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# The YouthHope Post

## It Was a Great Day in The Park

We had such a great Car Show last month. Thank you to everyone who came out and supported us. Thank you to the amazing vendors and all of the cars that came out. A special thank you to Bakers and Starbucks for donating food and drinks as well. We can't wait till next year to see you all again!



## Volunteer Spotlight: Chris Lyford

We love our volunteers and wouldn't be able to serve our youth without them. We wanted to highlight one of our longest volunteers, Chris Lyford.

Chris has been helping YouthHope since 2013 and has been such a stable, dependable volunteer. Over the years she has helped with serving food, being a mentor for youth living in our YouthHope House, taking youth to medical and counseling appointments, donating, among many other things.

Thank you so much Chris for your years of service to YouthHope. You are so faithful and we are so thankful!

# The Family I Never Had

As a kid I was left home alone all the time. It was actually weirder if there was an adult in the house.

An average week growing up looked like me waking up alone, my dad out at a casino, the lights being out at the house because no one paid the electricity bill. I would have to get myself up, find a way to school, find food on my own, and fall asleep by myself.

This started when I was 7 years old. I found YouthHope when I was 14 and went every day that I could. I would eat as much as I could and then I would take extras home so I knew I would have some food.

When I turned 18, YouthHope helped me find housing and helped me find a job. They let me help out at YouthHope and spend as much time there as I wanted.

As time went on, YouthHope helped me with enrolling in school, getting me connected with internships, and helped me plan for my future.

Having lived so much of my life without a family, having YouthHope felt like I had a real family. They care about me, they check in on me, they get worried if I don't check in with them, and they love me. They don't judge me, they don't shame me. They love me!

I'm now in a place where I don't visit YouthHope much. I try to stop in when I have free time from work. They are still the first people I think about when something good happens and the first people I reach out to when I need help.

They are my family and that will never change. I will always keep in touch with them and know they will help in any way I need it.

I'm so thankful for YouthHope and how they raised me. I'm scared to even think about where I would be if I didn't find them all those years ago. I can say without a doubt that I am successful in life now because YouthHope was there to lead me, guide me, and encourage me on my path.

Thank you YouthHope!

## Did You Know?

In San Bernardino County, there are only 0.5% of shelter beds dedicated for youth. It's extremely hard to find housing for a homeless youth.

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/california.research.bureau/viz/CHYPYouCountDashboard/Dashboard>

## A Note From the Founder



We had a great time at our Car Show last month. We had a great turn out, the weather was nice, the vendors were amazing, the cars were beautiful, and it was overall a really great day!

A huge thank you to everyone who came out to see us and support us at the Day in the Park. We had such a successful day and that wouldn't of happened without all the support we received.

We are getting closer and closer to the holiday season which means we get busy at YouthHope. We will be starting our Christmas Shoe Drive soon so keep an eye out for that. We love the holidays at YouthHope and love that we can give our youth gifts and celebrate them for who they are.

We are always looking for volunteers at YouthHope. If you are able to dedicate some time during the week to

helping YouthHope, please email us at [info@youthhope.org](mailto:info@youthhope.org).

YouthHope is a volunteer based program and we couldn't do what we do without all of the volunteers who so faithfully come and help us every week.

Thank you so much!