

# NEW HORIZONS MINISTRIES

A NEWSLETTER OF HOPE TO FRIENDS OF NEW HORIZONS MINISTRIES  
FEBRUARY 2003

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## The Tool Of Diversity

By Barbara Lee, Outreach Services Coordinator  
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Over the course of this last year, New Horizons has moved ahead in the work of seeking this true justice of racial reconciliation. With the understanding that transformation does not merely occur when hearts alone are changed, our entire core-staff and board members attended a very intense and eye-opening two-day training entitled, "Undoing Institutional Racism (UIR)." The impact of UIR on our agency is one we continue to unfold and process, but, most immediately, the awakening convicted us to see that the race problem is not one made up of a "series of individualistic, discrete incidents," but instead a problem rooted in the systems and structures of our institutions. New Horizons has made a commitment to examine the systems and structures within our agency, assess where we are bruised, sprained, or broken and then seek the wisdom and do the work to heal and change. This work has not been easy and will not be completed overnight. A wonderful mentor of mine explained to me that diversity is not a seal of approval that God stamps on places to call them "good". ***Diversity must be seen as a tool that God has given us to see and experience His kingdom more fully.*** If diversity is a tool we use, this means that, like any other tool, we pick it up, we learn how to use it, we make mistakes, we ask forgiveness when we use it incorrectly and we continue to know, hope and believe that using it truly leads to a fuller work and picture of the Kingdom of God.

When I stepped into the position of Outreach Services Coordinator six months ago, I was absolutely amazed by NHM's commitment to racial reconciliation and diversity. A huge investment had been made for the staff to attend UIR. The staff and board members had also committed to reading the book, *Divided By Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America*, by Michael O. Emerson & Christian Smith, and a five hour debriefing of the book and training were already set on our calendars. There was a part of me that believed we would find solutions to our race problems at NHM in those five hours. Instead, God used that time to continue to show us where we are broken.

From my first day at NHM, I have been asking God, "What is my role in all of this?" I believe God has asked me to be an educator and an advocate. As a person of color, I can offer a viewpoint and a reality different from those of my white co-laborers. I also desire to advocate for the youth by prioritizing the importance of inviting people of color to our volunteer staff. The youth need the opportunity to be in a loving, consistent relationship with a mature Christian adult who also looks like they do and comes from the same cultural background. There are often so many divisions between our station in life in comparison to the youth we serve and the division of color is one God is calling us to move toward changing.

I believe God has called me to be committed to the vision. My shared vision would be that youth of any color or cultural background could step into the drop-in center and be comforted in meeting a staff person who shares the same skin color or language.

I am even more amazed now by the commitment New Horizons has made to racial justice and biblical righteousness as I realize what a long-term work this will be.

*"Reconciliation means seeking true justice—justice both individually and collectively. Without this component, reconciliation is cheap, artificial, and mere words" (Divided by Faith by Michael O. Emerson & Christian Smith)*

## Youth Discoveries

By Leslie Muto,  
Life Resources Coordinator  
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*Leslie Muto has been on staff at NHM for 3 years. In July 2001, she began to develop and coordinate the Life Discovery Program in addition to serving as the full-time Outreach Services Coordinator. Last May, NHM received a grant that allowed us to hire Leslie full time to coordinate and expand the Life Discovery Program. We look forward to seeing this program and the youth grow.*

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The philosophy behind our new Life Discovery Program aims to help youth discover their life potential through opportunities that foster their interests, develop life skills, and encourage self care. This is done through activities that include creative arts, recreation, support groups, and life skill workshops. Since August 2002, there have been 70 Life Discovery activities offered here--an on-going support group for pregnant and parenting youth, ice skating events, cooking classes, computer skills classes, and a service dog training class, just to name a few.

An exciting Life Discovery addition has been the development of the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) last September. Through the YAB, the youth have a voice to make decisions, offer leadership, and develop and implement new services at NHM. YAB meetings are every Monday right after morning drop-in; some of the youth help prepare lunch for the group and then we all sit down for a relatively organized meeting with an agenda, our own group pledge (developed by the youths' own initiative), meeting notes, and a rowdy closing ritual. Approximately 30 youth participated in YAB last fall, with about 9 of those youth becoming committed members by the end of the year. It's been a privilege to be a part of empowering these youth to find their voice and learn how to grapple with the difficult role of being leaders among their peers.

