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YouthHope



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE STARTS WITH TODAY

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Recycle for a Cause!

If you are interested in supporting us through our recycling program we will personally pick up your recycled items each Friday! For more information contact Rachel at (909)435-6945 or rachel@youthhope.org.



Eat Out So They Can Eat!

When you eat at Rubio's in Redlands on February 9, 2011 you will be raising for funds for the homeless youth. From 2pm to 10 pm on Thursday February 9 you can help homeless and underserved youth in the community by eating at Rubio's located at 633 Orange Street in Redlands. When you eat at Rubio's on February 9th they will donate 20% of the funds raised to YouthHope. You will need to present the YouthHope flyer to the cashier for YouthHope to receive the credit. Go to our website www.youthhope.org to obtain your flyer for this event.

What is a Drop-In Center?

Did you know that in 2009 it cost you \$234,029 to house a youth who had been deemed a ward of the state? This cost covered housing, food, and great medical coverage for one youth who lived in a juvenile facility. Although we have paid thousands of dollars, youth leave these facilities unequipped to become successful adults. According to cahomelessyouth.org 60% of homeless young adults who participated in job training classes found jobs within three months of completing their training. So maybe its time to use our resources wisely and invest in programs that help youth become successful. YouthHope strives to have homeless and at-risk youth enrolled in a job training or education plan. We feel it will give them the skills necessary to become self-sufficient adults and exit street life.

YouthHope assists the homeless youth by teaching them basic life skills and healthy coping mecha-

nisms. This is called the harm reduction approach because it seeks to address harmful behavior patterns that youth have learned. A drop-in center is crucial to this approach. It is a facility where youth can have access to food, clothing, laundry facilities, and counseling five days a week. Many of the youth that YouthHope serves are the victims of chronic homelessness and substance abuse and are not capable of making healthy life choices on their own.

At a drop-in center youth would be able to connect one on one with volunteers every day. Because the youth we serve are dealing with feelings of shame and guilt about their life circumstances, they do not readily trust those who offer help. YouthHope has been able to establish a trusting connection with this special group of youth and they are allowing us to offer them the help they desper-

ately need. Having the ability to be open five days a week would allow us to make an impact on more youth. We would be able to help more youth into counseling, rehabilitation facilities, educational programs, vocational programs. YouthHope would also be able to help more youth obtain pertinent medical care. It would also be a place for these youth to come after school to receive tutoring and specialized care. That means less youth hanging out downtown and getting involved in disruptive behavior.

YouthHope needs the help of the community to make a YouthHope drop-in center possible. Let your local officials know how we are helping the homeless and at-risk and share why a drop-in center is needed in the community of Redlands. Check out www.myfriendsplace.org to see a great example of a working drop-in center in California.

Celebrate President Lincoln on the 12th

"I do not like that man. I must get to know him better" - Abraham Lincoln.

In his time of presidency Lincoln fought against the socially acceptable practice of slave ownership. In this day and age no one would accept slave ownership as an acceptable way to treat a human being but slaves were widely accepted and used during President Lincoln's lifetime.

In this day and age it is socially acceptable to be fearful of the homeless kids we see walking through our beautiful downtown. We think they are thugs or crazy people. We

are scared that they will hurt us or rob us. We do not like seeing them on the streets where we shop. Yet when we get to know them we see they are not what we perceived. We see that they are kind and caring. We see that they have been hurt and do not trust easily. We see that when they are given a purpose and support they can accomplish great things. The majority of them do not want to live on the streets because it is a sad, dangerous lifestyle but they do not have the tools to exit street life. By getting to know the homeless and at-risk youth we have come to

realize that we not only like them, we love them. It is our hope that many others in the community will get to know these youth.

We are always in need of volunteers who can be one-on-one mentors to the youth who can make a big impact on their young lives. All it takes is an hour a week at one of our meal times to make an impact. Please consider getting to know these youth by becoming a YouthHope volunteer. Let us all be revolutionaries like President Lincoln and change the way we see the homeless youth in our community.



How Your Donations Save Lives

If you have ever donated funds to YouthHope you may be wondering just how your money was spent. Let us share a story with you so you can see exactly how your donations have made a difference.

