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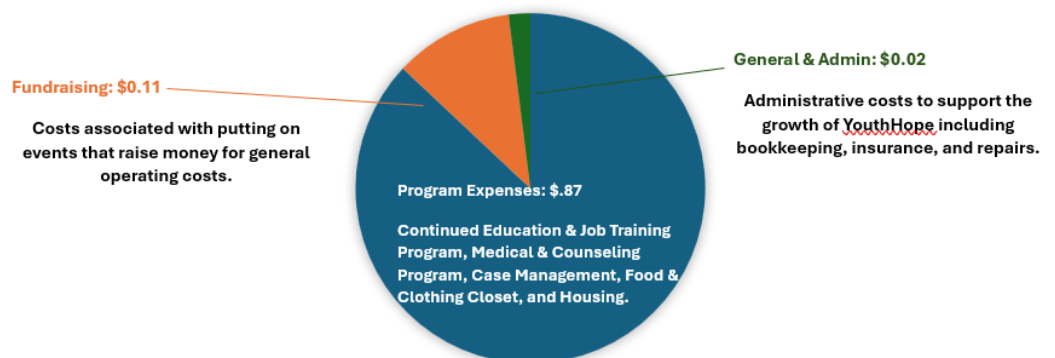
SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED \$10,000 OR MORE IN 2024

- In Memory of Sue Angell
- Tom & Caroline Bell Family Foundation
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 - City of Redlands
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 - Chris & Pam Martin
 - Jim & Valarie Peterson
- In memory of Alice Peterson & Marjorie Craft
 - Dave & Cindy Raff
- San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
 - Vans Shoes



Where Your Money Goes When You Donate

WHERE YOUR DOLLAR GOES AT YOUTHOPE



We take donations at YouthHope very serious. When you trust us with your money, we want to make sure we help as many youth as possible. For every dollar that you give, you can see where it goes.

A Thank You From One Of Our Youth

When I was 14 years old my parents were going through a divorce which caused me to move to Redlands I didn't know anyone in Redlands or have any friends so I went to the local skatepark everyday after after my online classes to pass my time skating. At the skatepark I started noticing these people who would bring food, snacks, and drinks for everyone.

Skating all day long worked up an appetite so this really helped me out as normally I would be starving by the time I got home. One day, I was sitting on a bench at the park when one of the ladies who handed out the food came and sat next to me. She said "Hi my name is Heidi, what can I do for you?" At first I was confused but then she explained that she helps people and was wondering how she can help me. I told her that I had been wanting a job since I was 11 but could not find anyone who would hire someone at my age. She then told me that I could help her at her office and she would pay me. I remember running home to tell my mom about the opportunity and being so excited. I followed up with her and not too long after I was there at the office raking leaves, sweeping, cleaning, helping with mail campaigns, and anything else they needed. I saved nearly every dollar I made as I wanted to buy a car as early as I could.

After a few months, I started getting closer to turning 15 which meant I was finally almost of age to get a real job.

Heidi and Judy helped me get my food handlers card, make a resume, and become interview ready. Not too long after, they helped me apply and set up an interview at Chick-Fil-A. With their preparation and advice I got the job and after a year of working there I bought my first car with cash.

I am now 18 years old and starting my second semester of college. My point in telling you guys my story is to tell you how much have changed my life. I was a lost 14 year old with a lot of ambition but no direction and you guys gave me that direction and guidance to set me on the path that I wanted to be on.

You have changed my life in ways that 14 year old me could never imagine and for that I am eternally grateful.

I will never forget what YouthHope has done for me and words cannot describe how grateful I am but if I had to fit all of my appreciation in just 2 words, I would say THANK YOU!

Do You Remember Me? From The Walk In Their Shoes

I think I was 11 or 12 when I got jumped into my dad's gang but I had been running the streets for as long as I can remember.

I started coming to YouthHope when I was in middle school cause I knew I could eat before I went home.

I got so wrapped up in that life that I stopped coming in. Things got worse and I did so many things that I regret. I wanted out so bad but what do you do when everyone you know is deep in the game? I can't just walk away.

Then one day my dad told me to do something. Something so horrible that I knew I could never look at myself again if I did it. I didn't know where to turn but then I thought about Heidi asking me if I needed anything.

I came by on a Wednesday afternoon, and there she was in the parking lot. I walked up and all I could say was "Do you remember me?" I was so scared and I think she could see it. She said, "Of course, I remember you, Dario! Are you hungry?" I don't know how the words, "Are you hungry?" can make a 19 year old wanna cry, but it did.

I tell her how I'm stuck in this messed up world of violence and want out. This place and these people who just gave me a hot meal, and some kindness years ago, now they givin' me the courage to make a change. Heidi helped me make a plan but I couldn't just run away. My dad would never stop looking for me and it might be hard

to believe but when he found me he probably would have had me killed. I had to look him in the eye and tell him I was leaving the gang.

I went home and told him, "I can't be the man you want me to be. I'm done with this for good. I want something different for myself, man." My old man wouldn't even look at me, He just told me I would have to be jumped out and he wouldn't let me leave until they was all outside. I walked out the back door and into people who I thought was my friends. I expected a beating, but they didn't just beat me, they did so many me messed-up brutal things that shouldn't never happen to nobody. It was the darkest most disgusting nightmare I could have imagined and my dad, the person that is supposed to protect me, he told them to do it.

Heidi came and got me. Her and Judy pulled up in front my dad's house like it wadn't nuthin. They helped me get in the

car and drove me straight to the hospital. As soon as I got out they told me the City of Redlands had some kina grant program that helped me get a stay in a motel room in Riverside until they could find me a safe place to stay. I had to move outa this area cause I didn't know what would happen if anyone from my old gang saw me. Heidi helped me get into a sober living house.

Now I got me a job working in a warehouse. They gave me a bus pass for the first month I worked and then some cool dude fixed up a bike and donated it so I can ride it to work. I'm saving for a car and I'm gonna try to get my GED.

If you came across me a few years ago you probably woulda guessed that my next chapter would be prison. But these people here, they got my back.

Did You Know?

6% of the students in San Bernardino County are homeless.

www.cde.ca.gov

A Note From the Founder



Thank you so much to everyone who came out to our Walk In Their Shoes Dinner. It was such a great night and I loved getting to talk to so many of you. The support we received was incredible and I am so thankful for all of you!

My favorite part is having the youth share with everyone how YouthHope has helped them. I love letting them share with everyone.

We are very busy here at

YouthHope. We recently hired a licensed therapist to come to our Drop-In Center and counsel our youth.

This will help our youth tremendously. Our youth are very hesitant to go to a new building to meet with a stranger and get advice from them. Now they don't have to do that. They will come to know our therapist, trust her, and when they need help and advice, they can turn to her for professional help.

We are so thankful to be able

to provide this service to our youth.

We have many youth that are coming in to YouthHope for Community Service. This is also a really great opportunity for youth who don't know about YouthHope come and learn about all the ways they can benefit coming to YouthHope. Many of our community service youth end up sticking around YouthHope and using the resources we have available.

I hope you are enjoying 2025 and are ready for spring!