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Hospitality Mentee Letter

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pitality Mentorship" My mentor is really a great person she has a big heart and a bigger smile to match, and we get along good! And I feel relaxed with the fact that I could probably tell her anything in confidence that she will understand me and not judge me for any mistake I do. So I'm just glad that she's my mentor and thankful that I can call her my friend! Anyway what I do is cook, clean, and help out and do what I can do before the food group gets here. I even make appetizers for them, to show that I do appreciate them for all those hot meals I ate in drop-in when I had no food to eat.

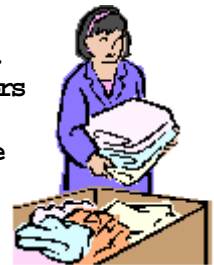
So to all food groups who come to NHM to feed us I just want you to know that you are appreciated and I thank you for your hot meals and warm hearts and your time in making everything you bring here to NHM for people you don't know.

From my heart to all of yours,

Tonya

Got new or in good condition BLANKETS?

Warm blankets are needed. Please ask friends, neighbors & family if they have blankets they can spare. As the weather grows colder, it is harder to keep warm. A blanket can make a big difference. Thanks!



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



Hospitality Mentee Shares Her Gratitude

Tonya is a youth who participated in New Horizons mentorship program in September 2004. Her letter was edited for space.

Hi, my name is Tonya and I'd like to share a little bit about my life with all you who read this newsletter.

I was homeless for a few months before knowing about New Horizons. And I started coming to drop-in around July or August of last year. I really didn't know what to expect when I came in, but after a few weeks of coming here I started to feel relaxed with the idea of coming to NHM just about every day. NHM gave me a place to hang out for a while so I could take a shower, eat, sleep, chill, use the phone, wash my clothes, and get clothes from the clothing bank whenever I felt I needed something new to wear. They supported me in ways I couldn't do for myself nor could anyone else. The staff made me feel very welcomed, and

it was home for a few hours every time I came back to NHM.

After about 4-5 months of coming to drop-in, I began a new friendship with a lady who worked in the upstairs part of NHM. As we got more acquainted we started a list of goals that the both of us thought up that I could try to get done, or work on together.

Months went by and I was still looking for housing, I was very happy when I found out that there were openings at this place (Clean and Sober House) that my friend got into. My case manager and I talked to the lady who ran the house and filled out the application. We had a good feeling about me getting in. At the end of the week, she called me with the good news, I was so happy that I could hardly believe it was true.

The same week I got accepted into

housing I was also selected to be in the mentorship program at NHM. Which was another goal I was able to scratch off my list. I've been off the streets for about 7 weeks and working in the mentorship for 6 weeks. I love my new life because everything is going so great, finally after a whole year of being homeless.

I think of NHM as my family because they helped me when I wasn't in the greatest situation, all the staff at NHM gave me the support I needed when nobody was there for me. I'm very grateful that NHM has the best people working/volunteering here, where us as kids can come hangout and see that there are people that do care and will try their best to get to know us, won't judge us, and help us as much as they can.

The mentorship I'm in is, "The Hos-

(continued on the back page)



Global Partnership in Kenya

*by Darlene Klingebiel
Agency Administrator*

As some of you may know I was blessed with the wonderful opportunity of being the forerunner for our Global Ministries Partnership and have returned safely from Nairobi, Kenya where I was able to work with Homeless Childrens International-Kenya, www.HCIKenya.org.

It was an encouraging and humbling experience. It was encouraging to see the parallels with where New Horizons has been, and be able to give them practical ways to grow from what we learned here. It felt like such an amazing gift to be able to show them ways to implement tools we use to maintain a unified vision and ways we support one another in our jobs. In choosing to look at the hard things and walk alongside others different than ourselves we can only grow in our need for more of Christ in our lives.

Northwest Graduate School Credit for Attending NHM Training

You can now take NHM staff training for college credit. Each year NHM provides a three-day training for potential volunteers and interested community members. The training equips laity to serve Homeless Runaway Adolescents.

Training topics include, Street culture, chemical dependency, understanding the justice system and philosophy of ministry as well as other relevant subjects. Participants taking the training for credit



would meet prior to and following training dates to complete graduate school contact hour requirements. Students would complete journals and

small assignments that would reflect an understanding of the subject matter. The Professor of record would be Dr. Ron Ruthruff.

Training is held tri-annually in May, September, and January. To register for credit, contact Katrina Sharpe at Northwest Graduate School, (206) 264-9100. Space is limited, only five for credit spots are available each training.

