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SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED \$10,000 OR MORE IN 2021

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Community Support for YouthHope

We are continually amazed at the way our community comes and supports our youth. There are so many ways that they feel supported and we wanted to show you some recent events that have happened at YouthHope that our youth have loved!

Optimistic Club of Redlands built our youth skate ramps. We were able to have a BBQ and unveiling on the amazing quarter

pipes that the Optimistic Club made specifically for our youth.

Camping at Yucaipa Regional Park

FOR Parks made it possible for us to take some of our youth to The Yucaipa Regional Park for an overnight adventure. They learned how to pitch tents, go fishing, swimming, and build a campfire. They had a blast and can't wait to go back.

San Gorgonio High School Mod/Severe Special Education class made our youth care packages for Christmas. Our youth felt so loved that a group of students would take the time to put together these bags.

Our community is so special. Everyone comes together and provides for our youth. They use their talents to bless our youth.



YouthHope's Second Location

At the start of COVID in 2020, when we were figuring out how to still serve our youth, we started taking food to the local park twice a day, once at lunch and once at dinner.

2 years later and we have established relationships with the youth that are at the park every day. We still show up twice a day with food, clothes, and shoes. They know they can trust us and rely on us to be there. Although we don't have a building there, it is now YouthHope's second location.

In 2021, we provided 13,603 services at the park.

We handed out 110 shoes to youth at the park during Christmas in 2021.

A Safe Haven. A monologue from our 2019 Walk in Their Shoes

As far as I can remember, my childhood was actually pretty good. I lived with my parents and my sister and by all accounts we were a happy family. Then my mom passed away when I was 13. My dad got a girlfriend who I didn't really see eye to eye with. She was taking over the household setting rules telling my dad what a rotten kid I was. She desperately wanted me out of the house or in some kind of program so she would get my dad's full attention. My dad eventually chose this woman over his own son. He told me to move out because I was causing friction in his relationship. What a blow this was to me, the one person I thought I could count on turned his back on me.

I started couch surfing when I could and braved it on the streets when I had no options.

After a couple of years, I heard about a place called Youth Hope. I showed up at Heidi's place and if I'm being honest, I was just there for some clothes and a free meal. For years I would pop in and out but I never really wanted to get involved. Eventually, through the support I was getting at Youth Hope, I was able to get on my feet for a little bit. I was able to land a pretty decent job in Phoenix and I was glad to have a new chapter of my life to look forward to.

A few months after my move to

Phoenix, I got an unexpected call from one of the girls I had been with on the streets back in California. She told me she had a son, he was mine. I don't know if it was just a rush of emotion or a true sense of parental duty, but I decided that I needed to come back to Cali and see what I could do to help my kid. When I got back I started searching for them. But the problem is, if someone living on the streets doesn't want to be found, it becomes nearly impossible to find them. I hit a wall. I had finally gotten on my feet in Phoenix and I had thrown it all away to go on a wild goose chase.

My life spiraled out of control. I turned to drugs and alcohol. After a while I decided to end all the pain and confusion. I took a handful of pills

and was going to OD on them.

I walked into Youth Hope. When I got there, I sat down and talked to Judy. As I was talking to her, I completely broke down. I told her about the search for my kid, my wild mood swings and my suicide attempt. For the first time, I was being real. Judy sat with me, listened for as long as I blabbered on and she cared. And the care was real. It wasn't some plastered on smile and mindless nodding of her head, she was listening to me.

I am still in the process of trying to track down my son. I still have bad days but I have found at least one place where I can be real and I know others will be real with me. Youth Hope has become a bit of a safe haven for me.

Did You Know?

49% of all homeless people are youth in San Bernardino County.*

*https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vSHdS15GYtXtOzRVk4aWWStf-3pnhPu3Tie-Din4x1oOdbph_6j9oT7w4tralHzlxcVw4iMm-S05Mw/pubhtml?gid=468037392&single=true

A Note From the Founder



It's shocking to look back at the beginning of covid and all that has changed. I would never think that in the history of Youth Hope, we would experience a pandemic and have to shift the way we serve our youth.

Among the many losses that covid has brought, I am reminded of the things that we have gained as well. Our second location at the park is at the top of that list. We have come to know and love so many youth

who are our "park kids". Youth that we have been able to help move forward in life whether it be by giving them food, providing bus passes, helping with medical appointments, or helping with finding safe housing. Our youth at the park would never of heard of Youth Hope if we didn't come to them and bring food. Many youth wouldn't of gotten the help they need if we didn't venture out. I'm so thankful we have the resources for us to go out twice a day and help our youth at the park.

I am so excited for the Walk in Their Shoes this first weekend of March. I know it's going to be such a great night. We have a lot of people coming and I'm so excited to see everyone. This is one of my favorite fundraisers we do because of the real stories that are told about our youth. If you are unable to come, but would still like to donate to Youth Hope, visit www.youthhope.org/donate