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YouthHope



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE STARTS WITH TODAY

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What can YouthHope do with a bunch of bricks?

Put in a solid floor!

Last month we asked for donations of bricks and Trinity Episcopal Church in Redlands responded by bringing in 20 bricks. All bricks had messages for the youth. YouthHope will be using the bricks to lay down on the basement floor of the Presbyterian Church. We are still in need of many bricks to make this project happen. We would like you to participate in this exciting opportunity by donating any size brick with a special message for the youth. You can bring the bricks to the First Presbyterian Church basement on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 3pm - 6pm. Thank you to Trinity Church and Linda Apamadoc for participating in this project.



Fun with Air 1

On Sunday, June 24th, Air 1 radio DJ Ashton came to have fun and play music with YouthHope. We hosted a picnic for about 80 youth with specialty hamburgers made by our volunteer, Evan Winter. The day was a tremendous hit with the youth. Some even gave up going to the beach in order to participate in the picnic.

What was interesting about this event was that youth from all walks of life came together and had a great time. For some time now, YouthHope has had members of rival gangs attending the meal times. When the members first started eating together, they despised each other. All the kids know that YouthHope does not allow fighting, so they have re-

spected our rules and managed to put their differences aside. The day of the picnic, members of rival gangs came together as friends. We are even noticing that the gangs are beginning to disband. YouthHope witnessed several youth who had previously sworn animosity towards one another, leave together to go swimming and just hang out..

The DJ did such a wonderful job of fitting in with our youth. He gave out t-shirts, and was able to recognize when there were tensions between the two groups. Most people would have not recognized that there were any tensions at all, but Ashton had a very keen eye. He made the day even more of a success and we were

so glad to have him hang out with the kids.

We hope to have several more events like this BBQ so the youth will gain more of the valuable social skills they need to become self-sufficient adults. Thank you to all of those who made this BBQ possible.



Evan barbequing his delicious hamburgers

Wells Fargo Offers Support

Last month, YouthHope was privileged to receive a donation from the Wells Fargo Home Mortgage office in San Bernardino. The staff had numerous ideas on how to continue to raise much needed support, so YouthHope will be starting a new program called the Sharing Advantage Program. Each time a client of the Wells Fargo Home Mortgage closes a purchase loan with them, they will make a \$300 contribution to YouthHope. All the client needs to do is mention the Sharing Advantage program, and give them the YouthHope information, and 8 youth will have bus passes for a month! This donation, and the Sharing Program, come at a crucial time for YouthHope as donations are always

on decline in the summer months. The youth do not take breaks in the summer months though. Their vocational schools continue, and many are taking summer school to catch up on credits. Many are also busy enrolling in programs, which means YouthHope is busy driving youth to appointments, and paying entrance fees for these programs. YouthHope also continues to supply bus passes over the summer months so that youth can continue to have the necessary transportation. Youth are also entering into programs like the California Conservation Corps, where such items as work boots are needed. We even took young one lady to have her transcripts transferred from

San Bernardino Valley College to Cal State San Bernardino where she will finish obtaining a degree in mathematics.

The donation from Wells Fargo Home Mortgage will go a long way in helping to ensure that we can meet all of the educational needs our youth may have. Please consider giving through the Sharing Advantage Program by contacting Kristine Owens at 909-388-5013. Funds raised through this program will go towards the cost of helping youth into education programs and supporting them throughout their journey.

YouthHope Reaches Far and Wide



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!](#)

Many of you may know the story of how YouthHope began, but let us tell you for those who don't. Our founder, Heidi Mayer, participated in mission trip called West Coast Mission Tour for many years. A group of youth, led by youth pastors, would travel to Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, and Venice Beach to reach out to the homeless youth. They would hand out sack lunches and just spend time getting to know the kids. Heidi had met one young lady in San Francisco who was addicted to drugs, living on the streets, and selling her body for money. Heidi visited with her a short while, and worried that she would not live to see the group again the next year. To Heidi's delight and surprise, the young woman did survive, and she thrived. She cleaned up, got busy working, and exited street

life. She remembered Heidi giving her a sandwich and sharing kindness, even though Heidi had only spoken with her briefly a year earlier.

We were reminded of our roots when Heidi's daughter called from Portland while on that same mission trip. She was a leader for the mission and she had just met a young man who was from Redlands, and wanted to know if the group had heard of Heidi and of YouthHope. He described how Heidi had been so kind to him by providing him with a small meal at Del Taco. The young man pointed to his shoes excitedly and said that YouthHope had given him the shoes for Christmas, over two years ago. He confided how he wanted to go home, to Redlands, so the mission group decided to put him on a bus and send him home. The young man had

been tagging along with some other youth that YouthHope was in the process of helping. We only provided the young man with a meal and a pair of shoes, but to him this was the greatest thing someone could have done for him. We did not get to know his story or spend very much time with him, but he felt accepted and loved.

We never know what we say or do that will make a difference in these young lives. For some it takes months or years to make an impact, while others receive a kind word and are changed. That is why it is our mission to accept all youth, just as they are, whatever situation they are in. We may not know their story, but their lives are being changed just because they are feeling love and acceptance.

Note From the Founder

I hope that all of you are enjoying your summer, and the time you have with your friends and family. We had the pleasure of attending the "Bad Art for a Good Cause" event put together by Debra Austin-Brecher's Artburn. Participants were asked to provide a \$20 donation that went directly to YouthHope. Artburn provided the materials to make a collage such as artist's canvases, scrapbooking paper, stickers, and all sorts of good accessories. Artburn also provided deli-

cious snacks, and art tips on how to make a creative collage. The evening was great fun for those in attendance.

I love when YouthHope supporters come together to make a difference in the lives of the youth. I tell the youth about the events and the donations going towards YouthHope, and they get so excited that people are coming together to help. Last month we participated in the Cold-EEZE Local Giving Campaign. I'm sure many of you who are friends of YouthHope on Facebook, voted for us so

that we could receive \$1,000 grant. The youth made sure they voted every day, and they even told their friends to vote. They were so excited for the opportunity to help support YouthHope. At press time, YouthHope is still in the lead by over 200 votes!

I wish all of you a happy and safe Independence Day. I thank all of you for providing the support YouthHope has needed to help homeless and at-risk youth gain their independence. - Heidi Mayer