The YAB was able to pull off some noteworthy accomplishments, including establishing and monitoring a Tag Wall in the drop-in center's entry way/lounge area. All of the walls in this area are up for grabs for any youth to tag, write their names, or jot down their thoughts as long as they follow the YAB guidelines--nothing offensive, no political symbols or signs that represent any specific groups, no weapon-related or drug-related references, and no sexual or racist comments. So far, despite a few incidents in the early stages of the Tag Wall's existence, the YAB has succeeded in making this a positive space for encouraging self-expression here among the youth. The YAB also enthusiastically planned our very first Halloween Party at NHM. Every detail was covered--picking out, buying and preparing the food, decorating the center, buying prizes, running the games and music, and advertising the event. It was fun to see their pride and ownership in organizing such a big event at NHM.

As you can see, the Life Discovery Program has been rewarding, not only for the youth, but also for the staff as we see the them grow. We're truly grateful to be able to offer the youth these new opportunities that build confidence and skills in the context of loving relationships.

## Our New Website!

By Rebecca Cedergreen,  
Development & Marketing Manager  
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The new website is up and running and ready for you to view! Thanks to the generosity, time, energy, talent and collaboration of some incredibly dedicated volunteers, we are on the web with a bit more panache than we had been before.

We added some great features to the site. You can now take a virtual tour of the drop-in center. You can check the calendar for events and activities. And we are especially pleased that there is an entire section dedicated to the youth we serve.

We are really excited about the *Graffiti Wall*, where youth can post their art and creations. Whether it is a poem, short story, drawing, painting, or culinary creation, this is their space! There are incredibly talented youth walking through our doors and, although you won't see all of their work, we wanted you get a little taste of it. We are also working with a group of youth on the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) to help create the *Secondhand Smoke* page. You will notice this page is currently "under construction" but over the course of the year we will be working with the youth to create something relevant, a place the youth can have a voice on the web.

Respecting the confidentiality of the youth we serve is always the first priority for us at New Horizons. This project was no exception. When we developed a youth section for the website it was important for us to maintain this trust. We are pleased that the privacy of the youth we serve remains intact, but as you read through the site, we hope you still feel as though you know them a little better.

I hope you enjoy exploring the new website. I hope you visit it a few times a year to check out new information, new creations of the youth, see the faces of new staff, or remind yourself of what you contribute to through your prayers, the sharing of your gifts, your time, your dollars, and your heart. Finally, I hope that the site gives you an excuse to email us, call us, or come by for a tour. We still want to see you!

Continued on page 3

## Our New Website! continued...



Our website, as most of our endeavors, has been a community effort. Web developers from several venues volunteered their time and worked with us for two years in the conception, design and creation of this website.

### Our Project Team

Bob Benoit - Front End Product Developer  
 Christy Jobe - Consultant, Content Editor  
 Sarah Murphy-Kangas - Content Editor  
 Rebecca Black - Project Lead  
 Cari Wade - Design Lead  
 Malia Ansberry - Consultant, Technical Editor  
 Ernie Marquez - Product Design Engineer



Check out our new website @ [www.nhmin.org](http://www.nhmin.org)

*...take a virtual tour ...see the talents of our youth ...view the annual report*

View the newsletters online!



# Thanks for helping make our holiday season so special!

The holidays are often a chaotic time. Here at New Horizons, it's no exception. We had several busy months of planning and preparing to make hundreds of homeless youth feel special and wanted during this emotionally-charged season. We enjoy the opportunity to go that extra mile and to show our youth that they are special and loved.



We are thankful for Alderwood Manor Community Church who make and served both holiday dinners each year.

At our Thanksgiving celebration this year, we added Karaoke to the mix. The evening ended with youth belting out their favorite tunes and just being kids!

We gave out backpacks this year for Christmas. We also gave the youth certificates to McDonalds and the movies as well as stocking stuffers like gloves, hats, candy and fun toys and games.



*We really couldn't pull off our holiday parties without all your help and contributions.*

*Thank you for all your donations,  
 your helping hands and your  
 financial gifts during this time.*



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## Help Needed

The youth are putting on a garage sale in our drop-in center on March 22nd. (date tentative, call to confirm).

This is a great opportunity to teach certain skills to our youth as well as raise money for the Youth Advisory Board.

We are looking for donations of high ticket items such as desirable housewares & tools (as opposed to clothing).

Please don't drop by your donations without

**calling Leslie or Richard**

first to verify we still have a need and room (*our storage is VERY LIMITED*).

**206-374-0866 ext. 116 or 131**



## DATES TO REMEMBER

Volunteer Training  
May 10, 14 & 17



Walk-a-thon  
Saturday, June 14th

Dessert Extravaganza  
Friday, November 7th

