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The YouthHope Post

Youth Outing to Joshua Tree

We love being able to provide as many opportunities for our youth to enjoy life. One of these ways we did that this month is by taking them out to Joshua Tree to hike and enjoy the beauty of the desert. Sometimes helping our youth looks more like walking and talking and climbing in the desert instead of searching for jobs. Showing our youth that we care about them, their mental health, their joy, and their happiness.

It also provides a space for youth to talk to us, build relationships, and enjoy the company of each other.



YouthHope Computer Lab

3 years ago, we received a grant from Edison International that allowed us to open a computer lab at our Drop In Center. It was an essential part of our Drop In Center being a full service center for our youth. Since we've opened it, we have seen some incredible successes and wanted to share them with you!

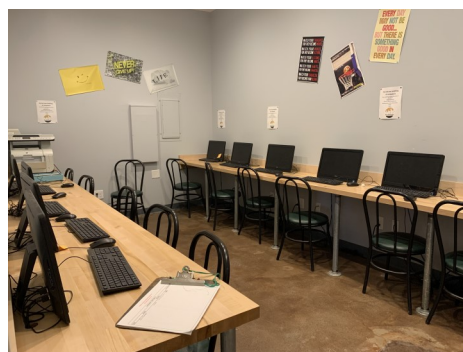
In 2019, we saw the following statistics for our computer lab:

359 youth used the computer lab for school work, job searching, Food Handlers Certificate, or resume writing

39 youth have received their Food Handler's Certificate

33 youth have created resumes

80 youth applied for jobs



Trustworthy

It's exhausting. This street life. I've been out here for a few years and it hasn't seemed to get easier. Every day, I wake up worried about where I'm going to get food, where I'm going to store all my stuff so it won't get stolen, asking for money, and not getting in trouble.

I've tried getting off the streets before. I put in a good effort of going to rehab, listening to the rules, doing my best, but within weeks, I was back on the streets. It was too hard. I wasn't able to stop my street ways.

I started going to YouthHope shortly after I started living on the streets. I knew that they would always be there for me. They weren't going anywhere. They loved me despite my addictions. They encouraged me, but also respected me and my decisions. They provided the necessities like food and clothing and hygiene items without asking for anything in return.

They've always been there.

That's why when I had the scariest night of my life, I turned to them.

That night started off like every other night. I found a place behind an abandoned building to sleep. What I didn't know about that location, was that this was a gang's spot. They beat me pretty bad and left me with nothing.

When I got out the next morning, I went straight to YouthHope. They sat with me and laid out all of my options. They asked if I had family that I could go to and I thought of my dad in Ohio. I haven't seen him in years, but he's stable, has a room for me, and could help me get on my feet.

Once I made my mind up, Heidi took me to the bus stop immediately, paid

for my \$200 bus ticket and gave me the biggest hug.

I hopped on that bus and never looked back. I'm so much happier now that I'm off the streets. I have a job, looking into trade schools, and I'm sober.

Without the help of YouthHope through the years, I wouldn't of trusted them enough to ask for help in my darkest hour. I knew they would be there and they were.

Thank you YouthHope for loving me and being a stable and trustworthy place.

Did You Know?

76% of our youth have working parents. Society's view of homeless and at-risk usually show people as lazy or unwilling to work. We see the opposite. Hard-working people trying to make ends meet.

A Note From the Founder



Our Walk in Their Shoes benefit dinner is this month and we are so excited! It's going to be a great night and I hope you are all able to attend. We moved locations this year because we outgrew our last location and wanted to make sure anyone who wanted to come would have a seat!

We are helping our youth in many ways this year. One way we are helping them that we don't talk about often is helping them enjoy their youthfulness.

For most of our youth, they are not able to enjoy being kids because they are dealing with abuse, drug addicted parents, or poverty. We like to be able to provide those fun opportunities where they can just be kids.

We do this by taking the youth to the beach, on hiking trips, having skate competitions, having concerts, and bbqs, and waterslides.

It's one of my favorite things to do. I love seeing our youth

come alive!

We are hoping to do more of these types of things this year and I can't wait to see how it helps our youth.

I hope to see you at the Walk in Their Shoes dinner. If you are unable to come, but would still like to donate, go to www.youthhope.org. We are so thankful for your continued support!