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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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# The YouthHope Post



Can you believe it? We're getting ready for the holidays over here at YouthHope and it will look much different this year.

We're taking our annual shoe drive and mixing it up this year.

With COVID-19 restrictions still in place, we don't want to encourage people to go to crowded stores to purchase shoes. We also know that our youth have more needs this year because of the pandemic and the lack of

## Hope for a Lifetime

resources. We are asking our community to donate the price of a pair of shoes, or more and choose where you can help a youth this holiday season.

Our youth are struggling in these areas:

**Continued Education & Job Training:** Our youth need help getting jobs, access to reliable technology for distance learning, and help with resumes and Food Handlers Certificates.

**Food & Clothing Closet:** Our youth are in need of clothing, shoes, hot food, and groceries to take home.

**Medical & Counseling Services:** Our youth need help getting health insurance, going to the

dentist, doctor, and addressing mental health illness.

**Housing:** Our Boys and Girls Houses have monthly expenses including rent and utilities. We offer our youth a lower price of living so that obstacle is taken away and they can focus on excelling in school and work and becoming self sufficient.

Fill out the form and use the paypal link at

[www.youthhope.org/hope-for-a-lifetime](http://www.youthhope.org/hope-for-a-lifetime)

Or mail a check to PO Box 7803  
Redlands, CA 92375

## Lets Get Active!



We had such an amazing time this weekend seeing all of you get active! Thank you so much for participating and for sharing your journey on social media!

This fundraiser was a new one for us and we were so happy to see everyone who came along side of us to support us! 2020 has been so hard for all of us and we are so thankful for the support we continue to receive from all of you!

Thank you!

# The First YouthHope Christmas by Heidi Mayer

When I first started YouthHope, I never imagined some of the things I would experience. From overwhelming sadness learning about our youths past, to ecstatic joy seeing a youth who has struggled so long, finally receive their high school diploma.

I wasn't expecting such a range of emotions on our first YouthHope Christmas, but I did.

Our goal was to provide every youth with ANY shoe that they wanted. It could be any style, any brand, any color. We had 38 youth sign up for shoes that year. The staff and volunteers at YouthHope started searching high and low for these shoes. We went to every store in the Inland Empire to ensure that each youth would have their dream shoe. Somehow we were able to find every shoe.

On the day of the party, we had incredible volunteers that came and decorated the entire room. Each table was set beautifully, there was delicious food, and each of those 38 shoes were wrapped, waiting to be opened.

As the youth started to come, I felt so much joy seeing the look on their faces. They were amazed at what the community had done for them. They felt loved and cared for.

One young lady came walking in, but she didn't have the same look as the others. She looked upset and I asked her if she was ok. She said "I hate Christmas and I only came because you asked me to." My heart broke.

The rest of the night was amazing. I got to share my favorite Christmas story, we ate food, we laughed, and they got to open their shoes. The youth loved it. They all sat there and took off the shoes they were wearing and put on their new pair. They were shocked that they fit and that they were exactly what they asked for.

As everyone was leaving, I saw that young lady standing in the corner. I went over to her worried that we had messed up her shoes. I

asked her if everything was ok and she gave me the biggest smile, hugged me, and said "Thank you! This is the FIRST gift I've ever received in my entire life". I was shocked! She had never received a gift. EVER!

I knew from that moment on, that every year we would hand out Christmas shoes. Even though the shoes are expensive, we will continue to give shoes because for many of our youth, it's the only gift they receive ALL year. Maybe the only gift EVER!

Thank you for helping us give our youth HOPE!

Even with COVID, we will still give shoes to our youth!

## Did You Know?

76% of our youth's parents work. The families that our youth come from aren't lazy or unwilling to work hard, they just need help to better their lives.

## A Note From the Founder



Wow what a year we have had. As we approach the end of this crazy year, I am feeling so grateful for all of the support we have received this year.

When COVID started, I was unsure how the year would go. With people losing their job, the world shutting down, and all of our fundraisers cancelled, I expected YouthHope to suffer. But I was overwhelmed with the support from our community. People continued to help. We continued to see donations,

continued to see people willing to help, and continued to see support.

Thank you! We will never forget how you all carried us through this year.

As Christmas is right around the corner, please help us support our youth through our Christmas Drive. We have expanded it to include more than just shoes since so many of our youth need additional help this year.

Visit [www.youthhope.org](http://www.youthhope.org) to

learn more and to donate.

Also as the end of the year approaches, please remember us as you do your year end giving. We are a 501(c)3 and your donation is tax deductible.

I hope you are able to enjoy the holidays with your family and focus on the positives of this year!

Thank you so much!