

**INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:**

New Sponsor	1
Purchase Tickets	1
Charles' Story	2
Note from Founder	2

# YouthHope



**HOPE FOR THE FUTURE STARTS WITH TODAY**

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 7

APRIL 1, 2013

## YouthHope Gains A Valued Sponsor ....

Please join us in welcoming Debra Mason to the YouthHope family as our most recent valued sponsor of "A Walk In Their Shoes" Benefit Dinner. We are so pleased to have Debra as a significant sponsor of this event. Debra is a native to Southern California. She was born and lived with her family in Rialto until her parents purchased a lot in Redlands and built their new family home.

Debra attended California State University Long Beach where she received her degree in English. Debra's hard work ethic is definitely not new to her. Debra worked two jobs to put herself through college.

In 1992 Debra married Ed Mason, the happy couple have recently celebrated their 20 year anniversary. Debra and her husband Ed have two beautiful daughters, Mackenna and Kaden.

Debra and her husband moved to Colorado and Debra found her niche as a realtor. In her first year, Debra assisted in the successful close of 88 transactions. It was an amazing year, Debra had

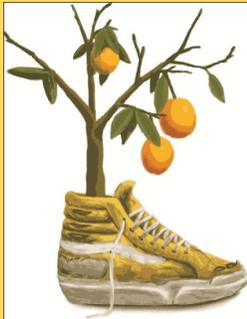
found her passion.

In 2002 Debra moved back to California and joined Century 21 Lois Lauer and remains there today. Debra expresses that she was blessed to have had the experience gained from working in Colorado. She learned the skills necessary that have allowed her to not only survive, but be successful in this most difficult real-estate market.

Recently, Debra indicated the following; "Our market has been incredibly challenging the past 4.5 years. Our market shifted from a customer service environment to a market of survival – facing tough economic times for my clients, many of whom lost their homes, battled illness, divorce, and job loss. These have truly been the most difficult and yet the most incredible times in my career. I have laughed and cried more these past years than ever. Debra values her clients and business relationships and always goes above-and-beyond for her business and professional acquaintances. While preparing the above information for this

piece, Debra mentioned that she had to deliver a prepared dinner to one of her clients who had just delivered premature twins. It is this type of dedication to her clients and the community that sets Debra Mason apart from the rest.

- Quality svc award last 6 years
  - Emerald award 2012
  - Bronze award 2011
  - Bronze 2004-2011
  - 2011 President of San Bernardino BNI (Business Network Institute)
  - Sponsor of YVYSO soccer
- In conclusion, YouthHope Foundation would like to welcome Debra Mason and her family to ours. Please look for Debra during our benefit dinner "A Walk In Their Shoes", and introduce yourself. Debra is looking forward to meeting all of our supporters and volunteers. Should you require Debra's assistance with any real-estate questions or transactions, you can be assured you are working with the best! Welcome to the YouthHope family Debra.



### **Auction Items are still needed for**

YouthHope's Third  
Annual Benefit Dinner,  
"A Walk in Their  
Shoes"

**Friday, May 10th**

**If you know of a local  
business that would  
like to donate a gift  
basket or gift card,  
please contact**

Lauren (909) 437-4835 or  
via email at

Lauren@youthhope.org

## A Walk In Their Shoes Benefit Dinner....

**Hurry-Don't Delay!**

**YouthHope's Third Annual Benefit Dinner  
"A Walk In Their Shoes", Friday May 10th, 2013**

**Reservations are still available!**

**Reservations Deadline is April 26th**

**Join Us for an Awareness hour, Dinner and Silent Auction Fundraiser**

To RSVP, please contact Lauren at 909 437-4835 or  
visit YouthHope's website at: [www.youthhope.org](http://www.youthhope.org)

**To Donate:**

Send your donations to YouthHope at P.O. Box 601, Redlands CA 92373 or donate online via our website [www.youthhope.org](http://www.youthhope.org)

**Bus Passes:**

Were you aware that the Redlands Unified School District no longer provides school busses to local high schools? If a homeless youth wants to attend school, the only way they can get there if the school is too far to walk, is a bus. Bus passes cost \$35.00 per month. We desperately need donations to fund this program, please contact us online via our website [www.youthhope.org](http://www.youthhope.org) to donate.

**The Road Traveled - An Update....**

In the March issue we introduced you to Charles, who as a child lived on the streets in Russia. Tragically, at the age of 9, Charles lost his mother and was placed in an orphanage in Russia. After being adopted and brought here to the U.S. approximately 5 years later, Charles had a difficult time acclimating to his new living arrangements and subsequently found himself alone and homeless in Redlands.

When we last left the story of Charles, he had just been accepted into the C. R. England truck driving school in Fontana. As Heidi dropped Charles off, they were both excited and nervous as Charles once again embarked on a

new life changing adventure. We are happy to report that Heidi is still in contact with Charles. Charles completed his two week program from C. R. England Truck Driving School and passed the written examination with flying colors! Heidi recently received a message from Charles stating that he was already working and driving a big rig traveling across the country. In his messages to Heidi, Charles has often expressed his thanks and devotion to both Heidi and YouthHope. YouthHope was instrumental in helping Charles gain access to the truck driving program and also in providing him with the necessities he required during his time spent at

the training facility. The next message that Heidi received from Charles indicated that he was thoroughly enjoying his new career and was driving through the snow in Ripley, West Virginia. Heidi and the staff at YouthHope are eagerly awaiting upcoming communications from Charles and his further adventures in life... Our best wishes and hope for a successful future will continue to follow him on his journeys. It is this type of rewarding outcome that keeps Heidi and the staff of YouthHope focused on the positive contributions that YouthHope is making on a daily basis in these young peoples' lives.

**Note From the Founder....**

Please plan on joining us for our Third Annual Benefit and Awareness Dinner "A Walk In Their Shoes" on Friday, May 10, 2013 at the Mitten Building in Redlands. Join us for the awareness hour at 6:00 p.m., and dinner at 7:00 p.m.. The event is shaping up to be a great success. The YouthHope staff are hard at work organizing food, entertainment and gift items for the silent auction and opportunity drawings! There will be some great items to bid on. Last year the benefit dinner and auction generated funds to support the many programs that YouthHope provides to the homeless and underserved youth in the area. Your support and donations fund programs such as the Job Training and Education Program. Youth are also provided hot meals three days per week, access to clean clothing, health and dental care when required, GED prepa-

rations, tutoring and mentoring. These vital services would not be possible without the contributions of the community.

Are you aware that according to the Redlands Unified School District, there are over 3,000 homeless children in the City of Redlands? Many of these children are fortunate enough to live with extended family or friends. Some of these children may even have a temporary roof over their head. Unfortunately, many of the youth that we serve at YouthHope are not so fortunate. Many of these youth sleep on the streets, "couch-surf" from one home to another, or find shelter where ever they can. The amount of youth homelessness in Redlands and the surrounding area is staggering and unfortunately we meet new homeless youth in need of our services every day.

Of the 106 youth we recently surveyed in Redlands:

**52%** were homeless (sleeping under bridges, in bushes, on sidewalks, etc.)  
**28%** had lived or were currently in foster care

**59%** had parents who were divorced

**40%** had parents who used drugs or were alcoholics

**37%** had graduated high school  
**84%** had tried to get off the streets and were not successful on their own.

YouthHope was founded to help these youth by building confidence and promoting self-sufficiency so they can exit life on the street.

Please plan on joining us for a memorable evening on May 10, 2013 at the Mitten Building. Not only will you have a chance to learn more about the youth we serve and our organization, you will also have a chance to help change these deserving young peoples' lives.