

In November, we experienced a bountiful Thanksgiving at New Horizons. We gave thanks that God has seen us through one more year of loving and serving homeless youth. We gave thanks for the opening of Street Bean Espresso, now providing job training and sustainable employment for formerly street involved young people. We gave thanks for our staff, both paid and volunteer, who spend countless hours just “being there” and building relationships with our kids. We gave thanks for our numerous supporters who help us to maintain those ongoing relationships. And we gave thanks for the opportunity to sit down and share a meal together as family. It was a beautiful time and the only real Thanksgiving that some of our young people have ever experienced.

Thanksgiving brought us something else as well. It brought us into the season of Advent, a time of anticipation and a time to give thanks for the greatest gift of all – the birth of the Christ child, given as a gift to the world on Christmas morning. This season reminds all of us to be grateful for the many blessings God has placed in our lives and it provides an invitation for us to share these blessings with others.

This year, as we gather together with family and friends to celebrate the Joy of Christmas, please take a moment to pause and say a prayer for the young people who find themselves living out on our streets. They may be there due to severe abuse or neglect, violence or addiction, mental issues or differing sexual orientation or identification, but each and every one of these young people is as beloved a child of God as that humble baby born in a stable on Christmas Eve.

If you feel moved to share a gift with them this Christmas, you can find a list on the front of our website of items we will be distributing at this year’s New Horizons Christmas party. If you’d like to share a talent God’s blessed you with, you can find information on our January 23rd and January 30th volunteer training there as well. And if you feel moved to pray for us, please pray that God continues to protect and sustain both our young people and our staff through the cold & dark of the winter season. Christmas comes but once a year, but the Joy encountered when a young person discovers God’s Love, given through the gift of Jesus, is something that we celebrate all year long.

With Warmest Wishes for a Blessed Christmas Season,

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