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SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR  
DONORS WHO HAVE  
CONTRIBUTED \$10,000 OR  
MORE IN 2023

- Tom & Caroline Bell Family Foundation
- In Memory of Tim Breon
- The Brett Wheeler Safety Net
  - City of Redlands



First Baptist Church, Redlands

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- LAMAR Advertising
- Lasalle Private Foundation
- Lossett Family Foundation
- Jim & Becky Malachowski
- Chris & Pam Martin
- Jim & Valarie Peterson

In memory of Alice Peterson & Marjorie Craft

- Dave & Cindy Raff
- James & Theresa Ramos
- Tim & Carol Rochford
- San Manuel Band of Mission Indians



- Vans Shoes



## Walk in Their Shoes

YouthHope invites you to our 13th annual benefit dinner and evening of awareness and Open House.

Thursday May 16, 2024

YouthHope Drop-In Center

1175 W. Redlands Blvd. Redlands, CA 92373

Awareness Hour: 5:30pm

Dinner and Program: 6:30pm

Sign up at [www.youthhope.org/walk-in-their-shoes](http://www.youthhope.org/walk-in-their-shoes)

## Meet Our Supporters

We are highlighting another supporter this month. We learned about Brett Wheeler from his step-father, John Oliver.

Brett had a huge heart. He cared about others and was always taking time to help those that needed it. He was a professor at Fullerton College. He was getting his PhD at Claremont College.

He spent his free time volunteering at domestic violence shelters, teaching woman self defense courses, and in his community. His goal was to help people in any way he could.

Tragically, Brett passed away unexpectedly in 2018.

His parents wanted his legacy to live on. They looked around the area for nonprofits that reflected Brett's passions.

Karen and John heard about YouthHope and came to visit our Drop-in Center and knew that their son would have loved YouthHope.

They decided to use Brett's assets to help change the lives of those we serve.

We wish we could have met and known Brett. We know he was a great man. We are so thankful for the gift that we have been given by Brett and his family.

Thanks to the Olivers for sharing Brett's legacy with us.

# A Place to Call My Own

I love my family. Sure me and my parents would argue and fight, but at the end of the day, we loved each other and had each others back.

When I turned 18, all of that changed. I woke up to my parents telling me that I had to move out because I was now an adult and I needed to figure out things on my own.

I had nothing. No job, no money, nothing. And now I had to find a place to stay.

I called a few friends and they all told me that they didn't have anything for me. All day I was stressing out trying to figure out what to do.

At the last minute I called my Aunt and she said that I can come sleep on her recliner.

So for the next 2 months, I lived on a recliner. No bed, no

room, no privacy, just a recliner with a house full of people.

I heard about YouthHope from a friend and went in one day to see if they could help me.

I immediately felt cared for. These people didn't know me, yet they stopped everything they were doing to help me find housing.

They had an open spot in their housing program and they offered it to me.

I was shocked. I was able to move in the next day!

When I walked into the house and saw my bedroom, I had tears in my eyes. I couldn't believe that I got to call this place my own.

No more fear of being kicked out of my house, no more sleeping on a recliner and having no privacy.

This place is my home and a safe haven.

I've never felt such peace.

## Did You Know?

One of the top reasons our youth walk through our doors is to receive help finding the right housing for them.

## A Note From the Founder



Happy Spring. We are so excited for our Walk in Their Shoes happening next month. I know it's going to be a great night for everyone attending and you will learn about youth homelessness and how YouthHope is helping youth move from street life to self-sufficiency.

We are getting ready for summer at YouthHope. We have some fun activities for our youth to enjoy. We try to cre-

ate an environment where our youth are celebrated and loved and feel safe,

We will be having a end of year celebration next month. We get a waterslide, water balloons, a bbq, and a lot of fun. We celebrate our youth finishing another school year and working through all the obstacles that were thrown their way. We get to celebrate each youth, each step forward that they have taken.

It's one of my favorite days of the year. I get to watch youth laugh and be kids and forget the stresses of the world while they slide down a waterslide, have root beer floats and enjoy being celebrated.

Make sure to get your "Walk in Their Shoes" tickets. If you have any questions you can email Shawna at [fundraiser@youthhope.org](mailto:fundraiser@youthhope.org).