



Inside this Issue:

Christmas Shoes	1
How to Buy	1
Youth Story	2
Did you Know?	2
Founder's Note	2

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR
DONORS WHO HAVE
CONTRIBUTED \$10,000

- 226 Collective



- Bill and Marty Knipps

- CarMax



- First Baptist Church
Redlands

- LAMAR Advertising



- Chris & Pam Martin
- Rita Shaw Broker and
Associates



- Inland SoCal United Way



- Toyota of Redlands



- Vans Shoes



- Women's Council of
Realtors East Valley



Shoes for Christmas, Hope for a Lifetime



It's approaching Christmas and we are starting our annual Christmas Shoe Drive.

Our goal for this shoe drive is to bring hope and a new pair of shoes to each of our youth. For the majority of our youth, this is the only present they will receive all year!

They treasure these shoes and look forward to our Christmas party all year.

These shoes fulfill more than just a clothing need. The shoes remind our youth that they are loved, supported, and have their community cheering them on. It gives them the courage to continue fighting the cycle of homeless and addiction.

Our youth hold onto these shoes all year long. They don't care that the soles are wearing thin and that holes are forming where their toes are, they continue to wear them for necessity, but also as an encouragement.

There is no way we can accomplish this without your help.

Please help and purchase some shoes.

Shoes can be purchased from Active Ride Shop starting in mid November. We are so excited to partner with Active again and we're so thankful for their help!

They are located at 27514 W. Lugonia Ave. Ste. A, Redlands, CA 92374. They are across from Chick-Fil-a in Citrus Plaza.

Each pair costs \$50.

For more information and updates, please visit

www.youthhope.org



How to Purchase Shoes for our Christmas Drive

Because of the shipping delays, our shoes won't be delivered to Active till the middle of November. We will keep you updated when the shoes are there.

There are several ways to support our Christmas Shoe Drive:

- The best way to help right now so we have the funds available when the shoes are delivered is to donate money towards the shoe drive by visiting www.youthhope.org/hope-for-a-lifetime and click the Paypal link.
- Once the shoes are delivered, pick up a shoe card(s) from YouthHope that has a specific youth on it, take the card to Active Ride Shop and they will have the specific shoes for that youth.
- If you don't have a card, you can still go to Active once the shoes are delivered, tell them you want to participate in the YouthHope Shoe Drive and they will have a pair of shoes for you to purchase.

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 youth 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 youth 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 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!

Did You Know?

The average age of youth that come to YouthHope for services is 16.

A Note From the Founder



I am so excited that we get to do our Shoe Drive this year. Last year we did a much smaller version of it, and I'm so happy we're back to our normal Shoe Drive! We have a much smaller timeline to get all of the shoes bought so we are needing all hands on deck to get all the shoes purchased on time.

November is National Homeless Youth Awareness Month. We always take this month to focus on the issue of youth homelessness and how many

people don't know how big of a problem youth homelessness is. One way that we can tell the community about youth homelessness and how we can fix it, is by purchasing one of our YouthHope T-shirts. You can get your t-shirt at our website, www.youthhope.org.

November is also a month that we remember all that we are thankful for. I hope you are able to be with your friends and family and remember all that you have been blessed with.

After a hard 2 years, I know that I have so much to be thankful for and you are definitely on the list. Without your love and support, YouthHope wouldn't be here and we wouldn't be able to help so many youth. Thank you for making YouthHope a safe place for our youth and a place where we can help our youth become self-sufficient.

I hope you have a great thanksgiving!