



New Horizons Un-Limited Outlook

Winter 2022

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NHU Outlook Newsletter is published quarterly by New Horizons Un-Limited Inc. (NHU), a 501(c)3 tax exempt non-profit disability advocacy organization that provides our disabled community members the information, tools and experiences that encourage lifelong learning and service, so that we may all work together to create a more inclusive, accepting society. Our programs are possible through the generous contributions of our community partners, member and donor families and many in-kind donors. To contribute to New Horizons Un-Limited, see page 6.

To learn more about NHU, visit our website at new-horizons.org or send us an e-mail at horizons@new-horizons.org

"Leadership should be focused on extending the ladder of opportunity for everyone."

- Justin Trudeau, Canadian Prime Minister

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- Thank **YOU** to Our 2021-2022 Sustaining and In-kind Donors!

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New Horizons Un-Limited: Our Work in 2022

As the New Year approaches, we reflect on major events of the past year that have helped to shape our support and advocacy efforts. Inflation, the war in Ukraine, Mid-term Elections and Covid were the subjects of most of our guides, articles and blogs that we published during 2022.

During the year, some of our disabled community members reached out for help on managing inflation. We responded by developing a guide on where to find help, supplemental cash and assistance with rent, food and utilities. A contributing factor to the recession, was the start of the war in Ukraine at the beginning of the year. As the war continued, so did our efforts to campaign for the humane treatment and evacuation of disabled people that were trapped in war zones.

2022 was also an election year. As with every election cycle, we pour energy and resources into researching candidates and their records on disability issues such as health and wellness programs, education and voting rights. Our goal, as always is to help our community members to better understand their candidates' positions on issues that are most important to them, regardless of party affiliation.

Lastly, the spread of Covid variants continued throughout the year. Thanks to vaccines, infections are down and the risk of death is lower. There is however, a growing population of workers that have become disabled due to long covid. It is this new group of disabled people that we have recently turned our attention to. Estimated to be about 16 million (or around 8% of working-age Americans), this group is the reason behind the impressive gains in employment among the disabled.

While we would have liked to have seen more non-covid and pre-pandemic disabled people in the workforce, we are pleased to see that employers are making accommodations such as remote work available to their employees. For many, remote work is the only way they can continue working, even if it's only on a part time basis.

NHU's Goals for 2023

In 2023, one of our goals is to reach out and establish a dialogue with this new group of disabled workers, as they are breaking down long-standing barriers to employment. Their presence and advocacy for better access to services and updated social security rules, will benefit ALL who have been historically disabled.

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We will also continue our Computer Grant Program, focusing on expanding access to laptops. The need for laptops remains high as more disabled recipients use them for school and work. Thanks to your donations, we will now offer training and helpful guides on our new YouTube channel! Content will include information on computer applications as well as lessons on how to apply and interview online for jobs.

In 2023, our advocacy work will expand to cover mental health issues for the disabled too. Emphasis will be on building self-esteem and ways to lift one's spirit. This is important as many disabled people lack confidence in advocating for themselves.

New Horizons Un-Limited

A non-profit, grassroots disability advocacy organization that provides our disabled community members the information, tools and experiences that encourage lifelong learning and service so that we may all work together to create a more inclusive, accepting society.

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Workers with Long Covid Shine Light on the Benefits of Accommodating Workers with Disabilities

There have been quite a few headlines in the news lately, celebrating the fact that remote work appears to have opened doors to employment opportunities for disabled people. It's not hard to see why many would think that, given the popularity of remote work and the latest employment data from the Labor Department.

This past September, the Brookings Institute looked at the Labor Department's data, and determined that the employment-to-population rate among the disabled reached 34.9% as compared to 2019 when it was just 19.3%. This looks like great news and one wouldn't be blamed for thinking that a good portion of those who were disabled in 2019 and before, have now entered the workforce. A closer look at the data however, reveals another story.

And that story is that there are approximately 13 million American workers (who were employed full-time before the pandemic), that are now classified as disabled part-time workers due to Long Covid. In addition, there are 3 million workers who cannot return to work at all, representing the equivalent of more than \$168 billion a year in lost wages.

Another factor to consider, is the weird economy that we've had over the last year. Despite recession like conditions in the US, the labor market has been tight. According to the media, employers have been so desperate for workers, that some have dropped their demands for employees to return to the office, after they have been working remotely for two years. The reality, is that employers have known for some time, that remote work is the only option for their employees who are struggling with Long Covid and that legally, they are required to provide reasonable accommodations to anyone who is disabled.

Continue to read, on our blog page at new-horizons.org

What CAN you do?

