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The Work (cont. from front)

use drugs. One of the youth I've spent time with was brought to the street by her mother when she was only 11. She is a 3rd generation heroin addict and evidence that the sins of the parent often are passed on to their knowing kids. We give thanks to God that He can break these cycles! When she turned 14 she decided that she could do better on the streets without her mother, and has been on her own ever since. Another young woman I work with does drugs *with* her Mom, she will go home for a while and then is back out on the street. Almost all of the young women I serve have been physically and sexually abused and their parents use drugs and alcohol. They've been around it all their lives. Several girls have said to me, 'clean people are boring,' and 'heroin maintains my mood.' It is true that some of our kids use heroin to self-medicate their mental

health issues and when the heroin goes away, these issues can seem to return. Why don't these kids want to change? Because this is the only life they've ever known. Their friends, street families, and coping mechanisms are all they have. Being clean isn't only about giving up drugs – it's about giving up everything and everybody that they love and trust.

I am blessed to have seen God working in the youth we serve, and He does change them! It doesn't happen overnight. Our job is to love those that the world thinks are unlovable. We know that these kids are incredibly lovable, and boy, is the world wrong! Our job is to show them God's love, and to remind them that He is there for them even in the hard stuff, and God is here when they make that decision to change.

I N S I D E L O O K



New Horizons Ministries Quarterly Newsletter

October 2007

Invitation to Community

Contributed by Rita Nussli

Executive Director

It is an exciting and challenging time to be at New Horizons Ministries! We are moving from a ministry with wonderful oral traditions to one that is putting these traditions down in writing. We are building much needed infrastructure to support the growth that lies ahead of us. Our standard services are running deeper than ever with outreach on the streets, great meals in the drop-in center, creative Life Discovery activities, and Adaptive Life Skills Mentorships on site and in the community. All of these programs are building relationships between our staff and the youth we serve.

We have spent the last year doing

research and developing a solid plan to create a sustainable business for our kids to work in. We are hoping to open a coffee shop in June or July that will also sell free market items and art work created by our youth. We'll be looking for a new set of volunteers that will work alongside the youth at the shop so if this sparks some interest in you please let us know! The Board will review the plan in November for final approval and at that time we would begin the fundraising effort.

We have more recently spent time doing strategic planning focused on the possibility of providing supportive housing for the homeless and street-involved young people we serve.

We have focused on hearing God's direction as we prepare to make a decision at our October 15th Strategic Planning Meeting in partnership with our Board, Core Staff, and Volunteers. If we decide the answer is 'yes' to housing we will then recruit a team of people to analyze the concept of Supportive Housing and subsequently generate a comprehensive proposal to be presented to the Board by the end of 2008. In the midst of this process we realized that our focus must be not so much on just providing a place for our kids to live, but building community!
(cont. on page 3)

The Work

Contributed by Carol Janssens

Outreach Volunteer

You visit a youth in jail where they've had to get clean and they tell you that they want to stay that way, but they start using the same day they are released. You take a group of our kids to a Christian event and one is so moved that she gets rid of her heroin that day, but by the next morning she wants more and later that same night she's using again. You visit a youth in the hospital after a major surgery resulting from heroin abuse and while she does stay clean for a while, a few months later she too is using again. You celebrate with a youth who has been working and even recognized by her manager for doing a great job, but the next time you talk to her she's quit

and is dealing drugs again. You receive a very positive letter from a youth in jail and the next thing you know they've been put back in the segregation unit.

Why hasn't all the time I've spent with these kids helped to change them? How can we keep trying to help these kids when they don't seem to want to change their lifestyles? It's hard when you see a youth make a positive change but then the next thing you know they are back to their old ways. God has helped me to overcome the feeling that the work that I am doing is useless. First, God has taught me that we can't change these kid's lives, only He can. Second, God works in His own time.

