

## **Dan's Report**

May 2009

There's really only one phrase to describe springtime here in the Pacific Northwest, "Expect the Unexpected!" It is an amazing time where you can see tulips and daffodils, sunshine, warm days, and a sudden snow storm all in the same week! Just last Saturday my wife went to the store to pick up groceries. It was so warm and sunny out that she left her coat in the car. When she came back outside twenty minutes later the sun was gone, it was dark, cloudy and raining like crazy. Expect the Unexpected!

That same phrase describes our work here at New Horizons Ministries. Unlike many vocations in life, there really are no fixed end points or completion dates for the work we do. Our staff spends day after day, week after week, and even year after year faithfully remaining in relationship with homeless and street-involved young people. Daily we support these precious children whom God has placed in our care. We try to meet their immediate needs, expose them to new ideas and possibilities for their lives, and continually hold them up in prayer. Throughout this journey we Expect the Unexpected. We remain present in their lives praying that one day they will decide to take that first step towards exiting street life.

There tends to be a common theme in our young peoples' stories; they have been let down and disappointed so many times that they no longer have energy to create plans or have expectations. That's is the way you survive on the streets; living moment to moment, day to day. We would love to see quick and immediate changes in the life of every young person we serve, but years of experience have taught us the value of patience and consistency. So we wait patiently as we continue to Expect the Unexpected.

God calls a special kind of person into relationship with our young people, one who, as the Apostle Paul described, is able to "forget what lies behind and...press on towards the goal." In spite of every obstacle and set back, they remain engaged as a presence of love and encouragement in the lives of these young people. It's a long journey but a journey filled with God's Grace and God's Love. Through it all, this is what sustains us and we continually give Thanks for all who God invites to travel with us – to Expect the Unexpected!

Dan