Spotlight on Late Night Outreach



By Christie Schmid
Counselor/Case Manager

Late Night Outreach is a ministry of New Horizons that works with young women involved in prostitution. The Late Night Outreach Team is a “presence” in areas of prostitution every Friday night 10:30 pm to 3:00 am. We offer coffee, hot chocolate, medical supplies, hygiene items, harm reduction support, a wide variety of services and referrals (from advocacy in court, domestic violence counseling, medical support and more). We seek to offer healthy and loving relationships that exemplify the love of God. Our desire is to reach out and offer support and empowerment through the tangible services we offer and the relationships we build.

The past months have been blessed with many opportunities to share life with these women. We have had several women involved in our job mentorship program-working with our administrative assistant and mural team. We have enjoyed partnering with Home Alive for self-defense and boundary classes, offering opportunities for women to learn about safety and violence reduction within the community. We have sat with women as they mourn the domestic violence within their relationships, processing the physical and emotional pain they’ve experienced. These times have also brought the honor of watching them hope for more. We have prayed for healing and wholeness with women as they have sought support through prayer. Countless women have had their medical and dental health cared for through our dental van and partnering medical services.

We have enjoyed celebrating and walking with women through the everyday realities of life, as they experience pregnancy, mourn the loss of parents, look for jobs and celebrate birthdays. Our Late Night Team is truly blessed to know these amazing women of strength, tenacity and courage. Thank you for the many ways your partnership makes this ministry possible.

How you can help...

Supplies needed for Late Night Outreach are listed below and can be dropped off at New Horizons during normal business hours. Please label packages with “LNO.”

Small Propane Fuel Tanks for our portable heater (size: 16.4 oz/ 1.02 lbs.)
Black Stretchy Gloves
Individual Hot Chocolate Packets
Individual Hot Cider Packets

Various Snacks
Granola Bars
Fruit Snacks
Individually wrapped Nuts/
Trail Mix
Individually wrapped Cookies
Candy

Reflections on the Mural

By Leslie Muto
Life Resources Coordinator, Mural Project Lead

Last August, 50 youth along with 30 staff and volunteers and a professional mural team, worked together over 2 weeks to install a 100- foot mural on the south wall of New Horizons. The goal was to give the youth an opportunity to explore their creativity and to give them a public setting to tell their story. The two weeks concluded with a public unveiling ceremony where 200 people from the community along with the media came to see the finished mural and to hear from some of the youth speak about their experience with the project. The following are some excerpts from two of the youth's speeches.

"I was once a homeless youth of Seattle, now a youth part of the Mural Project. I've endured and overcome numerous obstacles to get to this point, to be able to contribute a message through art to youth and to the community. My intentions are to materialize a like experience of those who have walked a similar path, with hope that they too can utilize this mural to gain courage, strength, and perseverance from this once ugly green wall... now a work of art.

I hope and pray that maybe this will reach out to at least one person, one youth so that they will see our work and feel, understand, and maybe even relate to our art, our experiences, our lives." ~Amanda S, 19 yrs. old

"I am a part of the New Horizons Youth Advisory Board and I got involved in the Mural Project because the mural has to deal with my life and with my friends' lives...From this experience I've learned never to give up, to have faith. I learned to believe I can do something I thought I couldn't. I've grown a little. I have more patience than I ever had before. I learned to control my anger and speak to the person I have issues with. I learned to fade paint so the colors blend together. I now know that me and my friends are more creative and more noticed than we thought.

The mural communicates our life. It communicates what we go through every day. The mural shows our pain, our joy... who we care about, and who we feel cares about us. This mural says that we are just kids without a home. We are just people like everyone else. The mural says just treat us like people.

The significance of this wall is so people in the community, the police, the mayor, anyone who passes by our wall can see what kids at New Horizons are really about...Maybe with the mural, people will stop stereotyping homeless youth and maybe the youth and the community can get along." ~Hershey, 16 yrs. old

The Person Behind the Mask

There is a dark tunnel
before me
murky shadows of ones
face,
are all that I can see
eventually disappearing
without a trace.

Gone is the light
once there in early
childhood,
gone is not the inner fight
against bad or good.

Day in and day out,
shadows
of existence dance out of
my memory,
and lock themselves into a
room
to which they stole my
key.

Inner strength against pain
grows into quiet courage,
shutting out the burning
rain
I slip out of my soul's cage.

And breathe life once again
realizing that for the
first time in awhile,
I was revealing the person
behind the mask.

Richard Haube
August 17, 2004

Richard's poem is featured
in the mural on the corner
of 3rd Ave. and Cedar.

