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YouthHope



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE STARTS WITH TODAY

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Don't Forget...

...YouthHope is still collecting recyclable items. If you have any cans or bottles you can donate them to YouthHope. All funds collected from our recycling program allow us to continue offering valuable services to homeless youth.

"A Walk in Their Shoes" Benefit Dinner

On October 12, 2012 you will have the opportunity to participate in a stirring YouthHope event. We will be hosting an evening of awareness for the benefit of supporting YouthHope programs. We hope that you will join us for an evening of walking through the shoes of the homeless and at-risk youth in the community. We will present local and current statistics on the youth population that we serve. We will also conduct a presentation on how we have been able to step in and serve these youth's particular needs because of support from the community. Your purchase of a ticket will help YouthHope

to continue providing essential services to homeless and at-risk youth.

Individual tickets are \$75 with proceeds going to support the cost of such programs as medical care and healthy groceries. The ticket price includes a delicious meal, dessert, and entrance into the Awareness Hour.

Participants will have the opportunity to bid on silent auction items. The evening will also feature stories from directly inside YouthHope.

The goal of the evening is not only to raise funds for all of YouthHope's valuable programs for homeless and

at-risk youth, but to raise awareness as to why youth are in these situations. Over the course of several years we have learned many reasons why youth become homeless. We hope to share these reasons, so attendees will gain an understanding of this population's particular needs.

Please join us for this one-of-a-kind event on Friday October 12, 2012 at 6pm. You can register for the event on our website, www.youthhope.org. Just click on the "In Their Shoes" tab and you will find everything you need to participate in this event.

Street Doctor Accomplished Great Work

In December of 2011 we had the pleasure of gaining Dr. Carla Toms as a YouthHope volunteer. She attended YouthHope every week and would see kids for such illnesses as pneumonia, chronic headaches, and feminine problems. Dr. Toms would sit with each youth and give them one-on-one information and advice. She would take as much time as was needed to answer any questions the youth may have had. In the 10 months that Dr.

Toms donated her services to YouthHope she saw 119 youth.

These particular youth would not have otherwise received medical care for various reasons. They would not have been given the necessary prescriptions to overcome treatable ailments, and they would have continued to suffer in silence. These ailments would have prevented them from moving forward with their lives, but Dr. Toms gave them re-

newed hope.

Last month, Dr. Toms was given a new opportunity and had to step down at YouthHope. The time she spent at YouthHope made a lasting impact on the youth who went to her for help. We hope that we can continue to offer this valuable service to the youth. We cannot express how grateful we are to Dr. Toms for all that she has done for the youth.



Everyone enjoyed the 66rs baseball game. Thank you Wells Fargo!

A Mother's Painful Journey



The boys enjoying the camping trip.

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!](#)

Often times we share the stories of our youth based on what they have told us. We do not usually get the opportunity to speak to parents about the reasons why youth have turned to a life on the streets. An opportunity presented itself when a mother came to speak with Heidi about her two son's behavior. We had been working with her sons since December of last year, and we had gained a little background from them.

Their mother confirmed their sad story and filled in a few details of her own. Once we heard the story, we began to understand the depths of their pain.

The mother explained how when the boys, and their siblings, were young she was involved in an extremely abusive relationship with her children's stepfather. She tried everything to make her husband happy, but he would continue to be angry with her, and beat her. She discovered that her husband was an addict, and when he would

use, he would have violent and angry outbursts. Discouraged and desperate about her situation she began to use drugs to escape the pain. The matters at home worsened for the kids, and law enforcement was forced to step in. Her husband was put in jail and her kids were taken into protective custody; she was left utterly alone. She dove deeper into her addiction because she realized she had lost everything.

Fast forward 10 years later, the young mother was still lost in her depression and addiction, but had just experienced a life-altering moment. God changed her heart, and she realized she needed to pull herself together. She needed to become a mother to her children and stop wasting her life away. Her mother had fought hard to gain custody of her children, and had been raising them for the last 10 years. She became sober, got a job, and moved to be near her children. The children were no longer children though. When she began her descent into

addiction her oldest son was only 10, he was now 20. He was also an addict. Her two oldest boys had been influenced by her behavior, and were fast following her into the darkness of addiction. She is now the kind of mother that the young kids always needed, but she fears it is too late. She came to YouthHope seeking advice on how to save her children. As we have worked with her boys we began to wonder if she is too late to save them. She is beginning to wonder the same thing.

We understand that there are many different stories of how youth ended up addicted and on the streets. We also understand that there are many different kinds of parents, some who have been very good parents to youth who have turned to drugs. Our goal is to try and understand each individual youth so that we can understand why youth suffer from addiction. We hope to learn so we can prevent the addiction and save youth from a life of pain and suffering.

Note From the Founder



Last month I had the opportunity to take 18 of our youth to a 66ers game in San Bernardino. The Wells Fargo Home Mortgage office made this event possible with a donation of box seats. The youth were able to fill up on hot dogs, pizza, and ice cream sundaes through the Wells Fargo's donation. For some of the kids it was their first trip to any kind of baseball game. For others who grew up in foster care, they recounted their fondest memory of getting to attend a 66ers game when they were just small children. It was an amazing experience to see these kids faces light up when they were

watching the baseball game. Some did not even move from their seats to get ice cream because they were so involved in watching the game.

The kids also got to experience another great hiking and camping trip led by our volunteer, Evan. The group of young men hiked to Onion Lake and for some of them it was their first experience fishing and hiking. I love being able to do this trip because the boys truly come back down the mountain changed. They begin to believe in their abilities once they realize that they can hike up a mountain. If any of you have ever achieved a long hike to

the top of a mountain, you too will understand the feeling of accomplishment. It is not something the youth get to experience very much so the hiking trip is a wonderful tool to help them realize their potential. YouthHope is able to provide outings like these because of all of the support we receive from you. I sincerely thank you for taking care of the youth. Please consider attending the "Walk in Their Shoes" benefit dinner and awareness evening. It will be an exciting way for you to offer support. I am hoping it will be inspirational and motivating for all who attend. Heidi Mayer - Executive Director