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Shoes for Christmas...Hope for a Lifetime



It's that time of year again! 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 that 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. These

shoes remind our youth that they are loved, and supported and have the community cheering them on. It gives them the courage to continue fighting the cycle of homelessness 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.

Last year we handed out 337 pairs of shoes and we are hoping to hand out more this year.

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

Please help and purchase some shoes!

Shoes can be purchased from Active Ride Shop. We are so excited to partner with Active again and we're so thankful for their generosity.

They are located at 27514 W. Lugonia Ave. Ste A, Redlands, CA 92374. Across the parking lot from Chic-fil-a in Citrus Plaza.

Each pair of shoes costs \$49.99 and includes a free pair of socks!

For more information and updates, please visit

www.youthhope.org



How to Purchase Shoes for our Christmas Drive

There are several ways to support our Christmas Shoe Drive:

- 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, tell them you want to participate in the YouthHope Shoe Drive and they will have a pair of shoes for you to purchase.
- You can also donate money towards the shoe drive by visiting www.youthhope.org and click the PayPal link to buy a pair of shoes.

Christmas? Thanksgiving? No Thanks, I'll Pass

Everybody gets so excited around this time of year. They love the weather changing, the pumpkin spice lattes, the Thanksgiving meals, the Christmas present buying, and the family get togethers.

But for me, and people who are in similar situations like me, hate this time of year. Because this time of year reminds me of everything I don't have.

I don't have a warm house to stay in. I currently either sleep at a park or couch surf depending on who will let me stay at their house for the night.

I don't have a family that I get to meet up with and eat big meals with or open presents with. My parents are drug addicts living on the street and abandoned me when I was a baby.

I have no money to buy presents or anyone close enough who would want to buy me a present.

I'm alone and every year at this time, **I am reminded of how alone I am and it feels like a knife to the heart.**

This is why I'm thankful for YouthHope and what they offer.

They understand the pain and are here for us no matter what.

My first year coming to the YouthHope Thanksgiving dinner was when I really knew that YouthHope understood. It wasn't a big happy celebration, but rather a place where weary souls could come, fill our stomachs, and cry on their shoulders. I left feeling understood and full of hope.

YouthHope's Christmas party has a different vibe to it. It feels like a family get together. It's the one time of the year that I get a wrapped gift that has my name on it. Even though I know it's a pair of shoes, I get so excited every year to unwrap it. It's a small reminder that although I don't have

any biological family supporting me, I have my YouthHope family and people in this community who will buy me a pair of shoes without even knowing who I am. And that makes me feel pretty lucky!

So although I dread this time of the year, I try to remember the positives. I remember those who are cheering me on.

And I'm telling myself that this time next year I will be in a better place.

Thank you YouthHope for making this time of year better than those past years.

Did You Know?

We've have over 30 youth complete their Food Handlers Certificates in 2019 so far! These youth either have a job or are going out prepared to get a job!

A Note From the Founder



Wow! Our Day in The Park last month was great! We had so much fun meeting so many of you along with spending the day together. The Kids Zone was a huge success and we had more cars than ever before for our Car Show.

A huge thank you to everyone that came out and performed or helped in any way. From the YMCA circus, to Assemblyman James Ramos, to all of the vendors, and volunteers who made the whole day possible.

We're gearing up for the holidays over here at YouthHope. This is a very important time of the year for us as most of our youth struggle with the holiday season. They are reminded of what they don't have and how lonely they are.

We spend the majority of the holiday season helping in any way that we can to show our youth they are loved and are always welcome at YouthHope.

We're starting the holiday season early with our Christmas Shoe Drive. We have over 300 shoes

that need to be bought this year so we want to make sure we give everyone plenty of time to purchase them.

Please help us make this holiday season a great one for our youth.

If you have any questions about our Christmas Shoe Drive, email Monica at monica@youthhope.org.

I hope you have a great holiday season!