



Youth Receives Praise in the Courtroom

*By Chris Magnusson
former NHM Case Manager*

When we met Jon, he was 14, living on the streets and already addicted to heroin. His addiction originated with his dad — also an addict — who gave Jon heroin at a young age to calm him down.

Jon was a small, lovable, smart-alecky kid who managed to undermine a lot of gatherings even as he endeared himself to the staff.

At 19, he was arrested for heroin. Because his record as an adult was not too serious, he ended up in what they call Drug Court. In Drug Court, people are given a chance to accept treatment and supervision, and if they graduate the program the offense is removed from their record.

He was put on methadone, and sent to individual and group counseling. Having dropped out of school in the seventh grade, he was told to get a GED, which he got on the first try without any studying. He suddenly could do something with his time other than work on getting heroin all day, every day. His grandmother let him move into her tiny basement. I started working with him as a case manager/mentor, enrolled him in a pre-employment program, and made contact with his grandmother and his treatment counselor. This counselor told me that their staff was stunned at his performance; most

had estimated he would only last two weeks on the drug court program. Homeless people generally cannot make all the necessary arrangements and appointments to succeed in programs like this. On average, 30% of the people who start with this program graduate. Jon's life was truly being redeemed, even as he faced many, many other obstacles—health problems, despondency, and memories of horrible things that had happened to him.

He graduated, and invited me to the ceremony at the county courthouse. While I expected a stiff, brief affair, instead I found a packed, boisterous courtroom. There were about twelve or fifteen people graduating on this day — people who for one to two years checked in with the court every two to four weeks to make sure their program was going as planned, occasionally being 'disciplined' if they had gone off track. Employers, coworkers, counselors,

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Come Out for Beautiful Music and Help New Horizons

Breath of Aire, a 60-member concert choir, will be performing February 29th at the Aurora Nazarene Church in North Seattle at 7:00pm with the majority of proceeds going directly to New Horizons.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased in advance by calling (206)542-2111 or at the door the night of the show. New Horizons will be using the intermission of the concert to share more about the ministry and street youth. Aurora Nazarene Church is located at 1900 175th in Shoreline.

The musical cross-section of the choir's performance repertoire ranges from sacred hymns to acappella to negro spirituals to unique arrangements of classics. Founded in 2000, the choir has been performing throughout the Puget Sound area for the benefit of non-profit organizations.

For directions to Aurora Nazarene Church and more information about Breath of Aire go to www.nhmin.org.

Youth Finds Praise

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grandmothers, aunts, children, friends – probably 150 people were there to celebrate the amazing achievement of these men and women. They were lined up in the Jury Box for the occasion – not the usual place of accusation they were used to taking. The judge affirmed and congratulated each of them, saying kind personal things about their patience, courage, etc. They each had a chance to address us. Just about everybody attributed their recovery to God, even as they also thanked the judge and the court. The clerks, having known these people over the last few years, wept openly as did most of us in the room. A recent graduate with a beautiful voice sang to the new graduates. There was even cake and balloons.

I had never seen anything like it. This was a form of justice that I did not think our system was capable of delivering. I was grateful that these successes were being acknowledged in a place I had come to associate so strongly with indifference, if not outright hostility, toward the poor and homeless. But more than that, I was simply glad for Jon, and for a moment where the truly valuable was being valued by so many levels of society.

Client's name was changed to protect his identity.

WISH LIST

WANTED: Donated 35mm cameras to be used in youth photography class

WANTED: Development Team Volunteer – Person who would assist with development events (fundraisers, open houses and with some data entry; 4-10 hours per week.) If interested, please contact Kerri Hodge @ (206) 374-0866 Ext. 133.

WANTED: Groups of 2 -8 people to purchase, cook, & serve a hot breakfast once a month. Breakfast is served at 10am. If interested please contact Naomi A. Yonemura @ (206) 374-0866 Ext. 130.

WANTED: Items for Late Night Outreach: apple cider in individual packets, small bottles (16.4 oz or 1.02 lbs) of propane fuel for a Coleman heater, and large umbrellas.

**Lace'em Up
for**



New Horizons

The 14th Annual New Horizons Walk-a-thon is scheduled for Saturday, June 19. If you'd like to be contacted for early sign-up, notify Kerri Hodge by phone at (206) 374-0866, ext. 133 or by emailing kerrih@nhmin.org.



