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Shoes for Christmas, Hope for a Lifetime

It’s approaching Christmas and we are starting our annual Christmas Shoe Drive. Our goal for this shoe drive is to bring hope and a new pair of shoes to each of our youth. For the majority of our youth, this is the only present they will receive all year! They treasure these shoes and look forward to our Christmas party all year.

These shoes fulfill more than just a clothing need. The shoes remind our youth that they are loved, supported, and have their community cheering them on. It gives them the courage to continue fighting the cycle of homelessness and addiction.

Our youth hold onto these shoes all year long. They don’t care that the soles are wearing thin and that holes are forming where their toes are, they continue to wear them for necessity, but also as an encouragement.

There is no way we can accomplish this without your help.

Please help and purchase some shoes.

Shoes can be purchased from Active Ride Shop. We are so excited to partner with Active again and we’re so thankful for their help!

They are located at 27514 W. Lugonia Ave. Ste. A, Redlands, CA 92374. They are across from Chick-Fil-a in Citrus Plaza.

Each pair costs $50.

For more information and updates, please visit www.youthhope.org

How to Purchase Shoes for our Christmas Drive

There are several ways to support our Christmas Shoe Drive:

- Pick up a shoe card(s) from YouthHope that has a specific youth on it, take the card to Active Ride Shop and they will have the specific shoes for that youth.
- If you don’t have a card, you can still go to Active, tell them you want to participate in the YouthHope Shoe Drive and they will have a pair of shoes for you to purchase.
- If you prefer to not shop, but still want to help, you can donate money for a pair of shoes by visiting www.youthhope.org/hope-for-a-lifetime and click the Paypal link.
YouthHope is Family

You would have no idea who I truly am if you met me on the street. I’m funny, I joke a lot, I dress nice, I have a lot of friends, and I enjoy having fun.

But the true version of myself is someone completely different. I grew up without a dad. I don’t even know who he is or where he lives. It has always been just me and my mom. We don’t have a lot of money and we live in a tiny apartment on a rough street. My mom has been sick most of my life. She stays in bed most days and has frequent hospital stays. I’m the only person that can help her because we don’t have any other family around. I love her so much, but having a sick parent your whole life is tough. I’ve never felt taken care of because I’m always caring for her.

I found YouthHope when I was at the skatepark. The one thing that sticks out to me was how they always ask how they can help me.

My whole life has been spent helping my mom, no one ever asks me if I need help. Hearing the Case Managers at YouthHope ask how they can help me was such a relief.

As I’ve gotten to know the people at YouthHope, the more they feel like family. They genuinely care about my health, my happiness, and my needs.

I get food and shoes and clothes from them and I also get encouragement from them.

Recently my girlfriend broke up with me and Heidi sat and talked with me for over an hour about how heartbroken I was. She cares about my future and my wellbeing, but she also cares about my feelings and the sadness I’m feeling today.

That’s family. Family takes care of you and also listens when you’re hurting.

I know that I can come to YouthHope for anything and they will be there.

My mom was recently in the hospital again and Heidi went out of her way to check in on me and to make sure I was ok. She also wanted to make sure I had everything I needed.

Thank you YouthHope for genuinely caring about me. I will never doubt the love and support that you have for me.

Did You Know?

93% of our youth have some type of job. Our youth are hard working people!

A Note From the Founder

Merry Christmas from YouthHope! This is my favorite time of year and I’m so happy that we get to celebrate with our youth this year.

Our annual Christmas party is one of my favorite nights of the year. We get to watch our youth be youth! They get to be giddy about opening presents, eating delicious food, hanging out with their friends, and just enjoying the moment.

We usually get to hand out other brand new clothing items and winter items like blankets and scarves because our community donates so many amazing items.

As you think about year end giving, please consider donating to YouthHope. We are a 501(c)3 and your donation is tax deductible. Over 98% of our donations go straight into our programs which help our youth become self-sufficient. Our biggest program in 2021 was our Skills Class where youth learned basic life skills like nutrition, relationships, the danger of drugs and alcohol, among many other topics.

We had full sessions every week because our youth want to grow and learn and desire a better life.

Thank you for giving where you live and for getting us through another tough year.

We wouldn’t be able to do it without all of you.

I hope you have a great holiday season and I look forward to what 2022 holds!