Jesus wants us to love these kids as He would and this kind of love is unconditional and doesn't come with a schedule. The kids I'm blessed to work with know that I don't always approve of their choices or lifestyles but I love them anyway. If you look past the drugs and the way that they sometimes act you can see the wonderful person God has created them to be. A person created in God's image, His child.

I often ask the question 'why does it seem these kids don't want to change?' To answer this we need to know where these kids come from, and remember many of them
(cont. on back page)



New Horizons Ministries Welcomes 4 New Staff!

NHM is thrilled to introduce Audrey Hubbell as the new Transitions Coordinator! Audrey has been a volunteer here for the past 2 years and loves serving, encouraging, and challenging our youth. She believes each youth has been made by God, given gifts, and are capable of blessing others. She recently graduated from Trinity Lutheran College with a Bachelor of Arts in Multicultural Studies. She is excited about being at NHM and for all that is ahead!



God brought Danielle Jones, our new Life Discovery Coordinator, to New Horizons the first week of September. Danielle was born in Seattle, raised in Normandy Park and currently resides in Kent with her two lovely girls. Danielle has a passion for motivating and encouraging young people to love and laugh which will be a valuable asset to the Life Discovery Program! She has over 4 years combined experience working with Seattle's at-risk youth and homeless population as well as event planning expertise. Please welcome her!



NHM also welcomes LaTaunya Brena'a Witherspoon as the new Hospitality Coordinator. She was born in Seattle, graduated from Rainier Beach High School and went on to earn her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Washington State University. Go Cougs! She attends Mt. Calvary Christian Center C.O.G.I.C where her father Reggie is the Senior Pastor. LaTaunya has a passion for putting on creative events, loves hanging out with her family, going shopping, playing sports but most importantly, loving God. She believes there is no better way to please God than serve His children, and she is excited to be doing just that here at NHM!



Miguel Aguirre is our newest member of the Clinical Team coming on board as one of our male Counselor/Case Managers! He has lived in the greater Seattle area for most of his life and knows that it doesn't actually rain all the time, that's just what Seattleites say to keep everyone else away! Miguel recently graduated from Northwest University with a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Literature, and he is currently attending Fuller Theological Seminary working on a Master's Degree in Theology. He attends Mars Hill Church, and is looking forward to being involved in helping our youth!



Never too early to start holiday shopping!

