



#### **Inside this Issue:**

WITS Supporters Youth Story Did you Know? 2 Founder's Note

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
  - **Intsel Steel West**
- Tom and Karen Kaney
- 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**







### **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

# **Meet our Supporters**

This month we want to highlight another amazing supporter, Tom Kaney. If you don't know Tom, you are missing out. Tom heard about YouthHope through one of our Board Members, Chris Martin.

Tom attended our Walk in Their Shoes Dinner and was touched hearing the youth speak. He wanted to learn more about YouthHope after that and met with Heidi at our Drop-In Center so he could see where we help our youth. He was drawn to support YouthHope because of how conscious we are about how we spend our money. He saw that donors money was being spent on our solid programs.

Tom tells other people thinking about supporting YouthHope that YouthHope helps the most at-risk youth. We are taking on extreme cases and our programs are saving lives. We're getting youth off the street and into jobs and housing. YouthHope's programs are essential!

Tom also sees the passion and commitment at YouthHope. Since Heidi doesn't take a salary, he sees how committed she is to helping the youth in our community.

Thank you so much Tom for supporting YouthHope. You are an incredible person and we are so thankful for all that you have done and continue to do for YouthHope.

# **There's Always Another Chance**

I've known and have been a part of YouthHope for years. I come regularly, I use the resources all the time, and I consider the people at YouthHope to be my family.

My own family abandoned me early on in my life. I only have rare contact with my sister, but even that relationship is rocky.

I was doing good. I was in school, working, and living in a decent place. I thought that I had everything figured out.

But then I had a bad weekend. I ended up back in old habits, with old friends, and substances.

I knew that what I was doing wasn't good, but I couldn't stop. My anxiety and depression were coming back and I just wanted to escape reality for a bit.

The next day when I was hungover and even more depressed and suicidal, I came to YouthHope.

I wasn't scared to tell Heidi what had happened and I knew that she would help. I guess that's what happens when you are loved unconditionally. I knew that they would still love me even when I made such a huge mistake.

I came in crying and asking for help because I didn't trust myself.

Heidi got me immediate medical help and also help with my substance abuse.

I'm on my way to a rehab where I will work on healing myself. I want to get back to the healthy version of me so I can continue to succeed.

I know that I will eventually get through this, but I also know there are always second chances at YouthHope.

Thank you for loving me YouthHope, even the hard and broken parts.

#### Did You Know?

We saw 792 different youth last year.

## A Note From the Founder



I hope your year has started off great. Our year has started off busy! We have already seen so many youth who need help with year.

We have helped youth get into housing, helped them with Food Handler's Certificates, given them boxes of groceries, and have been a support for them in any way they need.

I am really excited for our Walk in Their Shoes Benefit

Dinner. This year we are having our dinner at our Drop In Center. We want to be able to show everyone where we help our youth. I know its going to be a great night with dinner, stories from our youth, and a chance to help YouthHope continue our mission. I hope you all are able to make it. Space is limited so make sure you sign up soon.

We saw over 400 brand new youth last year. These are youth who have never

stepped into YouthHope before. That means we are needed more than ever. There are more at-risk and homeless youth that need our resources to become self-sufficient.

Thank you so much for supporting us as we continue to help every youth that needs assistance in our communitv.

I am so thankful for each and every one of you.