

 new horizons

IMPACT REPORT
2020-2021



Dear Community,

After years of serving in homeless services, I have found the memories that stay with me are frequently not the most poignant, profound or noteworthy things. They are often small, silly, and subtle – maybe even strange to people less familiar with this lifesaving work. The memories that I carry out of any given year are infrequently the ‘story of year.’ They are simple, and often nothing more than a simple reminder of the beautiful sacrifice it takes to live fully into this work.

This year I will carry with me the feeling of silence as I listen to the young people sleeping in shelter at 3:30 in the morning. I will remember watching a New Horizons director do a ‘take-your-medicine dance,’ to encourage a scared and disoriented youth to take her psychiatric medicine after an already extremely long day. I will remember standing in a vacant Seattle on a Saturday with two staff trying to figure out how to get 30 frustrated young adults into COVID isolation and quarantine centers following a series of positive cases. I will remember holding one of the young people having a seizure on the sidewalk out front of the shelter. I will remember our staff so gently caring for a youth as they vomited on the floor in the middle of the night.

There is little doubt that this year was filled with the success of 110 youth and young adults moving into stable housing, a complete remodel, apprentices finding jobs, reworking all our programming. We were successful!

The fabric of this work, the things that hold all these successes together are the simple, repetitive, acts of compassion and grace. Every meal that is served, bathroom cleaned, night stayed up, session of listening, and check written – these are the threads that make the powerful fabric of this work. This year, there are more of those beautiful moments than could ever be captured in writing. It is those acts that form the stories of success that we all love. Our community – those that have come alongside of us – have made all these things a reality.

Thank you for making New Horizons a safe place for youth and young adults and working with them to reach their stable housing goals.

With gratitude,



Rob Stewart
Executive Director

ENDING HOMELESSNESS, ONE YOUNG PERSON AT A TIME.



Every night in King County, homelessness disconnects more than 1,500 youth from the resources they need to survive and thrive. Your partnership reconnects youth to opportunity through empowering resources and supportive relationships at New Horizons.

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Shelter

Nightly shelter services ensure that young people have a safe and welcoming place to rest. A major site redesign and construction project transformed the New Horizons shelter spaces, and allowed services to continue throughout the pandemic. Meeting the most basic need for a safe place to sleep, the New Horizons shelter program continued to be a healthy starting place for youth and young adults on their journey towards stable housing.

Day Programs

Day Program/ Engagement services is often the first entry point for youth looking for support and stability. This year New Horizons expanded its hours to provide increased opportunities for youth to meet their basic needs, connect with case management, utilize the health clinic, access mental health support, and set goals to stable housing and employment. New Horizons is working to expand its Day Programs again throughout this year.

Apprenticeships

Employment is one of the top requests from the young people we serve. Nearly 70% of young people experiencing homelessness are not employed and often need support in obtaining real world work experiences that challenge their growth, build their confidence and create onramps for future employment. New Horizons, through Street Bean and in-house, paid apprenticeships, provided ongoing opportunities this year for young people to be mentored, trained and assisted in their job search.

Case Management

New Horizons works with young people to set goals, remove barriers to stability and access the care they need. New Horizons believes that housing is a human right, and has set out to achieve its most audacious goal yet: ensuring that 70% of all young people at New Horizons find stable housing and 50% of them within 100 days. This year we helped 110 youth and young adults become stably housed. We envision increased numbers over the next year.

Race Equity

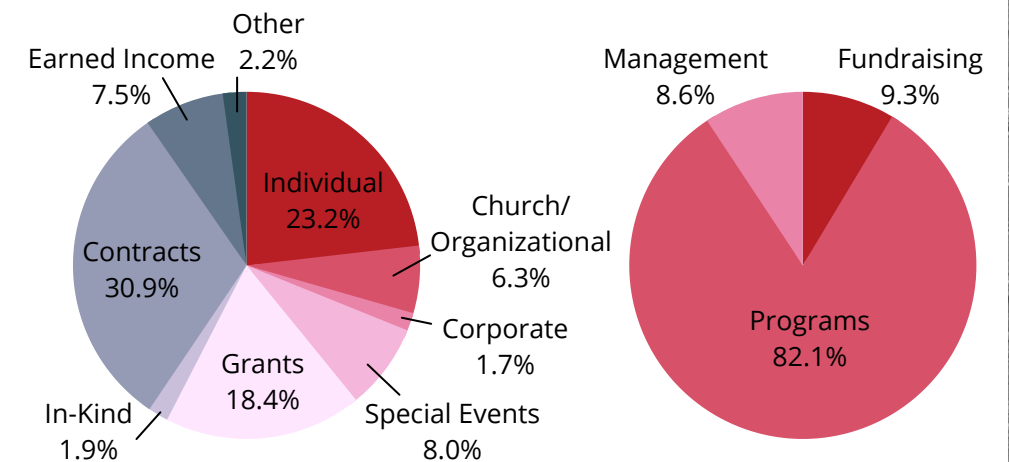
New Horizons recognizes that racial inequity is present and real within the homeless services system. If New Horizons is to do its work at the highest levels, it must center the work of Racial Equity. New Horizons worked across the organization to develop a Race Equity Strategic Plan, and evaluation system to ensure this indispensable work is imbedded in our approaches.

Strategic Plan 2021-2024

New Horizons finalized the 2021-2024 strategic plan, believing more resolutely than ever that, as a small organization, we can lead the way in significantly reducing the amount of time young people are forced to stay on the streets.

We have committed to expand our supportive services, drive the highest level of continuity of care, strategically center the work of racial equity in every aspect of our work and outcomes, and draw upon the compassionate center of our Christian faith tradition to ensure that: By 2024 70% of all YYA that come to New Horizons will find stable housing, 50% being within 100 days.

Financials





Focus toward a sustainable future for youth and young adults...

“Steve” joined the Nest shelter in fall 2020, around the same time that he was accepted into our Apprenticeship program, where he would work as a “Facilities Apprentice,” learning pre-employment skills and earning a weekly stipend while working alongside our Facilities Director. Prior to joining the Nest and Apprenticeship programs, Steve had been staying night-to-night in our Cedar Street Shelter, so moving up to the Nest at the same time as starting his new apprenticeship marked two big steps in stabilization.

Steve excelled in his apprenticeship and obtained a full-time construction job in February 2021.

At this point he had the income to support his own apartment, which was a huge step towards his housing goal. However, having moved from Utah a couple years ago without any personal documentation, getting his ID in the middle of a pandemic was now proving to be the last and most challenging barrier to getting housing. Steve worked with his Case Manager to find a property nearby that would accept a photocopy of his Utah ID.

Steve moved in to his own furnished studio apartment in April 2021, just a few weeks ahead of his 26th birthday.