We have shared one young man's remarkable journey with you since October 2011. Tom was the young man who had admitted to making bad choices in his life and who desperately wanted to be free from his heroin addiction. He was tired of being alone and on the streets at night so he made the decision to quit heroin on his own. Tom participated in the YouthHope camping trip which, he stated, saved his life. It was the same weekend that he had decided to quit heroin and he climbed that mountain while suffering the painful withdrawals of heroin. Tom has been free of heroin since that time but his life has not been without a few battles. He realized that he had an addictive personality and soon became addicted to using alcohol and marijuana to replace the heroin.

On October 3, 2011 Tom tried to commit suicide by overdosing on heroin. He could not overcome his addiction any longer and he decided it was time for his addiction to overcome him. On October 4, 2011 Tom woke up. His attempt had failed and he was devastated. That day he was with a friend who was going to an enrollment appointment with Heidi so Tom decided to tag along. His day turned into much more than tagging along and by the end of the day he made the decision to turn his life around.

On that first day with Heidi he rode

along to CET, a vocation school that teaches welding among other things. Tom decided that CET and welding, were a good fit for him and he made it his goal to become enrolled in the program. He needed help though because he was still homeless and recovering from drugs and alcohol. He continued to ride along with Heidi to her other appointments so that he would not be tempted to use. He sat through countless medical appointments and court appointments just so he would not have to be alone in his time of need. In this time Heidi also made sure that Tom obtained his identification card and social security card so that he could enroll in CET. Heidi also made sure that Tom received medical attention because he had done so much damage to his body from drug use.

Tom still needed the most basic items to reach his goal of attending CET: food and shelter. Heidi was able to purchase him lunch each day but he would still go hungry at night. At the beginning of January, Tom found shelter at a friend's house but he had to provide groceries to have the roof over his head. Heidi has been able to step in and provide groceries every other week and she has been able to educate Tom on healthy eating habits while they are grocery shopping. Over the next few weeks Heidi will be helping Tom find a job so he can begin providing his own groceries and learn how to be self-sufficient. Tom was enrolled in CET at the beginning of January and has been attending for a full week. He receives bus passes from YouthHope so that he can make it from Yucaipa to San Bernardino each day. He is so excited about his classes and he hopes to finish before the 9

month period. YouthHope was able to get Tom new boots so he could begin welding in class. YouthHope was also able to purchase him the necessary school supplies.

Your donations made this possible. They provided the groceries so that Tom would not have to worry about where his next meal was coming from and so he would have a place to sleep at night. Your donations provide the bus passes to get Tom to and from his school each day. They provided Tom with the clothes he needed to participate in his program. Donations also provided the gas YouthHope needed to provide transportation for Tom. Your donations also made it possible for Heidi to spend so much time with Tom and offer him the support he needed.

Tom is not the only one that YouthHope supports in these ways. Each week we do the same for 5-6 other youth. Your donations are making a huge impact in the lives of the homeless and at-risk youth in the community of Redlands. We cannot afford to give up on these youth. There are more who come to YouthHope each week for help because they want to be self-sufficient adults and they are unsure of how to accomplish that task. Through your financial contributions or through the donation of a vehicle you can save the lives 6 homeless youth who are in need of love, support, and friendship.



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

Note From the Founder

I must say I think these last couple of months have been the busiest in my YouthHope career. I have driven several hundred miles to make sure each youth gets to their doctor appointment, enrollment appointment, dental appointment, and court date. I have taken numerous kids grocery shopping and school shopping. Right now I am able to help 5-6 youth each day with these services. It's time for me to get some help with this task so we can begin to help more kids. I am asking

everyone I know to think of YouthHope for a vehicle donation. I have a trained volunteer who is willing to take on the role of YouthHope Representative to help accomplish goals for the youth. Much of our funding goes directly to the youth so we are unable to purchase another vehicle at this point. The kids are in need of help right now though and we cannot afford to wait. If we were given a vehicle my volunteer would be with the kids 5 days a week like I am. We could increase the amount of youth who are

receiving transportation and support services by 5 a day. Please consider donating your used vehicle to YouthHope. Or tell your friends, family, and co-workers about YouthHope maybe someone you know can help. We can all help to solve the homeless youth crisis in Redlands if we work together to offer them support and encouragement. Thank you for being a valued team member and supporting the youth.
—Heidi Mayer

