

**INSIDE THIS
ISSUE:**

Golf Benefit	1
DinnerTime	1
SafeHouse	2
Note from Founder	2

YouthHope



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE STARTS WITH TODAY

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Opportunity Quilt Drawing Was a Success!

Thank you to **Ley Cash** for making a beautiful spring quilt that we held an opportunity drawing for to raise funds for our programs. **Carolyn's Café** hung the quilt so the public could see just how beautiful it was. The drawing was held on May 31st at **Carolyn's and Rose Sian** was the winner. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success.



"Slice of Hope" Benefit Golf Tournament

Our first ever golf tournament is fast approaching. The tournament will be held on May 19th at the beautiful Yucaipa Valley Golf Course. If you have not signed up already, we encourage you to go online and sign up. The funds from this event will support our goal of opening a drop-in center for the youth we serve. The drop-in center would be open five days a week, and youth would have access to tutoring, counseling, and mentoring programs every day.

It is sure to be a fun day with great food, and fun raffle prizes. A breakfast of fresh Starbucks coffee and donuts will start the day. Each player gets a tournament bag with a surprise in each bag. There will be prizes for a

hole-in-one competition, and closest to the pin competition. Players can also bid on such great opportunity drawing prizes as a 4-pack of park hopper tickets to Disneyland!

We need 100 players to make this golf tournament a success, and to get us closer to our goal of opening a drop-in center. If you sign up as a single it is \$100. If you gather yourself, and 3 friends to play as a foursome you save some money because its only \$375. This is a great way to let your friends, family, and co-workers know about YouthHope, and have some fun while supporting our future drop-in center.

Not very good at golf? You can still participate in this event by

sponsoring a tee sign. For the great price of \$125 you will get your name or company on a prominent tee sign. Your company logo will also be placed on the sign. You can also dedicate your sign to someone you know who has been touched by the homeless youth crisis.

During the tournament enjoy a complimentary beverage from local brewery, Hangar 24. At the end of the tournament pat yourself on the back for playing a good game, and take delight in a Carne Asada lunch.

Please contact Rachel Benedict at (909)435-6945 or go to our website www.youthhope.org, to sign up. We hope to see you at this exciting YouthHope event on May 19!



Food for Thought

Many of the youth we serve depend on YouthHope to receive food. We have several programs that give them access to food. Our grocery program provides healthy groceries for those youth who are in homes, but who do not have an adequate supply of food, and who are working toward their goals. YouthHope will take these youth to the grocery store, and educate them on how to purchase groceries that are healthy, and that will last. Each time we take a youth to the grocery store we allow them to spend between \$100 and \$150.

YouthHope will also provides hot meals to every youth who comes to see us on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, We could not pro-

vide this to the youth if it weren't for the volunteers who purchase the food, cook the food, and deliver the food to us. For some youth this is the only sustenance they receive in a day.

To get youth through the rest of the week, we will provide gift cards to places like McDonald's, Del Taco, and Subway. We also provide sack lunches with items like water bottles, granola bars, and fruit cups. These items are donated, and we would not be able to offer these if it weren't for those who donate the items and the funding for the items.

Being a non-profit, we are always in need of funding to support these programs, and of volunteers to

cook food. You can help by gathering your family, your co-workers, church group, or civic group and cooking a meal that will feed 100 youth. You can also conduct a granola bar, protein bar, bottled water, and fruit cup drive so that YouthHope can put together the sack lunches.

When youth are fed and no longer have to worry where their next meal is coming from, they can focus on reaching their goals. When they reach their goals, they are able to exit street life, and become self-sufficient adults. Please consider serving YouthHope in this area. Contact us at info@youthhope.org or (909)663-4543 to sign up for any of our food programs.

