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How You Can Help!

Drop In & Outreach Services

If you are interested in mobilizing your community to conduct a clothing or hygiene item drive please contact our Volunteer Resources Coordinator Aaron Romero at 206-374-0866 x. 107 or aaronr@nhmin.org.

Also, don't forget that our next training is coming up soon:

'Learning to Serve Youth Involved in Street Activity'

May 12th and 19th, 2007

Late Night Outreach

Supplies still needed for LNO are listed below and can be dropped off at New Horizons during business hours. Please label packages with 'LNO!'

- +Scarves
- +Gloves (solid color)
- +Chocolate
- +Small Umbrellas
- +Fruit Snacks
- +Wooden Coffee Stir Sticks

Thank you for supporting our ministry!

I N S I D E L O O K



New Horizons Ministries Quarterly Newsletter

February 2007

Reflections From Sabbatical

Contributed by Rita Nussli
Executive Director

I had the honor of taking a three month sabbatical during the months of July, August, and September of 2006. This sabbatical was in celebration of 20 years in my role as Executive Director.

I had three goals during my time away. The first was to *REST*; to sleep, play, and read. To be with family and friends that I don't usually see and to experience large quantities of time alone with no responsibilities or tasks. The second was to *REVITALIZE*; to be filled with a new vitality, experiencing the presence of the incarnate Christ in a deeper way. Finally, to *RENEW*; to have God's Kingdom nourish me afresh, equipping me unceasingly for what God is calling me to do.

I watched dozens of my 17 year old son's baseball games, and had the pleasure of seeing him hit a grand slam homerun during a tournament in Walla Walla. I went for a walk with my dog everyday and took naps many afternoons, spent a week at Orcas Island (thanks Pam and Marty) during the best weather of the summer seeing eagles each day and even a whale! I spent a week at Warm Beach Camp with my extended family and had a week on the Oregon Coast with a lifelong friend.

At week 6 of my time away I realized that I was completely and totally rested (wow!), and I still had 6 weeks left! I read and read and read! 'The Sense of the Call' by Marva Dawn, 'Soul Feast' by Margerie Thompson, 'Good News and Good Works' by Ron Sider (my favorites), hours in the Word,

and 3 great mysteries. I had lots of time to further develop the practice of spiritual disciplines as a daily walk of life, with a primary focus on solitude, silence, bible study, meditation, and fasting.

I believe I heard some things very clearly from God, not only for me but for this Ministry to homeless and street-involved young people that we all love so much. First, I heard that God's intentions for me, us (NHM and our kids), are deeply good. I heard a clear call for us to seek a deeper intimacy with our Lord, and to spend more time in scripture and prayer both corporately and individually. It became very clear that a business for our youth is essential and housing for those

(cont. on page 2)

NHM in Vietnam & Cambodia

Contributed by Ron Ruthruff
Director of Ministry & Program Development

In an effort to support New Horizons Ministries ongoing commitment to establishing global partnerships, my wife Linda and I recently traveled to Vietnam & Cambodia. It was my second trip in the last two years, and the first for Linda. Mercer Island Presbyterian Church sponsored our trip, and two doctoral students and a delegation from the Presbyterian Church accompanied us while we visited four cities in Vietnam and one in Cambodia. Our purpose for this trip was threefold:

1) To continue building friendships with government officials and church leadership

in the hopes of bridging the gap between evangelism and humanitarian aid. Also, to spend time learning from the wide variety of organizations serving the marginalized in these two countries.

2) Getting to know organizations that work with street kids and exchanging information that can enhance our service delivery strategies.

3) For me to serve as professor of record for two doctoral students who were receiving academic credit from this learning experience.

Differences indeed exist between homeless youth and street-involved

young people in Vietnam and Cambodia and those here in the United States. In the U.S, we generally see our kids moving to the street at the onset of adolescence. According to research almost half of this country's street youth are refugees from the foster care system and a vast majority have come from abusive families. In the words of author Jennifer Toth, 'U.S children are orphans, but orphans of the living.' In contrast, in some developing countries such as Vietnam and Cambodia kids are

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2006 DESSERT CONGRATULATIONS!!

