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January was Human Trafficking Month

According to the Polaris Project* in 2019:

- Traffickers prey on vulnerable victims. Runaway homeless youth was the second biggest risk factor to someone becoming trafficked.
- The top 5 forms of force are substance abuse issues, physical abuse, sexual abuse, intimidation, and emotional abuse.
- The Inland Empire is one of the top places across the nation where human trafficking situations happen.
- The average age at time trafficking began is 17.

At YouthHope, we regularly help youth who have or are being trafficked. As you can see from the stats above, our youth are prime targets for Traffickers.

*3 things we do at YouthHope to STOP Human Trafficking:

1. Work with local law enforcement and safe houses to help our youth escape these terrible situations
2. Educate our youth to spot red flags of trafficking before they become victims to it.
3. Earn the trust of our youth so they can be truthful with us and tell us when they find themselves in a bad situation.

*<https://polarisproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Polaris-2019-US-National-Human-Trafficking-Hotline-Data-Report.pdf>

Meet YouthHope Staff

Corinne is our Director of Fundraising! She started at YouthHope in 2020.

Corinne is a mom of 2 who has her Bachelors Degree in Public Health. She puts on fundraisers for YouthHope which has become even more difficult due to COVID-19. She is also our Girls House RA. She does a great job at making our girls feel loved and safe.



She wanted to work for YouthHope because she wanted to help youth and see them become self-sufficient. Her favorite part of working at YouthHope is being able to connect with the youth at the local park and on the street by spending time with the youth and getting to know them while we feed them.

When she's not working, Corinne loves being active through running, biking, and playing with her kids. She also loves writing music and wrote a song for YouthHope that you can listen to at www.youthhope.org.

We love having Corinne at YouthHope. Her positive spirit and hard working mindset is contagious!

I've Never Had To Ask For Help

I've always been able to provide for me and my family. I've never had to ask for help. I'm a single mom of 3 living in an apartment.

I've always had good jobs that pay well. I'm not rich, but I'm definitely able to pay my bills and do fun activities with my children. That is, until COVID hit.

I quickly lost my job as a waitress and didn't know how long it would be before I could get a new job. I applied for unemployment and have done my best to live within my means.

It's been so hard to be able to keep food on the table, stay on top of my bills, and buy just the necessities.

I started working with food courier companies to try to offset my bills, but it still was a struggle every week.

I saw a post on Facebook about YouthHope offering groceries to anyone in the community. As much as my pride didn't want to admit that I needed help, I knew it would be best for my family to have fresh groceries for them.

I stopped by YouthHope and was amazed at the generosity that I was shown. I was shown kindness, love, and respect.

The food we received was fresh, high quality food that I felt very comfortable feeding my kids.

They saw that I had kids in the car and added fun desserts in my grocery boxes to brighten up their day.

I was also told to come back if I needed more and I cannot explain the relief that I felt knowing that I had a place that could help me again if I needed it.

I have several other ex co-workers that are in the same place and I was able to share this resource with them as well.

I can't wait till I am in a better place and I can give back to YouthHope. This small gesture that they have shown has made me view the world in a different way.

I will never judge someone again. You never know what someone is going through and why they may need some help.

Thank you YouthHope for the help and for showing me how to be a better person in this world.

Did You Know?

The majority of our youth are ages 14-17.

A Note From the Founder



This year is starting off great here at YouthHope. We are serving our youth and our community through food and groceries.

We're also working on how to safely put on a few fundraisers this year. Make sure you are following us on our social media pages to stay up to date with what is happening weekly at YouthHope.

As we reflect on Human Trafficking, my mind goes to one of our youth that just escaped the horror of being trafficked.

She was visiting an old friend when she realized that this friend only invited her over to get her into a trafficking ring.

After a horrendous 48 hours of being raped over and over, and a gun pointed at her head most of the time, she fought her way out and was able to escape. YouthHope was her first call! Unfortunately, the traumatic situation led to a relapse in drug use, but we are working with her to help her overcome this time.

This is not the first instance of trafficking that we have seen in

our youth. They are prime targets and Traffickers know how to make it sound appealing.

Through our skills class, we are able to teach our youth about the warning signs and how to avoid these situations.

My heart breaks for the victims and I hope we can see an end to human trafficking!