#### September 2024 Volume 21, Issue 9



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#### A Day in The Park Car Show



Our Day in the Park Car Show is happening this month! September 14, 2024 8:00am-2:00pm

At Sylvan Park in Redlands

This event is free for spectators and a great family event. Come and see the amazing cars we have, shop local vendors, and eat some delicious food.

There will opportunities to support YouthHope through a silent auction and opportunity baskets.

We can't wait to see you there!

#### **Volunteer Spotlight**

Dr. Sherrie Yhip is YouthHope's doctor. She comes into YouthHope and meets with our youth who have illness, have gotten hurt, or have medical questions. She has helped so many of our youth.

Dr. Sherrie first heard about YouthHope through some friends. She had been looking for ways to use her talents to help youth and when her friends heard Heidi speak, they knew they had to tell Dr. Sherrie.

Dr. Sherrie wanted to volunteer at YouthHope because her expertise is pediatrics and she knew she could help youth who don't have access to medical care.

Her favorite story was when a young man came in with very concerning symptoms, she told him to go straight to the ER. It ended up being a type of cancer and without the guidance of Dr. Sherrie, that young man might not have ever gone to a doctor. He is now in remission and still calls Dr. Sherrie often.

We are so thankful for Dr. Sherrie and all she does at YouthHope. A doctors office can be difficult to get into and scary if you have never been. Dr. Sherrie is able to provide medical care in a safe, comfortable environment.

# **My Own Bed**

I grew up in the foster system most of my life. I jumped from foster family to foster family. The older I got, the harder it was to find foster families that would take me in. No one wants an older foster kid.

I ended up aging out of foster care with nowhere to go. My school was aware of my situation and my basketball coach offered to let me stay with him until I could get more permanent housing.

Days turned into weeks and weeks turned into months and I wasn't able to find a job or a program that could help me.

We started arguing more and more and living in his house became unbearable. One day after a pretty big fight, my coach kicked me out. He told me that I had lived there long enough and I needed to figure out my own life.

I had nowhere to go. I got in my car and started driving south. I ended up in Redlands and have lived here for a few months now sleeping in my car in parks, in parking lots, wherever I can.

I found out about YouthHope through some people I met at the park. They said that they could help me with housing. I was super excited and went down to talk to them the next day.

When I got to the Drop-In Center, I was greeted with smiles, food, and a safe place to hang out.

I talked to Heidi and immediately she was able to help me with housing.

They had an opening in their boys house and she offered it to me.

I moved in last night and the first thing I thought was "wow I finally have my own bed".

I feel safe, warm, and taken care of. I don't think I have ever felt all of those things that once.

Thank you YouthHope!

### Did You Know?

49% of our youth that we serve are 18 or younger.

## A Note From the Founder



It's September which means our Day in the Park is this month! We are busy getting everything ready so we can have a great Car Show.

I hope you will all join us. It's free for spectators and there are many opportunities to support YouthHope. This is the perfect opportunity to bring someone who hasn't heard about YouthHope.

Fundraisers are one of the 3 ways that we raise funds to

support our programs. \$.86 of every dollar that is donated goes directly to our programs and helping youth. By donating and attending our fundraisers, you can know that your money is going to help youth get off the street.

As the Executive Director, I do not take a salary. I work for free to ensure that we are using our funds to directly help youth.

Our youth had a great start to

the school year. They are all working hard and ready to have a successful year.

We started off the school year with a party. We had a water slide, a BBQ, and lots of fun. It was a great time getting our youth excited about the upcoming year while encouraging them.