New Horizons Ministries was richly blessed at the 2006 Dessert Extravaganza!

Together we raised over **\$203,513 (cash/pledges)!**

Thank you so much for all that you did to make the 2006 Dessert our most successful fundraising event to date!

'Vietnam & Cambodia' (cont. from front page)

being pushed to the street at a much earlier age due to issues of armed conflict, AIDS, and poverty. Some of the kids we met were as young as five or six. Some however are still connected with their families but, these rural youth are sent to the city to earn money to take back home. These children contribute to their family's welfare by selling gum, books, and postcards; and also by shining shoes and serving as impromptu tour guides in the market. In addition to those 'working' street children there are also many who are on the streets because they are 'orphans' in the truest sense of the word.

I found another difference between adolescent youth culture in the States and that of Vietnam and Cambodia. Starting in the 1950's, the U.S experienced a revolution which moved many Americans off the farm and toward a much more urbanized lifestyle. As a result, high school, rock and roll music, and the emerging medium of television brought forth an entirely new youth culture. Hair, clothes, and music became what defined this age group and 'Adolescence' was born. We did observe an emerging youth culture in Southeast Asia - but not to the same degree we see it here at home.

Like the U.S industrial revolution of the 1950's, Vietnam, and to a lesser degree Cambodia, are both experiencing an industrial or technological revolution. America's urban industrial revolution brought labor laws and job opportunities to the city that allowed one household to be supported by one provider as opposed to the whole family working the farm. Youth now had more time with their peers and less time in mentoring agricultural based relationships. This perpetuated the youth culture and it also moved many Americans from extended families in rural areas to primary family models in the city. Families moved to the cities for jobs leaving extended family back home. However, city infrastructures including housing, schools, hospitals, and food sources lagged behind jobs. Urban problems such as substandard housing stemmed from this process.

Some of the same issues are now occurring in Southeast Asia. Around Phnom Penh, Cambodia, one sees concentric circles of poor neighborhoods emerging around the urban center of the city. Job opportunities wait in the city, but there are no schools, running water, or healthcare. Kids from these poor communities form groups and use what little money they can accumulate to purchase inhalants such as paint. Using drugs curbs their physical hunger and connects them with a community of other young drug users. The kids in Hanoi and Saigon come to work in the city where they are coaxed into crime, sex, and drug sales with the allure of gold, cash, and clothes - much like disadvantaged kids all over America.

We were able to visit many organizations working with street youth and had great conversations about the issues discussed above. In our conversations we also identified common denominators regarding service delivery. What we identify as foundations for serving homeless and street-involved young people here in Seattle, we also see as vital for successfully providing service in Vietnam and Cambodia. The first common foundation needed regarding service delivery is *outreach*. We all agreed it was crucial to visit with the kids where they hang out - where they use drugs - where they prostitute. Outreach provides a bridge to connecting youth with programs that are in place. The second foundation is *relationship*. Kids respond to programs and services because they are 'known' by outreach workers. Over and over again we heard that kids are transformed when they are simply valued and loved. Finally, we see the need for the foundation of *community*. It is vital that we rally around kids and foster a community that they are effectively and consistently invited to be a part of. As we talked together, we celebrated that despite living on opposite sides of the world, we knew that these ideas are the philosophical underpinnings that drive the best practices for serving homeless and street-involved young people worldwide.

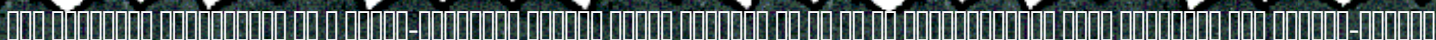
'Rita's Sabbatical' (cont. from front page)

youth who are working, either owned and operated by NHM or established in partnership is key to completing the third part of our mission statement: 'equipping youth to leave street life.'