- Advocate for respect and understanding of the challenges persons with disabilities face to instill fair practices and inclusion.
- Analyze your company's employment needs in regard to tasks and skills - there is a huge untapped talent pool waiting in the wings. Find out about incentives available to employers who hire workers with disabilities via your local Vocational Rehabilitation Office.
- Donate a laptop to expand access to remote work opportunities.

Give the Gift of Technology



Now more than ever, access to laptops is essential. As more and more companies move to flexible at-home work environments, disabled workers have more opportunity than ever before, if they have the skills and tools needed to succeed!

We are currently accepting **Intel i7 or newer Windows 10 era laptops** for refurbishing and distribution to our community members with disabilities.

Do you or your employer have retired laptops in this era that could use a new home?

Contact us today to learn more about this fantastic opportunity to extend the usefulness of your laptop!

Call 414-299-0124 or e-mail horizons@new-horizons.org



Join AmazonSmile and Support NHU While You Shop Online

Supporting NHU has never been easier. With the gift-giving season upon us, now is the perfect time to select NHU as the beneficiary of a percentage of your qualified Amazon purchases. It costs nothing and can be set up in just a few simple steps!

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Together, We Can Bring About Great Change

Over the past several years, we have been navigating historically trying times for all citizens, particularly so for those with disabilities and chronic illness.

Throughout this journey, we have continued to provide the resources and tools our disabled community members need to remain, healthy and safe, while also not losing sight of the historic opportunities made available through the normalization of remote and flexible working environments.

Still, disabled workers face significant barriers to employment due to a lack of health care and numerous support resources. We will continue to advocate for change at both the state and national level to ensure our workforce and communities may benefit from the untapped talents of this valuable segment of the workforce.

Thank you for being there throughout our ever-changing journey. We will never stop fighting for and providing the resources and support our community members need to thrive and hope that you will continue with us in this journey towards inclusion!

What Can YOU Do?

NHU's Information and Referral Program

- \$45 will help forward the voice of one disabled author, via the sharing of a think piece or personal narrative via our blog
- \$55 will provide new resources, articles and guides monthly to individuals seeking assistance.
- \$165 will provide, one edition of our newsletter, *CommunicAbility*, reach more family members with disabilities and many more via email.
- Do you enjoy browsing the Internet? Volunteer for our Disability Research Assistant team.

NHU's Computer Literacy and Grant Program

- \$30 will support the creation of content for our newly established YouTube channel, offering brief tutorials on a variety of computer and work-related topics
- \$35 will provide (5) Windows 10 Operating Systems for refurbished computers for 5 individuals.
- Volunteer to refurbish or setup computers, answer helpdesk calls or enter a computer tip on our forum.

Thanks Again, To Our New Horizons Un-Limited's 18th Annual Benefit Golf Outing Sponsors and Donors

Thank you to all of the individuals, businesses and organizations that kindly participated in our event as a golfer, sponsor, or by donating items for use in our after-round silent auction and raffle. Without you, this event would not have been possible. Our 17th Annual NHU Benefit Golf Outing raises a great deal for our community initiatives on behalf of our family, friends and neighbors with disabilities. There are no words to express our appreciation!

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We Appreciate YOU! Our 2021-2022 Sustaining Donors*(2021 Annual Appeal through October 2022 general and in-kind donations.)***Every donation, whether \$2 or \$5000, brings us one step closer to our vision of a fully inclusive society!****Learn more about our fundraising efforts online: new-horizons.org/funeve.html****2021-2022 - Annual Appeal Sustaining Donors****Corporate Donors**

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2021-2022 Access Technology Computer Equipment In-kind Donors*Eliminate e-waste and give a gift that keeps on giving.***Corporate In-kind Donors**

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Bob Gallo

Don Lybeck

Thank you also to everyone who shopped through Goodshop and our Scrip Program and those of you who contributed via our 2021 Spring Flower Fundraiser!

Thank you also to our 18th Annual Golf Outing Sponsors and Participants. Please See our 2022 NHU Benefit Golf Outing Donor Appreciation Flyer at new-horizons.org/pdf/gfdn22.pdf

Please contact us if you contributed and your name does not appear on this list.

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For resources on everything disability, visit NHU's website: new-horizons.org/datcat.html

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in support of our community
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**NEW HORIZONS UN-LIMITED
OUTLOOK QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

Your gift will ensure that we may continue our work of advocating for a fully accessible, inclusive society for our family, friends and neighbors with disabilities.

Checks may be made payable to:

New Horizons Un-Limited Inc.
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