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TO DONATE, GO TO [WWW.YOUTHHOPE.ORG](http://WWW.YOUTHHOPE.ORG) OR SEND DONATIONS TO P.O. BOX 7803 REDLANDS, CA 92375

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## Update on YouthHope Drop-In Center

We are now entering month 4 of the novel coronavirus and some areas of our lives seem to feel a little more normal these days.

For the past 3 months we have been handing out to-go meals, boxes of groceries, and delivering food to youth in the local parks. This has been successful for us as we have been able to reach 3,665 people and families since March 16.

We are getting ready to move forward in serving our youth and doing it in a safe way.

Once we get the ok from our doctors, we will begin feeding our youth again at the local park. We will bring food, clothes, wear masks, and social distance.

Throughout the Shelter in Place order, our youth were scared, unable to find reliable news, had limited access to hand-washing and hygiene stations. It's time for us to be there in a more tangible way to help them.

We are excited to meet our youth where they are at. It feels like we are going back to our original way of serving youth,

feeding at a park. We know we will eventually be back in our building, but for the safety of everyone, this is what is best for all.

We are also restarting our Continued Education & Job Training Program along with our Medical and Counseling Services by helping youth with tutoring, getting youth to the dentist and doctor appointments.

We are so excited to see our youth and to help them!

## Day in the Park Car Show Opportunity Baskets

We are getting ready for our Car Show to happen September 19, 2020.

We are looking for help purchasing items to be used for opportunity baskets from local businesses.

You can help us in two ways:

1. Go to a local business and purchase items to create a opportunity basket. An opportunity basket is usually themed and has a few different items. An example would be a "spa basket" with items purchased from International Day Spa such as lotion, a bath bomb, and a candle.

Or

2. Donate money at [www.youthhope.org/donate](http://www.youthhope.org/donate) and YouthHope will go purchase items from a small business to create an opportunity basket. Make sure to note on the donation website that the donation is for the opportunity baskets.

## Looking Back

I first found out about YouthHope after I got out of prison for arson. I was young and I knew I needed some help with getting back on my feet.

Being in prison changes you. You can't show weakness, you have to be tough. I brought that toughness out of prison and into my life.

So when I walked into YouthHope, I was stone cold. No one could bother me or break me. I wasn't about to open up and share my soul or my weaknesses with anyone.

To my surprise, no one forced me to talk about my past. They accepted me for who I am and what I was willing to share. YouthHope wanted to help, but never pressured me to do more than what I was comfortable with.

I was able to use almost every program at YouthHope to help me get on my feet. I came for meals every day and I took home groceries for me and my siblings. I utilized the computer lab and Case Managers helped me make a resume, take the Food Handlers Certificate and get help with getting a job. They took me to inter-

views and helped me with interview questions. I went to the dentist with the help of YouthHope and even lived in the YouthHope housing for a while.

They did all of this even though I rarely said thank you, even though I wouldn't show up for appointments or cancel last minute. They continued to help.

It's been about 2 years since I've been to YouthHope. I now have a full time job, I'm married, and we are expecting our first child.

Now that I'm self-sufficient and working towards a bright future, I can honestly say that none of this would have been possible without YouthHope.

They took me in when no one else would. They didn't judge me based on my past decisions and gave me the practical tools I needed.

Instead of just giving me a list of what to do, they walked me through each step. They taught me how to be responsible and be a man of my word. I wasn't taught basic life skills or how to follow through and YouthHope took the time to do that.

I will be forever grateful to YouthHope.

## Did You Know?

78% of our youth are currently enrolled in school. Our youth know how important education is.

## A Note From the Founder



Summer is here! It definitely doesn't feel like a normal summer, but we are enjoying the small times of normality that are happening.

We are so excited to hopefully see some of our youth this month. I've missed them so much and I know they have needed help during this difficult time.

We are still working on our Day in the Park Car Show. It will look different this year because of COVID-19, but we know it

will be a great day.

Make sure you are following us on social media and checking your email so that we can keep you informed about the Car Show and about how we are re-opening YouthHope.

We are so thankful for the support that has been given to us throughout this unknown time. We have been financially impacted by COVID-19 and every donation that comes in helps tremendously.

We know that many of you

have been financially impacted as well and we are so grateful that you continue to give because you believe in us and believe in our mission.

If you would like to donate, go to [www.youthhope.org/donate](http://www.youthhope.org/donate)

We are a 501(c)3 and your donation is tax deductible.

I hope you all have a great summer and get to spend time with your loved ones.