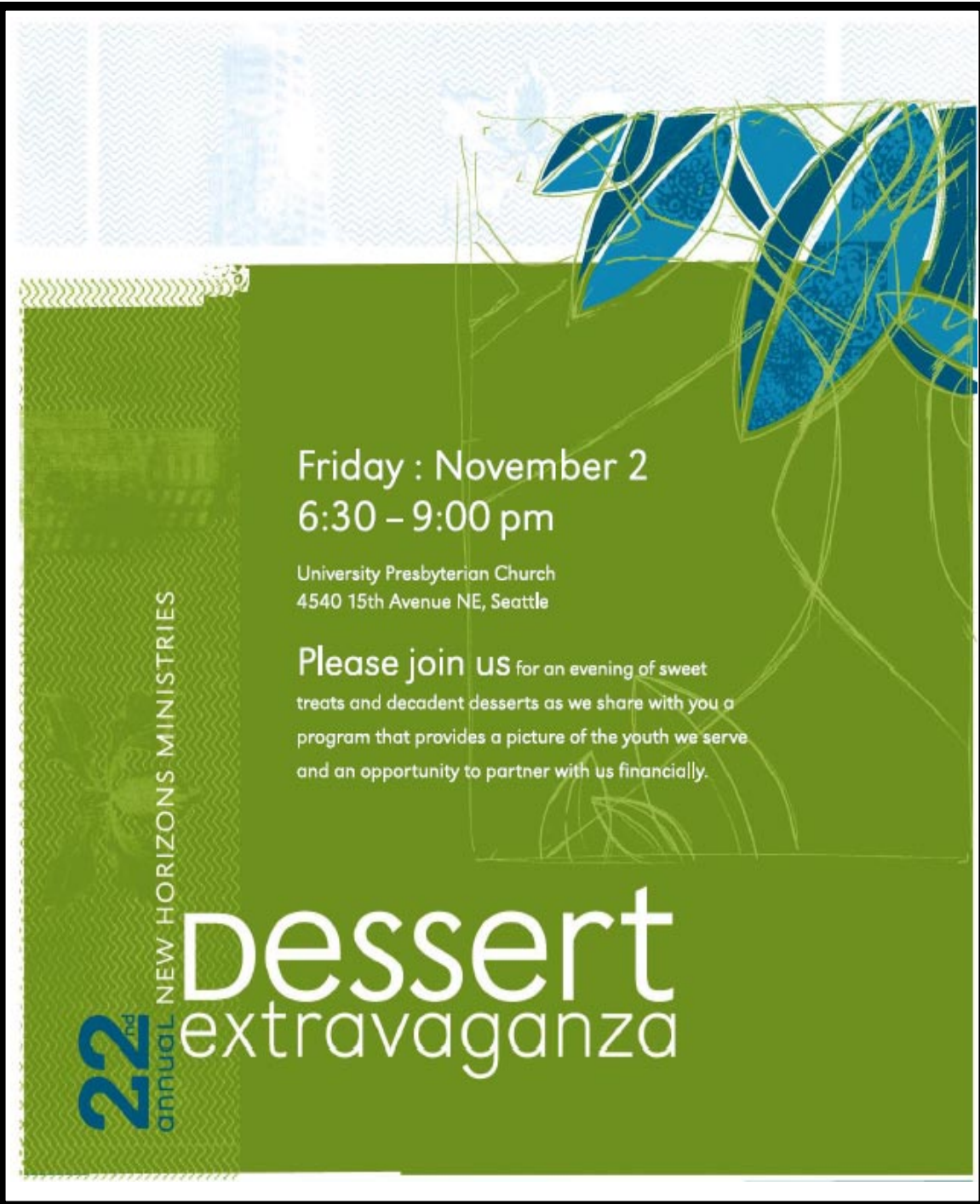
'Love is the Word': Jazz Under a Seattle Skyline will make a wonderful gift for your friends and family this holiday season! 'Love is the Word' is a compilation of Christian Jazz music created in partnership with NHM. All proceeds from the purchase of this CD will go to benefit the homeless and street-involved young people that we serve - 'Love is the Word' is available for \$13.95 online at:

cdbaby.com: <http://cdbaby.com/cd/nhm>

Invitation (cont. from front)

To leave street life the youth need a supportive and committed community to serve as an alternative family away from the streets. We are all about relationships at New Horizons, and relationships lead to community! You are a significant part of this community that builds life away from the streets for our youth.

I'm inviting you to join the community of New Horizons Ministries on Friday, November 2nd at the 2007 Dessert Extravaganza! You'll hear first hand about all of the exciting things God is doing here at NHM. You'll hear what was decided about the housing plan and how the sustainable business is proceeding. You'll hear about some of the youth's success stories and what has been accomplished over the last fiscal year. You are our dear friends and the Dessert is a wonderful time to continue to financially support and build our community. We hope to see you there!



Friday : November 2
6:30 – 9:00 pm

University Presbyterian Church
4540 15th Avenue NE, Seattle

Please join us for an evening of sweet treats and decadent desserts as we share with you a program that provides a picture of the youth we serve and an opportunity to partner with us financially.

22nd ANNUAL NEW HORIZONS MINISTRIES
Dessert
extravaganza

Doors open and desserts are served at 6:30 pm.
Program begins at 7:30 pm.

Space is limited!
Please RSVP by registering online at www.nhmin.org.

Questions may be directed to Edward Fedele, Development Manager at 206-374-0866 ext. 133 or edwardf@nhmin.org.

Please join us!