Volunteer Spotlight

Marian Carson, Serving Since 1987

by Kerri Hodge
Development Events Manager

After fifteen years of volunteer service to New Horizons, Marian Carson might want to take a break. But this accounting assistant who volunteers her Tuesdays is dedicated.

Marian's first job with New Horizons was going through clothing donations. "We sorted clothes in the basement where the toilet ran over," she explained thinking back to New Horizons' previous home at 1406 Summit. She did that for several months, and then gradually started doing other jobs — answering phones, assisting in the office, helping with mailings, and sending out letters.

Once New Horizons moved into the new building, Marian worked alongside Kay Isbell, NHM's bookkeeper. When Kay retired from New Horizons, Marian took over some of her duties.

"Two years ago, when Marian started volunteering with Accounts Payable and inputting data into our accounting software, she had no previous experience," said Linda Ruthruff, Associate Director. "However, she was willing to learn and wanted to make herself available to help in whatever capacity we needed."

"She's always looking for ways to save NHM money or to make money for us. Back when we were up on the hill, we had pallets of soda donated to us. She encouraged us to recycle all the cans. Then she took them in her truck and drove to Portland to get recycling money for them!"

Marian also spearheads NHM mailings. She organizes a group of volunteers, including three of her sisters who live locally, to help



stuff, stamp and address appeal letters, special event invitations and more. For larger jobs, Marian calls on her friends in her prayer group. In fact, if you've ever received a hand-addressed letter from NHM, that was due to the hard-working pens of Marian and friends. According to Marian, they figured the December appeal took 62 people hours. Her efforts are key to NHM's development work.

Among her favorite NHM memories, Marian cites her first volunteer appreciation banquet. "I was so excited about that," she said. Another banquet honoring the volunteers she remembers fondly because it was held at a barn with square dancing and homemade ice cream. "We've had weddings and parties and funerals. A lot of nice things have happened here — some sad." She said in the past she knew all the staff. Today they are "coming so fast I can't keep track; back then I knew everybody."

Marian turns 80 years young this month. "You don't expect to live forever, but I've lived longer than I expected."

It's Marian's youthful exuberance that we enjoy so much, and we are so grateful to have her contribution to the ministry.

Ways To Give

Did you know that New Horizons Ministries is one of 557 organizations in the Greater Seattle area benefiting from United Way?



If your company or organization sponsors a United Way fund drive, you can designate your gift to go to New Horizons Ministries.

It's that simple.

Training Ground

Whether you are interested in volunteering with NHM or simply want to learn more about youth involved in street culture, our training is a good place to start.

Our next training will be all day on May 15 & 22 and the evening of May 19. The 20-hour training will cover topics that include Street Culture, Prostitution, Chemical Dependency, Relational Counseling, Spiritual Formation and Theology of Ministry at NHM. Registration fee is \$50, and partial scholarships are available. Contact Sarah Murphy-Kangas for more information: (206) 374-0866 Ext. 110 or sarahmk@nhmin.org.

Mentorship Program Going Strong

by Naomi Nguyen, Mentorship Program Manager

Two years ago NHM kicked off its Adaptive Life Skills Mentorship Program which was designed to partner youth with a professional in a structured work environment.

Mentorships allow youth to learn relational skills necessary for future employment, managing home and/or formal social settings. Alongside their mentor, youth learn to work under authority and they learn to ask for and receive help. They learn positive work ethics and how to be part of a team. The program helps youth identify areas of employment and career interests, determine their vocational skill level, and manage the

intersection of personal and job-related stressors.

We have in-house mentorships and community mentorships. *In-house* mentorships are designed specifically for youth who would benefit from learning basic social and employment skills and need more one-on-one time. They are paired with a NHM staff member.

Community mentorships offer employment opportunities for youth who already possess some level of employable skills and know their vocational interests.

Mentors from all walks of life who share the same passion — desiring to contribute something positive through a one-on-one relationship, offering training,

education, and most importantly, their time and commitment to these youth — are invited to join New Horizons in this endeavor to provide vocational opportunities through mentorships.

In addition to mentorships, the program offers weekly Life Skills Workshops. The workshops enhance the vocational training experience by covering additional topics like budgeting, goal setting and decision-making, healthy eating, communication, self-reflection and journaling.

We have been privileged to celebrate the successes of many youth in this program, and look forward to all the good things to come.