### April 2025 Volume 22, Issue 4



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In memory of Alice Peterson & Marjorie Craft

- Dave & Cindy Raff
- San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
  - Vans Shoes



# **YouthHope's 4 Core Programs**

We focus on 4 areas at YouthHope. In each of these programs, we use a one-onone Case Management approach where we work with our youth individually to give them the steps they need to be successful.

#### Food & Clothing Closet

We serve hot meals 4 times a week along with providing access to our food pantry. We also provide a clothing closet that is accessible to all youth.

#### Medical & Counseling Services

We have an onsite Medical Doctor that comes to help our youth with medical needs, and an onsite Licenced Therapist to counsel our youth. We also have many community organizations that provide eye care and dentistry for free.

#### Continued Education & Job Training

We assist youth in enrolling and reenrolling in school and trade school. We help youth obtain their Food Handlers Certificate, help with resume writing, and preparation for job interviews.

#### Housing

We have a boys and girls house for youth over the age of 18. It is education based housing and an Resident Advisor lives in each house to provide assistance.

We also work with other organizations to get youth into housing that best fits their needs.

## **Meet Our Volunteer Valarie**

Valarie is one of our amazing volunteers here at YouthHope. She is in charge of all of our silent auction items and opportunity baskets for our fundraisers. This is a huge job and we are so thankful that she takes charge and gets it done. We know she will do the best job.

Valarie learned about YouthHope from her cousin when she moved to Redlands. She was looking for an organization where she could volunteer at. She chose YouthHope because her grandsons had a rough childhood and the mission of YouthHope stuck out at helping youth and kids and bettering their future.

Valarie's favorite thing at YouthHope is watching our youth progress in their success. She loves seeing our youth graduate from school and becoming self-sufficient.

When Valarie started volunteering, she first started by doing office work. She would input data into our database and she would work on tax letters, but she learned quickly that the office work wasn't the best fit for her. After that she started working on fundraisers and focused on opportunity baskets and silent auction items. She would organize them, wrap them, make sure she had enough baskets, and put them together the day of the fundraiser.

She learned that opportunity baskets were her specialty. She loved being a part of the whole process and she has stuck with it since then.

We are so thankful for Valarie. She is a vital part of our fundraisers and we are so glad she gets to use her gifts and talents here at YouthHope.

Thank you Valarie! We are so lucky to have you!

# I Just Need A Little Bit of Help

I'm a good kid! I got good grades in school and I never got in trouble. My parents taught me early on to listen and be respectful. From the outside, I looked like a normal kid with no problems.

The problem was that we were so poor. My parents have full time jobs, but it doesn't even cover the basics.

I would get free lunch from school every day and save some of it for dinner. We only bought the bare minimum.

I know my parents did their best. They wanted a better life for us than what they grew up with and gave us everything they had.

When I turned 18 there was no doubt that I was going to get kicked out of my house. Not because of anything I did, but because my parents needed to save money where they could and if I moved out then that was one less mouth they would have to feed.

I knew about YouthHope from a teacher at my high school. The teacher called Heidi and asked if they could help me with housing and also with enrolling at the local community college.

I met with Heidi the next day and she asked me if I would want to live in the Youth-Hope Housing. This was such a relief because I didn't have to move far away and I could still be near my family.

I have lived in the YouthHope Housing for a few months now and it feels like home. I have my own space, I'm going to college, and I have a part time job.

I am so thankful for the love of my parents and also the help of YouthHope as I grow to be successful and self sufficient!

## Did You Know?

51% of our youth have been abused or are currently being abused.

## **A Note From the Founder**



Happy Spring! I can't believe we are so close to summer. Our youth are busy finishing the school year. We have several youth who are graduating high school and we're super excited to see them reach this huge milestone.

Every year at the beginning of summer we have a summer party at our Drop-In Center. We rent a water slide, have water balloons, and a big bbq for our youth. We celebrate all the youth and all they accomplished over the school year. Some youth are celebrating graduating from high school while other youth are celebrating getting C's instead of F's.

We're proud of each of youth and how they are continually bettering their lives.

Our next fundraiser is our annual Car Show and we are busy putting it together. It's always a great day and we are excited to make it the best one yet.

We've also been busy down at our Colton Campus. We are getting to know the homeless and at-risk youth, learning more about the city, and partnering with people who will help us reach more youth.

We are so excited for what is happening there and can't wait to see the growth that continues to happen.