



**Inside this Issue:**

Christmas Shoes	1
Youth Story	2
Did You Know	2
Founder's Note	2

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS  
WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED  
\$10,000 OR MORE IN 2024**

- In Memory of Sue Angell
- Tom & Caroline Bell Family Foundation
- The Brett Wheeler Safety Net
- Doug & Margo Hartzheim
  - Help for Life
- Tom and Karen Kaney
  - LAMAR Advertising
- The James & Rebecca Malachowski Charitable Fund at Inland Empire Community Foundation, Where Giving Grows
- Chris & Pam Martin
- In Memory of John Mirau
  - Terry Mock
- National Family Legacy Inc.
  - Jim & Valarie Peterson
- In memory of Alice Peterson & Marjorie Craft
  - Dave & Cindy Raff
- San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
  - Vans Shoes



## **YouthHope's Hope for a Lifetime Christmas Shoe Drive**

Our goal every Christmas is to provide our youth with a brand new pair of wrapped shoes. For many of our youth, this is the only gift they receive all year. We have an exciting opportunity this year to work directly with Vans to get our shoes at a discounted rate.

Mr. Van Doren, the owners of Vans, dropped off all of the shoes for our youth at our Drop-In Center.

Instead of going and purchasing shoes at a store, you can now purchase shoes for our youth right at our Drop-In Center or purchase them online!

**You can purchase shoes at**

**1175 W. Redlands Blvd.**

**Redlands, CA 92373**

**Monday-Thursday 8am-5:30pm**

**You can also send a check to:**

**PO Box 7803 Redlands, CA 92375**

**Or purchase shoes using the link below.**

**Each pair of shoes cost \$50 and comes with no tax and a free pair of socks. Thank you for bringing hope to our youth!**

**<https://youthhope.org/hope-for-a-lifetime>**



## Our First Christmas—By Heidi Mayer

When I started YouthHope, I never imagined some of the things I would experience. From overwhelming sadness learning about our youth's 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 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.

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 the those 38 shoes were wrapped, waiting to be opened.

As the youth started to come in, 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 the 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 that hates Christmas 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!

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?

**28 youth have earned their Food Handler's Certificate this year!**

## A Note From the Founder

Happy Holidays from all of us at YouthHope. I hope your Thanksgiving was full of family and friends.

We are getting very excited for our Christmas party this month. We are still looking for people that can help us purchase Christmas Shoes for our youth.

We have over 200 youth who have signed up for shoes and we want to be able to provide each youth with a pair of shoes wrapped with their name on it.

If you can help, please visit our website to find out all the details, or call our office at (909) 793-2345.

This time of year is always hard for our youth as they don't get to participate in many regular traditions that we do. They don't have the family or the finances or the stability to make this time of year special.

This is why we prioritize our Christmas party and why we make sure that it's extra special for them. Thank you for

helping us make this happen!

As we approach the end of the year, please remember us in your year end giving. We are a 501(c)3 and can provide you with a tax letter for all donations. We would not be able to continue helping over 6,000 youth without your support and encouragement.

We are ready for 2026 and are excited for all the youth we will be able to help.

I hope you have a great holiday season with the ones you love!

