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YouthHope's Fight Against Human Trafficking

When YouthHope started serving our youth in 2009, human trafficking was not something that we knew would be a part of our programs, but now 13 years later, we have quickly realized that the youth we serve are targeted to become trafficked. Homeless, at-risk, low income, abused, and neglected youth. According to Etactics.com, 1 in 5 homeless youth have experienced some type of trafficking.

At YouthHope, we have experienced many of our youth found in trafficking rings where they had to call us and we call the police to help them out.

California has the 7th highest rate of human trafficking with over 1,500 trafficking victims (<https://etactics.com/blog/california-human-trafficking-statistics>).

At YouthHope, here are some ways we are

helping to end human trafficking.

- Identifying victims of human trafficking
- Working with the Police Department when a youth has told us they were in a trafficking situation
- Bringing awareness to staff and volunteers on signs of trafficking.
- Partnering with other organizations to provide housing and counseling for the victims,

YouthHope Car Show

Our Day in The Park Car Show is coming up in just over a month. You can still sign up to show your car or to become a vendor. Visit www.youthhope.org/day-in-the-park to sign up. Register by September 1 to ensure a t-shirt and to get the discounted price.

This event is free for spectators so mark your calendars for September 24 8am-12pm and come spend the day with us. It's going to be great!



A Yes After I Said No (A Story on Trafficking)

YouthHope is not a new place to me. I've been coming here for a few years. I come for the meals, a place to hang out, and for the help I get. I've been able to get a job because of the help I've received putting together my resume and getting my Food Handlers Certificate.

I've had regular medical appointments and dental appointments because of the partnerships with local businesses. I also rely on their clothing donations to keep me clothed throughout the year.

I thought I was in a good place until my best friend who lives in Oregon contacted me. She wanted me to move up there with the promise of a great job and a great place to live.

I immediately told YouthHope goodbye and hopped on a bus taking me straight to Oregon. Everyone at YouthHope told me to stay and was worried, but I needed to do this for my future.

After a few weeks up there, I realized that this "job" was not a job at all. It was a trafficking ring that I was now stuck in. I was being pushed from man to man and forced to do work for them. I thought I would be able to escape on my own, but I quickly learned that I needed help.

I was able to find a cellphone that I used to call Heidi. I didn't have anyone else to call and I knew she would help. She immediately called the police and with the location of the cell phone, they were able to track where I was.

Within a few hours, the police showed up, rescued me, and put me on a bus back to California that YouthHope had bought me a ticket for.

Seeing that bus pull up to a familiar station and see a familiar face from YouthHope felt like the biggest relief.

I now am back at YouthHope, getting the help I need. I'm so thankful that YouthHope helped me even after I left them. They love without limits and say yes even when we say no.

Did You Know?

According to Loyola University, the 1 in 5 youth in California who experience trafficking, 14% of them experience sex trafficking, 8% experience labor trafficking, and 3% experience forms of both.

A Note From the Founder



We're gearing up for school to start in a few days! I can't believe how fast the summer went by. We had a great summer with our youth. Camping trips, BBQ's, skate competitions, and many successes. It's been a full summer and our youth are ready to start a new school year.

We had a food shortage over the summer at YouthHope. We asked our followers on social media and we had a

huge response. Within days, our shelves were full again and we had enough food for our youth and families who needed it. It was a great reminder what an amazing community we serve in. People are ready to help and I am so thankful for everyone who donated. Thank you so much! We couldn't do this without you!

Our Car Show is right around the corner. We are getting excited and can't wait to see you all there. It's gonna be a

great day with amazing cars, great vendors, a fun kids area, and great food.

I also wanted to give a huge thank you to our local police department for helping us when we have trafficked youth at our Drop-in Center. They are always so quick to respond and quick to help any of our youth.

Without such a great community, we wouldn't be able to help so many youth!

Thank you!