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New Horizons Ministries Quarterly Newsletter

July 2006

"I'm Not Afraid of You and a Fork": A Word on Violence at NHM

Written by Josh Wall
Development Intern

One teen threatens another across the dinner table with a fork; a young man fingers a knife in case trouble starts with another guy inside the room he is about to enter; a boy, unable to gain admittance for his over-aged friend, throws a glass of milk at his Case Manager; and the police show up at the tail end of a fist-fight. It sounds like the prison yard or the roughest parts of our biggest cities but these are all true stories from the drop-in center right here at New Horizons. At NHM, we always work to provide a safe haven for our kids, a place of rest and restoration, but violence is a very real and sometimes unavoidable part of the work that we do. This is because violence is a very real part of the lives of our kids.

According to Michael Cox, our Chaplain, "physical altercations on NHM property are a reflection of what's happening on the street." For those of us not standing in Michael's shoes, we don't have a clear understanding of what this really means; we've never experienced street life, and we've not had many face-to-face interactions with those that have. Talking with co-worker Edward Fedele, Michael was kind enough however to offer some insight for our greater community into the world of street youth violence.

The very first thing Michael mentioned is that the threat of death (specifically murder) is very real for a young man or woman living on the streets of Seattle. Stabbings and beatings are common experiences

for our kids are far more likely ends than dying of old age. Recently, Michael told us about one of our kids out on the street that was jumped, beaten, and hit in the head with a beer bottle. His nine assailants left him with a split jaw and broken cheekbone but fortunately, they also left him the remainder of his life. Sometimes this reality of violence is fueled by racial tension, other times it stems from a vying for power within the loose social hierarchy of the street youth culture. Often it is nothing more than bravado, an unhealthy coping mechanism to cover up trauma, or simply a way to survive. Interestingly though, there are also times when violence serves as a kind of street law, used to punish individuals who have broken the code of

(continued on page 2)

New Horizons Welcomes 3 New Food Groups!

We are so excited to welcome Pastor Lawrence Willis and the church family from **True Vine of Holiness** as our 5th Sunday Dinner Food Group! We are also thrilled to have **University Presbyterian Church** join us on the first Tuesday nights of each month, and **New Hope Church Seattle** every first Sunday night!

As you know, NHM works to provide hot and healthy meals to the youth that we serve at every drop-in shift that is open. We currently have the following dates open for new food groups:

1st Thursday morning of the month
2nd Friday morning of the month
5th Monday morning of the month
5th Thursday morning of the month

If you are interested in serving meals at any of these times, please contact our **Hospitality Coordinator, Jennifer Loyd**, at 206-374-0866 x.125 or jenniferl@nhmin.org

How you can help.....

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

- +Cans/Bottles of soda
- +Individual bottled waters
- +Granola Bars
- +Fruit Snacks
- +Individually wrapped trail mix/nuts
- +Individually wrapped cookies
- +Candy

Also, please begin thinking about blanket and sleeping bag donations for the fall and winter! It may seem a long time from now, but thinking and planning ahead will help to ensure that our kids stay warm this coming winter.

Thanks for all that you do to support our kids!

NHM thanks a Man of Iron with a Heart of Gold



Very few people would question the fact that the Ironman triathlon is one of the most grueling events in the world of sport. The passion, commitment, and discipline are truly inspirational, especially when the participants are riding for a cause.

New Horizons' very own Self-Care volunteer Andrew Mullenix recently raised over \$3,000 for our ministry as part of the Janus Charity Challenge! The JCC is an innovative fundraising program that empowers Ironman participants to raise funds for the charity that he or she is most passionate about. We are so blessed that Andrew chose NHM, and would like to express our most sincere gratitude for all of his hard work and determination.

In addition to providing such amazing financial support to NHM, Andrew did successfully finish the race 199th out of over 2,500 total participants! A big thank you also goes to Andrew's wife, Chandra, for all of her hard work and encouragement. We urge all of you to pray and cheer for Andrew as he races once again in the 2007 Ironman!



2006!

New Horizons would like to say thank you so much to everyone who participated and helped out at our 16th annual Walk-a-thon!

With your help we were able to raise over \$30,000 for Seattle's homeless youth! All of these generous donations will go to support our outreach and drop-in services.

This year we were thrilled to have almost 100 people join us who had never been to the Walk before! This was a huge blessing as we continue to see our community grow and become more diverse.

We hope that you will ALL join us again in 2007!

