

## Dan's Report

March 2009

### **1 in 50 U.S. children experiences homelessness**

This was the news headline that greeted me when I awoke this morning. It highlights a newly released report from the National Center for Family Homelessness which states that homeless children are far more likely than other children to experience hunger, suffer chronic health problems, repeat a grade in school, and drop out of high school. The article stresses the long-term damage that can result from disruptions to friendships, health care, and family routines.

"These factors combine to create a life-altering experience that inflicts profound and lasting scars. If we fail to act," the report said, "the consequences will play out for years to come as a generation of lost children grow to adulthood."

It's a clear sign of the times when our mainline news media becomes concerned with the devastating and long-lasting effects of homelessness on young people. This concern is what wakes up all of us who serve homeless and street-involved youth at New Horizons Ministries each morning and it provides us with a strong sense of urgency for our work. For every young life God is able to touch through New Horizons, for every youth that begins the transition away from street life, there are many more young people who still remain vulnerable, out on the streets, being tossed about by a culture of predatory sex, drugs, and violence.

These are the youth our outreach volunteers talk with on the streets of Seattle. These are the youth who access a warm meal, friendly smile, warm showers, warm clothes, and caring relationships in our Drop-In Center. These are the youth who we love in the way of Jesus, and these are the youth that God keeps on our hearts every minute of every day.

If you currently partner with us in this mission at New Horizons, Thank You! It is your steadfast support that allows us to continue to serve. If you are new to New Horizons, or want to learn more, I'd encourage you to consider attending one of our Community Tours or even our upcoming 2-day training on May 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. There is nothing more fulfilling than helping bring God's love and positive changes into to the life of a youth currently stuck out on the streets. Won't you consider how you might partner with us to help bring about that life-giving change?

As you prayerfully consider how you can serve in this life-giving ministry, may God abundantly bless you!

Dan