Although I was affirmed in my leadership and have a clear passion for the years ahead I also heard a clear call to create a succession plan of leadership for the future of the ministry. God also clearly provided me a sense of peace that He would provide for all the work He is calling us to do. I encourage you to read the following scriptures and hear Jesus' clear statement that we should ask for what we need, and that all we do should glorify Him and bear fruit: John 14:11-14, John 15:7-8 & 16-17; John 16:23-24. I believe each of you will be part of our journey to give God glory in the way we love and serve homeless and street-involved young people.

I am *RESTED, REVITALIZED, AND RENEWED!*

'If you remain in me and words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.' - John 15:7-8



Street Vision

Contributed by Hillary Prag
Life Discovery Volunteer

1. *Rule of Thirds*
2. *Fill the Frame*
3. *Leading Lines*
4. *Bleeding Text*
5. *Positive and Negative Space*

Ask any youth who has attended a Life Discovery photojournalism

workshop at NHM and they will, at the very least, tell you that these five strange subjects sound familiar. These five basic elements of composition are intuitive to photographers who have a solid sense of design. Untrained eyes don't know why a particular photograph strikes them or why another one caused them to turn the page, but it is in fact these five very elements that play into the degree of visual impact that a photography brings to its viewer.

Over the past four months, NHM's young photographers have gone to war with their cameras and brought back images that not only have *visual impact*, but images that tell stories so powerfully that any paid photojournalist would be challenged to create them. The stories of our youth are told with such honesty and vulnerability that I often wonder if I should be looking at these photographs.

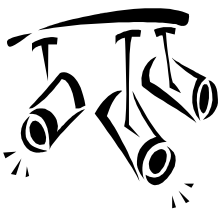
The world is fascinated with stories of life on the streets and has glorified journalists who are willing to disguise themselves and live among the homeless for weeks on end. But the images they capture succeed only in portraying a 'rich' man's perspective of someone else's life. In NHM's photojournalism class the photography is exploration, not propaganda. The young photojournalists here are not interested in extracting compassion or pity from their audience. As much as I try to teach them to be aware of a larger audience and what will be appealing to another set of eyes, they remain uninterested in entertaining anyone. Instead, they fascinate one another each and every week when the photographs are spread out on the table and they see their lives in 4 x 6 inch segments.

This is when the laughter begins, and this is what has surprised me the most about teaching photography to street youth - the only moments they have asked me to feel sorry for them are when their cameras are stolen. Coming into this project, I expected that putting a camera into the hands of a homeless and street-involved youth was giving a voice to desperation. Instead, we've laughed at images of people jumping in puddles, getting their hair wet in a fountain, smiling with a police officer, or singing at the top of their lungs holding an 'I want weed' sign. We've given a voice to their joy. That's not to say that there aren't photographs of the dark moments in their lives over the past few months. It's simply evidence that they are innately good journalists. They are willing to faithfully document the light and dark side of every story. They are willing to *go there* week after week and hold their negatives up to the light.

This isn't something I taught them in class.

Please Join Us for Street Vision's
Grand Finale Celebration!
featuring the culminating work of Seattle's urban youth photographers
Thursday, March 1st, 2007 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm
The Triangle Art Gallery
Seattle YMCA, 909 4th Avenue

NHM Welcomes Our New Gift Process Manager!!!



New Horizons is thrilled to welcome Mamie D. Hill to the Development Team as our new Gift Process Manager! Mamie comes to us with an amazing history of administration and database management skills as well as experience in the military. Her most recent employment was with the City of Seattle's Public Safety Civil Service where she eventually served as Administrative Staff Assistant. We are very excited about all that she will bring to this position!

Mamie has three daughters, Felyce, Yvonne, and Angelina, and raised them all with the assistance of her Mother and other siblings. She has been blessed with five grandchildren, and also has 3 great-grandchildren! She loves God, her family, travelling, and sports.

When you need to make changes to your mail or donation information, Mamie Hill will be your contact, mamieh@nhmin.org, 206-374-0866 x. 124.