Please provide any feedback on the 2006 Walk to:

edwardf@nhmin.org

Violence (cont. from front page)

the street by perpetrating certain crimes like theft of another kid's property, or rape. Michael also pointed out that it is not only the youth that create violence within their community. Police brutality is another reality for our kids. So, whether it's a one-on-one confrontation to prove dominance, a stabbing for survival, or a group beating for the sake of street justice, the presence of outright violence in the lives of our kids is real. Violence does not discriminate or consider location, race, group, time, or circumstance; our youth never know when the next blow will come.

Being in relationship with kids steeped in this kind of violent reality, it would be foolish to think that we at NHM would be immune to its effects. The question is: How do we respond when the violence of the street comes into our drop-in center? The answers to this question are as plentiful as the various situations that we encounter here. Sometimes staff members and volunteers are able to diffuse a situation through reasonable conversation before any altercation begins. Verbal interference is almost always the best strategy however, occasionally some physical presence in necessary to calm a situation down. Our staff are all familiar with de-escalation techniques which can be crucial during drop-in. Most times though, after a 'cool down' period our kids are able to talk with Case Managers and Volunteers, getting to the emotional and situational roots of what really happened. In some circumstances however, the best course of action is simply to remove a hostile youth from drop-in and require a conversation and consequences before a youth can return.

In Michael's view, there are two things that all staff and volunteers should always do and keep in mind in violent situations. The first thing to remember is that: "the kids are not violent. It's a spirit of violence upon them because of their upbringing; having to beat the crap out of the other foster kids to make sure you get lunch or so you don't get raped." Second, the only way to walk with our kids through violent situations is to confront it. In Michael's 'fork incident' cited at the beginning of this article, the silverware-wielding youth was quickly approached by a female volunteer who was unwilling to tolerate the four-pronged threat at the table. When confronted about what exactly his plans were, the young man spun around, now pointing his 'weapon' at her. She looked at the fork, looked at the youth, and said with a raised eyebrow, "I'm not afraid of you and a *fork*." With a tinge of humor, this tale is exemplary of the only way to prevent youth violence with our kids: standing up to it. Michael and Edward joke that confrontations like this require us to speak 'street-kid love language.' In all seriousness though, Michael shared that "in the end, they're always relieved, however badly we may handle a violent situation. They're relieved that someone did something."

One of the worst forms of violence that Michael has encountered in serving our kids is "regular people walk by, not acknowledging them, not seeing them - confirming that they don't exist, that they're not real." For this reason, when there is a violent situation at NHM and caring staff step in to engage, it often turns out to be a great catalyst for change in a youth's life. A caring adult willing to walk through hurts and fears that no one else has heard, offering love and wisdom to a bleak and lonely situation is often all our kids have never had and always needed, always wanted. If a fight at the drop-in center leads to dialogue, leads to the truth, leads to restoration, and leads away from the streets, New Horizons will continue to never fear engaging a young man and his fork.

Coffee??

Contributed by Rebecca Cedergreen
Development Director

Every day just before we open the drop-in center, chances are you'll find one of our Counselor Case Managers or Outreach volunteers making fresh coffee for our kids. Whether it's morning or evening drop-in, our youth simply LOVE to drink coffee. They drink it black, with cream, with sugar, and sometimes with so much cream and sugar I wonder if it still qualifies as coffee at all!

As you could probably guess, Seattle has the most coffee shops per capita in the entire Western United States, adding up to 2.8 shops per every 10,000 citizens! We all drink coffee, and it crosses all cultural, economic, and social lines. We drink it at home, at work, with friends, day or night, homeless or jobless in this city, and all of our citizens, just like our kids, LOVE coffee. We especially love good coffee, good, socially conscious 'green coffee.'

Motivo Coffee recognizes this market trend here in our city and wants to maximize potential on behalf of the youth that we serve here at NHM!

Beginning August 1st, 2006 anyone who loves a good cup of coffee and appreciates ingenuity can visit the NHM website @ www.nhmin.org and click on the Motivo coffee hyperlink and order coffee. Order it for your home, your office, or as a gift and know that 10% of the purchase price is donated to NHM and the homeless kids who gave start to this exciting new partnership!



Chapter 1

I walk down the street
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk
I fall in
I am lost and I am hopeless
It is not my fault
It takes forever to find a way out

Chapter 2

I walk down the same street
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk
I pretend I do not see it
I fall in again
I cannot believe I am in the same place
It is not my fault
It still takes a long time to get out

Chapter 3

I walk down the same street
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk
I see it there
I still fall in - it is a habit
My eyes are open
I know where I am
It is my fault
I get out quickly

Chapter 4

I walk down the same street
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk
I walk around it

Chapter 5

I walk down a different street

2006 DESSERT EXTRAVAGANZA

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THIS IMPORTANT ANNUAL EVENT!

oving in the way of Jesus, equipping youth to leave street life.

