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A Place to Call Home

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this life that she had missed. I encouraged her to think about it and was sure that if this wasn't the right time and place for Trina, God would provide something else.

Eventually, Trina decided she did want to move forward with the place and felt that staying on the streets would be letting herself down and a regression for her. On moving day, I met Trina at New Horizons and was just finishing up with another client named Miranda. The two of them are friends and so they chatted for awhile. Miranda was really curious about Trina's new housing. We asked if she would help us move and then she would be able to look at the place. She agreed to help, and so we began packing all of Trina's things into the van. Miranda was such an incredible help and worked harder than Trina and I put together. When we arrived at the

house, Miranda took a look around and was impressed. She met the property manager, and there happened to be another opening. Miranda filled out the paperwork on the spot, had an interview, and she was able to move in a few weeks later. Her move was a lot simpler since she pretty much had the clothes on her back and one bag of things. We are now in the process of helping Miranda acquire the things she needs to make her room feel more like home.

In a sometimes slow and frustrating system, where waiting lists can be from many months to a year, it astounds me when things move this fast and youth actually get off the streets. I am thankful to God for giving these youth a place to call home.

** To protect their identity, names were changed for this article.*

September Training is Around the Corner

If you are interested in volunteering with NHM or simply want to learn more about youth involved in street culture, our training is a great place to start. The 20-hour training covers topics including street culture, prostitution, chemical dependency, relational counseling, spiritual formation and theology of ministry at NHM. All three sessions must be completed in order to volunteer in a direct-service role.

Saturday, Sept. 18 8:30am-6pm
Wednesday, Sept. 22 6pm-10pm
Saturday, Sept. 25 9am-6pm

To register by phone, please contact Sarah Murphy-Kangas at (206) 374-0866 ext. 110. By email, she can be reached at sarahmk@nhmin.org. Registration is \$50 and partial scholarships are available.



A Place to Call Home

By Aimee Lee
Counselor/Case Manager

A young woman I am working with had gotten herself off the streets and was living in an apartment for almost a year. When her benefits were cut, she struggled to pay her bills on her part-time waitressing job. Trina prayed to God for something to work out so she could keep her place. An agency provided rental assistance for one month, which prolonged her stay. We both acknowledged that God was providing care for Trina in this rocky time.



Soon, the next month's rent was due and she had run out of options. An eviction notice was filed and it looked like she was headed back to the streets. She fought tooth-and-nail, going to court to have them hear her out, only to find that they weren't interested in her side of things.

On eviction day, Trina had to be out by midnight. She called to tell me her moving plans had fallen through and she needed help getting her stuff out. When I pulled into the parking lot, I could hear Trina crying. In the small studio apartment, nothing was packed and things were in piles on the floor. She still had her pictures up and all her funky décor hadn't been touched. I started

packing and taking things down to the van. Trina looked lost and was throwing up periodically. I sat down next to her and we talked for a while. This was like no move I've ever experienced. For Trina, the stakes were much higher. After years on the streets, this had been her first real home.

Although this was a difficult experience for Trina, she never lost her fighting spirit. We went and applied for low-income housing and returned the same day to check on the status of her application. This was wishful thinking on our part. Things never move this fast in the world of housing. As we walked in, the receptionist was handing Trina's

application off to the property manager for a women's house. A few days later, Trina had an interview and was accepted into their program where her rent would be much more manageable. We got a tour of the house, and Trina found it to be warm and inviting. There was big yard, a deck with a grill, and her room was bright and spacious.

While waiting to move in, Trina began accessing drop-in services and getting connected again with her old friends on the streets. As her move-in day drew near, Trina told me that she had forgotten how fun life on the streets could be. There is a certain freedom that comes with

Mural Project 2004

You're invited

to New Horizons'

Mural Unveiling Ceremony

Friday, August 27, 2004

from 12:30 to 2pm

The youth, along with Anime Mural Teams, are designing and painting a mural on the South wall of New Horizons Ministries! Help us celebrate their achievement! (Music and refreshments courtesy of Emma Road Church).

Lace 'em Up for New Horizons!

A big thank you to everyone who helped out at and participated in our 14th annual Walk-a-thon in June! It was the most beautiful day we've ever had at Seward Park for this event.

We raised over \$26,000 and gave away lots of fun prizes, including 16 pairs of Mariners tickets to those who raised \$400 or more. We hope to see you all there again next year!



WISH LIST

WANTED: Bath towels, hand towels, washclothes and kitchen towels - new or in good condition.

WANTED: New - combs, hairbrushes and chapstick.

WANTED: Bottled water for Late Night Outreach. Please mark these donations for "LNO."

WANTED: New softball duffle bag that holds bats, balls and gloves. Contact Leslie at (206) 374-0866 ext. 116.

