program. I knew instantly that this was God's grace. I was totally ready!

A few weeks later I met with Jennifer who was to be my mentor and ever since that meeting we have developed an awesome relationship! Nora and Jennifer have been there for me every step of the way which has been a huge help to me.

Being involved in the Hospitality Mentorship here at New Horizons also

means that I am attending the Life Skills Workshops that are offered every Wednesday. These classes cover things like budgeting, goal setting, personal hygiene, decision making, and other important subjects. Through going to these workshops I am being equipped so that I can focus on getting a job. I have learned how to be organized, responsible, and punctual.

I am very pleased with these blessings that the Lord has provided to me through New Horizons. I am really hopeful that one day I can also help someone to learn the important life skills that I now have.

Sincerely,

Brittany Hanenburg

NHM's Adaptive Life Skills Mentorship

Contributed by **Joshua Sendawula**
Vocational Program Coordinator

As the Vocational Program Coordinator here at New Horizons Ministries, I am blessed with the opportunity to coordinate our 'in-house' and Community Mentorships. It is stories like the one above that make my work so worthwhile!

The goals of the Adaptive Life Skills Mentorship Programs that we offer here at NHM are to provide an opportunity for youth to learn the life and relational skills necessary for employment, formal social settings,

and home management through a one-on-one relationship with a professional in a structured environment. This is typically accomplished through 2 cycles of 12 weeks each. We have recently celebrated the graduation of 3 graduates and have been greatly blessed by their time working here!

Youth that participate in our mentorships not only learn skills that are transferable, but they also learn the life adaptive skills that we often take for granted but that are essential in any workplace. In the early

weeks our mentors stress with the youth the importance of timeliness, how to ask for a day off, giving and receiving feedback and working in a team. It is in this way that our mentorships can begin equipping youth to leave street life.

To supplement the mentorship experience, youth that are in the program also attend the Life Skills Workshops we offer. These workshop settings provide kids with opportunities to learn

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Save the Date
To WALK!

June 17th, 2006

@

Seward Park!

Come and WALK
with New Horizons
Ministries and help
raise money for
Seattle's homeless
youth!

Contact Edward
Fedele to register as
a Walker or to find
out how YOU can
support the WALK!

EdwardF@nhmin.org
206-374-0866 x.133

New Horizons Drop In Center is Not a Drug-Free Workplace

Contributed by Andrew G. Deal MSW
Clinical Manager

During every morning and evening drop-in shift, substances such as marijuana, heroin, alcohol, methamphetamine, and cocaine enter the drop-in center via the bloodstreams of the youth that we serve. We witness the entire range of effects that these drugs have on our youth including aggressive behaviors, lethargy, hyper-vigilance, auditory, visual, or tactile hallucinations, and a host of others. At times, the effects are obvious as our youth may evidence extreme impairment of all faculties or significant behavioral changes. At other times, the use is less apparent and we may only know when a youth is using if they choose to disclose this information to us. The reason I am writing to you today however, is not to educate you on the types of drugs that are on the street or the effects of these substances on the body. I am writing the following article to provide you with a picture of New Horizons response to the youth we serve that are entrenched in their addiction.

In my role here at NHM, one of the services I offer to the case management staff is to participate in meetings between our youth and their family members, and/or representatives from other service agencies. Recently, one of our Counselor/Case Managers asked me to co-facilitate a meeting between a young woman we will call 'Hope' (for the purpose of this article), and her parents. Hope began using illicit substances at age 12, began abusing heroin regularly at 17, and subsequently became involved in street life at 18. Though addiction and homelessness are very common results of this type of substance abuse, Hope's situation is fairly unique among our youth in that her parents are still very invested in her and desire to be active participants in her life. During the meeting, each participant had an opportunity to express concerns and also to share hopes. We drafted plans around Hope's sobriety, housing, and respect for the rules of her parents' home. The thing that most impressed me about the whole interaction however was not the plan, but how the planning process itself evidenced the strength of relationship that our NHM Case Manager had been able to build with both Hope and her parents. These are the types of relationships that empower NHM to be in a place where we can have meetings such as these in the first place. I knew that our staff had invested a great deal of time, energy, and prayer into our relationship with Hope, and had spent many hours with her both on outreach and in the drop-in center. It is this type of commitment and dependability that allows us to have difficult conversations with kids like Hope; it is also what enabled Hope to be open and honest about feeling her worst.

We *invite* youth - wherever they are in life, whatever they have inhaled, drank, smoked or injected before arriving at the door to the drop-in center - to be in *relationship* with us. Other service providers working with the same youth have asked us "What it is about New Horizons that draws in many of the 'tougher' youth, those who have lost privileges at other drop-in centers?" We usually respond by saying that we have a great drop-in center, tasty meals, a groovy staff, and a relaxed set of rules. But what it really boils down to is that God loves the homeless street youth of Seattle and He wants to love them through us. We have been mandated to "do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God". That is why New Horizons allows itself to NOT be a drug-free work place.

Sign up for NHM's May Training!!!

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering with New Horizons Ministries, or would simply like to learn more about youth involved with street culture, our 2-day training is a great place to start! Both Saturdays of our training are required for those who would like to work directly with our youth, but they are completely open to anyone who is just interested in learning with us. The upcoming dates for training are:

Saturday, May 13th 8:30 am - 3:30 pm
Saturday, May 20th 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

The training topics will include an overview of street culture, prostitution, chemical dependency, relational counselling, spiritual formation, and the theology of ministry at NHM.

To register by phone, please contact Aaron Romero at 206-373-0866 ext. 107. By email, he can be reached at aaron@nhmin.org. Registration is \$50 and scholarships are available.

NHM Welcomes our new Volunteer Resources Coordinator!

Aaron Romero joins the NHM Program Team as our new Volunteer Resources Coordinator! After graduating from Xavier University, Aaron worked as a Volunteer and Resident Program Coordinator for a low-income land cooperative in Cincinnati, Ohio. From June of 2003 until August of 2005 he served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the south-east African nation of Malawi working with numerous community groups on health issues including HIV/AIDS education, nutrition, and sustainable farming techniques. After enduring a tough winter in Seattle, Aaron is looking forward to the beautiful summer months, and we are looking forward to all of the gifts and talents he brings to NHM! Please welcome Aaron to our community!



Key it Up for our Life Discovery Program

Some of our youth have expressed a great interest in learning basic piano/keyboarding skills and would like to have NHM offer a class in this area! In their own words this is what they are looking for:

'A piano lesson concept - music theory, seeking and understanding of basic principles of piano operation, hoping to carry skills over to keyboard and learn chords, etc.'

'Needed: Someone to teach youth the basics of piano/keyboarding, music reading, basic keystrokes. In essence, enough of a start to learn more if desired.'

Please consider partnering with our youth by providing one or more of the following:

- 1) Access to 6-8 keyboards at a facility OR Allow NHM to borrow keyboards for use on-site!
- 2) A music instructor to teach 4 basic keyboarding skills in a fun and interactive way!

Contact Naomi Yonemura if you can provide any of these things!

206-374-0866 ext. 130

naomiy@nhmin.org