Contact Us!
We would love to
hear from you.
You can call us at
(909)663-4543 or
email us at
info@youthhope.org

You can also find us
on [Facebook](#) and
[Twitter!](#)



A Safe Place at Operation SafeHouse

The other day at the YouthHope dinner Heidi met a young woman who was 17 years old. She was brought to YouthHope by a youth pastor from Mentone, who had been acting as a mentor for the girl, "Betty". At first sight, the first thing Heidi noticed was the girl's incredible beauty, but when she looked deeper, she could see pain in her eyes. When Heidi began talking with the Betty, she quickly realized this was a young lady whose life had been a series of painful events, but who was determined to survive. Heidi learned that Betty had been abandoned by her father, and could not remember the last time she had seen him. She knew her father was homeless, but she knew no other information than that. Betty shared that she had been severely abused by her mother and her mother's boyfriend, and that her mother eventually relinquished responsibility for her by giving her to Betty's older sister. Her sister disappeared to L.A. shortly after, and she was forced to live on the streets to avoid abuse. Instead of sleeping on the streets though, Betty began to

sell her body to receive shelter each evening. She spent two long years living this way before she met the pastor who brought her to us. Heidi spent two hours with her, gaining background information, and sharing options with Betty. Heidi informed Betty that she could go to a safe house, but she would have to involve child protective services, and eventually enter the foster care system. She would also receive counseling, and be able to finish school through the safe house. Betty liked the idea of the safe house, but she was fearful to leave her friends. She asked if they would be able to visit, and Heidi shared they would not be able to. For a young woman to go from taking care of herself, and having full control, to living in a safe house where someone else had control, it felt like she was going to prison. Heidi shared with Betty that it was not ok for her to have taken care of herself for so long. Betty should have had someone to take care of her, and guide her, and love her. Instead she received abuse and neglect which is not what a child deserves. Heidi explained to Betty that she still needed

to be cared for, and if she went to the safe house that is exactly what she would receive.

Heidi had to make numerous phone calls to get Betty into a facility, but she was able to find a place for her at Operation SafeHouse. Betty decided to go "home" that night to say goodbye to her friends. By the end of the weekend, Betty was on her way to an Operation SafeHouse facility, where they had saved a spot for her. We hope that Betty will realize that she is worthy of love and care, and she will get to realize her dream of becoming either a mechanic or an astrologer. We hope that for once in her young life, Betty will finally be able to act like a kid and have someone else look out for her well-being. We know that she will be loved and cared for at Operation Safehouse, and now she is safe from the dangerous life of living on the streets.



Note From the Founder

Last month YouthHope had the great honor of receiving the Hometown Hero award from Loma Linda Children's Hospital. Each year, the Loma Linda Children's Hospital holds a gala to raise funds for their work, and each year they select a member of the community to honor as their Hometown Hero.

YouthHope was so privileged to receive this award from the Children's Hospital, which recognized our efforts in the community. I would like to thank the Loma Linda Children's Hospital for giving YouthHope this prestigious award, and thank you for all that you do for the youth through the hospital.

Some of the work we have been doing recently has included helping youth fill out job applications. Every

week, we take our computers to McDonalds, because they have free wifi, and we sit with about 3-5 youth helping them fill out job applications, and putting together resumes. They want to work more than anything, and any job lead we receive, we pass onto the kids immediately. Many times we cannot help all the kids who show up to receive this service because we have limited computers and limited space.

It is our hope, that when we open a drop-in center, we will have a computer lab where the youth can come throughout the day to work on applying for jobs. We will also have the capacity to accommodate volunteers who can help the youth put together their resumes. Having the ability to apply for jobs with a professional re-

sume, is just one way the homeless and at-risk youth can begin to put the pieces of their broken lives together.

YouthHope is getting closer to realizing the dream of opening a drop-in center. Recognition from the Children's Hospital is proof that we are making a difference in the community and creating awareness for the homeless youth crisis. You are becoming aware of the homeless youth crisis just by reading this newsletter, and I thank you for taking the time to do so. Pass it on to just one friend and watch how the word will spread, and how many more youth can be helped because of you.—Heidi Mayer