All donations are tax-deductible and can be dropped off at our building anytime Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Volunteer Spotlight on Holly Robertson

*By Kerri Hodge
Development Events Manager*

Ever pull up a fresh pair of socks and feel them almost crackle with newness? We all know the feeling. That's a coveted sensory experience we're able to give the youth every day in the drop-in center. One self-care volunteer put it this way -- "Good feelings come from clean laundry."

Integral to the drop-in center at New Horizons is the self-care area -- individually staffed every time drop-in is open. It takes all 30 self-care volunteers to keep self-care open all month long. When New Horizons remodeled the current space on 3rd Avenue, they asked the youth what they wanted. Out of that discussion came the showers, sinks, a clothing area and laundry facilities.

So now, every time the drop-in center is open, a self-care volunteer monitors the showers, readies the clothing donations now available for the youth, and hands out hygiene items, new socks and new underwear.

One of these unsung heroes is Holly Robertson. Holly, a Vancouver, Washington native has served in self care for three years. She was first introduced to New Horizons at a Dessert Extravaganza that a friend invited her to attend. Then another friend, already a volunteer, suggested she go through training.

Today Holly serves twice a month. "I like that I'm committed, but have flexibility," she said. "It's more of a hospitality role which fits in with my spiritual gifts. Everyone's presence in the youths' lives will influence them in a positive way and this is the role at NHM that I feel works for me."

"I do interact with kids, especially on Saturdays playing games and trying to get to know them. There are definitely kids I know and they know me and come talk to me."

"Once a girl came in pretty upset and because her case manager was busy. I went and had lunch with her and heard her story."

When asked how volunteering has affected her life outside of New Horizons, Holly had this to say, "I learned how Jesus is in everyone and I appreciate all different people. I respect and interact with people as equals. It makes me appreciate too, the things that I have."

Prayers and Blessings at New Horizons

By Gideon Ochieng
Urban Ministry Intern

Gideon, Director of Youth Services at Homeless Children International in Nairobi, Kenya, came to New Horizons as an Urban Ministry Intern. He served here from May 2002 to May 2004. The following is a portion of a paper he wrote about his time here. Darlene Klingebiel, our Agency Administrator, will travel to Nairobi for the month of October this Fall to continue our partnership with Homeless Children International and Gideon.

As days go by, I have discovered something else with this ministry. The willingness to lay down self for the sake of Christ does not come easily. In fact, it is impossible to let go of self for the sake of others. However, this becomes possible when there is willingness to pray. Prayer is a very important part of this ministry. I see people pray when there is sadness, when there is joy, when there is space and when there isn't space, and when they feel like and don't feel like praying. In all the decisions I have witnessed being made here, not a single one was made without an element of prayer. It is here that I have come to believe there is never a limit to how much one can pray.

Each month, one Tuesday afternoon is set aside for prayer. The youth we serve are prayed for by name. It is a time to reflect back on God's goodness and to ask Him for guidance through all the things that the ministry needs to accomplish. Sometimes all that we do is praise the Lord the whole time, mentioning aloud the names of Our Lord. Staff get to be prayed for. Leaders and nations are remembered, too. There is a deliberate creation of space to remember God's goodness and to lift up others before His throne. What has faithfulness in prayer done to this ministry? Lives have been changed and continue to

be changed, prisoners have been set free, those who are blind have gained sight, the lame have begun to walk and the deaf have heard the good news. Hearing this brings joy to my heart because it is the good news that Christ came to give. My life is among those that have been changed. I am willing to take a minute longer to wait upon the Lord. I am willing to trust that He knows and that He sees. Also to know that His timing is best and that He is never too far away from us.



In December of 2002, a father shows up at New Horizons' door on Christmas day with a \$200 check. Sarah answers the door. She asks him if he would like to come in and wait for a receipt for his contribution. He declines and tells Sarah that his son comes here and he just wanted to thank NHM for serving his son. As I reflect on this testimony, two things come to my mind. A father's life has been changed. He misses his child and wishes he was at home. He probably sees he might have been at fault or agonizes over a child who would not listen to him. Maybe he is looking for a way to make up with his son. The other part, however, is that of God coming in disguise. He shows up at the door of New Horizons to remind us that He sees what is going on and that He cares. It may be a message to us that He will provide and that all the youth who come through these doors are His sons and daughters. And even though we already know this, He still wants us to see how far He is willing to come to be with them. This is a simple reminder that 3rd and Cedar is not far from sight. He is constantly watching over this place, especially His children.

If I were a youth

I would probably have these words to say --

I am made to feel like a human being.

When I am out there I am always told how useless I am. No one wants to get to know me.

I am almost thought of as less than.

I do not count in any way.

When I get here, however, I am made to feel different.

I have a space of my own, I can choose to be silent or shout.

I am given room to be me. I am served well.

I am made to feel like a human being.

At least someone cares.

When I leave this place, No one can tell me that I am useless because

I know that it is not true. These people are people too, but they do not judge me, They invite me in, they dine with me.

They know my name. They are simply there for me.

They let me be I. We are a people in this place.

-Gideon Ochieng