

If you follow these monthly messages concerning New Horizons Ministries and the work we do with homeless and street involved young people it quickly becomes evident that there are times of challenge & set back encountered whenever you journey with the youth we serve. One of the questions I often get asked is, "How do you keep going day after day, week after week, year after year? Don't you and your staff get tired and burned out when so many set backs occur and change takes so long to happen?"

The answer to that question is, yes, we could easily get discouraged. There are several things we do to keep that from happening. First and foremost, we remain engaged by keeping our eyes and our ministry focused on Jesus. Loving and serving in the way of Jesus, invites us to ask the questions – "Who would Jesus reject?" and "Who would Jesus give up on?" The answer of course is no one, and most especially not the least and the lost. Throughout his teachings it is the outcast and the outsider for whom Jesus showed a special love and care, that one sheep lost out on the mountain. And God plants within the people called into ministry here at New Horizons that same special love and care for the young people we serve.

A second way we keep from becoming discouraged is by looking for and celebrating all of the little accomplishments in the lives of our young people – the choice not to drink or do drugs last night, the time they made and kept an appointment, a choice to look into or begin a GED, the choice to begin working one-on-one with a youth advocate, or check out church with one of our staff members. All of these small steps are encouraged and celebrated! Celebration is a big part of our life and our ministry here at New Horizons. It both encourages and empowers us to remain hopeful and remain engaged.

Every year we have one very special celebration to which everyone is invited – Our Dessert Extravaganza! This year our extravaganza will be held on Friday November 6<sup>th</sup> at University Presbyterian Church in Seattle. As part of that evening, several of our volunteers will be sharing stories of celebration and praise from their work here at New Horizons. This looks to be both a joyful and a meaningful time that you won't want to miss... so be sure to Save the Date!

I look forward to celebrating with each and every one of you!

With Joyful Appreciation,

Dan