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YouthHope



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE STARTS WITH TODAY

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 5

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SAVE THE DATE:

We cordially invite you to save the date:

Friday, May 10th

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

If you would like to be involved in the benefit dinner planning committee please contact Lauren via phone at (909) 437-4835 or via email at Lauren@youthhope.org



YouthHope Starts GED Preparation Course

For a variety of reasons, including a lack of parental support, insufficient living situations, learning disabilities, or addiction, many of our youth did not graduate from high school. These youth experience increased difficulties finding jobs in an already trying economic climate.

Throughout the year, we enroll youth in Adult School which prepares youth to take the GED (General Equivalency Diploma). However, we have found that the traditional educational format has not worked for many of our youth. With this in mind, we have expanded our Job Training and Education Program to include a one-on-one GED Preparation Course. A qualified volunteer works with the youth once a week for 2-4 hours per day. With this method, a young adult is given personal guidance to address the youth's specific needs. If a youth struggles with

mathematics but has a strong foundation in writing, the instructor can focus her efforts on building up math skills. After taking a practice test, the instructor can gauge the youth's strengths and additional needs and together they can continue to move forward in preparation for the test.

By reducing barriers, we hope to see increased success among our youth. By holding the course in a location that is easily accessible for the youth we remove transportation and scheduling barriers that might otherwise limit a youth's ability to attend adult school. We also pay for the \$150 exam fee that may have previously limited a youth's ability to take the exam.

We currently have our first youth going through the preparation program. After one

month of one-on-one tutoring, he has signed up to take the test. Through this program, he has been given the specialized attention and resources needed to go into the exam with confidence. He has expressed that his instructor is an excellent teacher who has truly helped him to understand concepts that he once struggled with.

In the coming months we hope to see many more stories such as his. We hope to see youth that once struggled in a traditional classroom setting flourish under individual attention. Our overall goal for this program is to see youth complete the GED and then continue on to acquire higher paying jobs, new educational endeavors and stable living environments. We realize that this will not happen overnight, but we are here to support the youth as they continue their journey.

Director of Grants and Marketing Job Opening

YouthHope is looking to hire a Director of Grants and Marketing to oversee the development and preparation of proposals designed to acquire grants on behalf of YouthHope. The Director will also manage YouthHope's marketing including social media, monthly newsletters, quarterly mailing campaigns, and donor correspondence. The primary

duty will be to apply for grants, therefore previous experience in grant writing is desired and a strong writing ability is required. We are looking for a self motivated, deadline-oriented individual with extensive writing experience who has a heart for the youth in the community. The position is part time averaging 30 hours per week. For more infor-

mation please visit our website's homepage at www.youthhope.org. Those interested in the position may contact YouthHope via phone at (909) 435-6945 or email us at info@youthhope.org. We are excited to have a new member join our team and we look forward to hearing back from you!

To Donate:

Send your donations to YouthHope at P.O. Box 601, Redlands CA 92373 or donate online via our website www.youthhope.org

Recycling Program:

The Recycling Program will no longer be needing scrap plastic (i.e. milk cartons, laundry detergent cartons). However, please continue to recycle your aluminum cans, plastic bottles, and glass products! For more information on this program, please contact Lauren at (909) 437-4835.

**Volunteer's Fuel Growth in the New Year**

As YouthHope is now well into its third year as a non-profit organization, it is amazing to see continued expansion of our services to youth in need. Since November 1st, 2012, we have served **462 different youth**. In only three months time, over **2,928 meals** have been provided to homeless and at-risk youth. During many meals, youth arrive and express urgent needs: hunger, abuse at home, addiction, or unstable housing. Together, volunteers utilize these meal times as a way to familiarize themselves with the youth and their individual needs.

As we have roughly 60-80 youth receiving services on any given evening, we have a growing need for volunteers to work



alongside of our youth. Volunteers are essential to YouthHope's success and we would be utterly unable to continue our outreach without the faithful work of our volunteers and supporters.

This past month, we have been truly amazed by our volunteer's investment in our youth. Since the new year, volunteers have organized two different day trips for our youth to take part in. The first trip consisted of a hike throughout the San Bernardino Mountain area. Seven youth were taken out of their usual elements and exposed to the beautiful mountain scenery for a day of hiking and exploring.

The second trip consisted of a day trip to Jenks Lake. Together thirteen youth and five volunteers shared an unforgettable day of snowshoeing, sledding, and fishing.

We continue to seek volunteers to invest in our youth. By committing to volunteering for a six month period, once a week for



two hours a day, you will be investing in a youth's future. For more information on becoming a volunteer, please contact us at (909) 663-4543 or fill out a volunteer application by visiting our website at www.youthhope.org. The application and additional volunteer information can be found via the "Volunteer Information" tab.

Note From the Founder

On the weekend of January 26th, YouthHope joined forces with Yucaipa First Baptist Church, Yucaipa Christian Church, and Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch for a special fundraiser. This unique event was designed as a conference to encourage people to "Choose Hope" and thus spread encouragement to others. One of the primary lessons I took home from the day was that we are each uniquely placed into positions of influence and we should intentionally use

each opportunity to give back to our community. The collaborative conference generously chose YouthHope as the benefitting organization from the silent auction proceeds. As YouthHope continues to grow in numbers and needs, these financial contributions come as huge blessings to us as we have more and more youth requesting assistance. As you have read, we have expanded many of our programs including our GED Preparation Program. We are seeing higher meal time attendance than ever

before. However with each new expansion, we experience rising program costs. Events such as "Choose Hope" assist us in keeping up with these growing needs. For these reasons, we are grateful to everyone involved in the coordination of this incredible event, for allowing us to share about YouthHope, and for supporting us financially through generous monetary and in-kind donations. Thank you for allowing us to be apart of such a special program.