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**Simple Ways You
can help YouthHope**

1. Donate \$5 gift cards for places like McDonalds or Del Taco
2. Donate granola bars or bottled water
3. Get together with your friends and make a meal for one of our meal times
4. Share this newsletter with 5 new people. You never know who can be of help!
5. Donate a pot of gold! (We just thought we would add that since March 17th is St. Patrick's Day.)



YouthHope

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE STARTS WITH TODAY

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Many Opportunities to Help!

YouthHope has so many supporters all of which have their own special gifts and talents. We wanted to share about all of the ways you can get involved with helping YouthHope over the next few months based on your gifts and talents.

For those of you who love to golf YouthHope will be conducting a Benefit Golf Tournament on May 19, 2012. This will be an exciting event for YouthHope and the participants. There will be team prizes, a hole in one prize, and raffle prizes. All participants will receive coffee and donuts to begin the day, snacks during the day, and a Carne Asada lunch to end the day. The event will be held at the beautiful Yucaipa Valley Golf Course. This will be a great way for all you golfers to support YouthHope and have a lot of fun while doing it!

Those of you who do not like to golf you may be interested in quilting. Lee Cash, a devoted supporter of

YouthHope, has made a beautiful 64" x 51" quilt. The quilt celebrates the arrival of spring and was made with great craftsmanship. YouthHope is raffling off the quilt to one luck winner, with raffle tickets at \$2. The drawing will be held on March 31, 2012.



Front and back detail

If neither quilting or golf interest you, but you would still like the opportunity to support YouthHope you may consider participating in our recycling program. All you need to do is collect your plastic bottles, aluminum cans, and glass. YouthHope will pick these items up for you! We collect items every week. This program started off with a bang and will allow Youth-

Hope to feed 85 homeless youth! You can continue to feed the homeless youth just by collecting your recyclable items!

Maybe it is baseball that interests you. You can support the players of the Yucaipa All-Church Co-Ed Softball League in their efforts to raise funds for YouthHope. For the six-week season they will be gathering sponsors to donate as little as 50 cents for each base that is made during the season. You can be one of those sponsors and then go out and enjoy the baseball game! You can contact Darren Myers at dnmyers34@msn.com to sponsor a player

Please contact Rachel Benedict at rachel@youthhope.org or 909-435-6945 participate in any of these other exciting opportunities. We hope that you will all find an opportunity to help support YouthHope. We value all of your specialized gifts and talents and we are so thankful for your support for the homeless youth!

Meet Our Staff

Thanks to various grants received YouthHope was able to hire two much needed part-time staff members. The majority of funds raised by YouthHope goes directly to helping homeless youth achieve their goals, which leaves little to cover the necessary costs of a nonprofit. When companies, like Edison, provide grants to cover these costs YouthHope is able to help more youth. We would like to introduce you to the staff so you can get a better picture of how things work at YouthHope. Heidi Mayer is the Executive Director and she is also in charge of each of our programs. She is not paid staff and dedicates count-

less hours with the youth. She is often on the go with kids in her car attending medical appointments, school interviews, job interviews, and grocery shopping trips. She oversees all aspects of YouthHope. Alana Mayer is the Director of Grants and Marketing. She writes and oversees all grants for YouthHope. She is also in charge of the monthly newsletter, website maintenance, and publicity. She has been with YouthHope for over a year now.

Rachel Benedict is the Development Director. She is in charge of all YouthHope fundraisers. She is also in charge of the YouthHope

recycling program and will gladly pick up recycling items for you! Rachel is currently organizing several fundraisers including the Slice of Hope Golf Scramble.

Judy Bierma is the Volunteer Coordinator and Case Manager. She organizes all volunteers and trains them when they work with youth. She will also be spending hours in the car taking youth to appointments as soon as YouthHope can obtain a vehicle for her.

All of these job positions are essential to the success of YouthHope. Without these people we could not help the growing number of youth.

Offering Support Makes Youth Happy



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

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



There are the youth that YouthHope serves who are able to overcome the power of addiction which gives us hope for those who have not found that strength. One young man has been an inspiration to us over the last month. This young man was known for his size and strength. He had lived on the streets for some time because he had fallen in love with a girl who was severely addicted to heroin, and who lived on the streets because of her addiction. They had a very volatile relationship and they would fight constantly. But Tony loved her and he did not want to leave her to be overtaken by her addictions, or face life on the streets alone. Before we met "Tony" he was a very angry young man who had spent time in jail because of his temper. He thought the whole world was out to get him and he was going to put up a fight against whoever came near him. When Tony began spending time with YouthHope others began seeing a different young man emerge. He became a calmer, kinder person. He allowed us into his life and shared that he

was on the streets because he had become addicted to heroin, and because he wanted to be with his girlfriend who he loved so very much. Tony shared that he had a mother who he loved very much, but that he was afraid of her. She was a harsh woman who would yell at him when he made mistakes. But she always accepted her son home after he would disappear on a drug binge. The volatile relationship between Tony and his girlfriend finally came to an end, and Tony was able to see his situation with some clarity. He realized how addicted he had become and he wanted help. He tried several treatments with our street doctors, but had to eventually admit that his addiction was too strong for this type of treatment. Tony decided he wanted to go to a rehabilitation facility and asked YouthHope to find one for him. We did just that and informed Tony that he had to show up at a specified date and time to enter into the program we found for him. He missed his appointment and we found him passed out on the streets. When he came to the YouthHope dinner that night he asked when he was

going to get to leave for rehab. Heidi informed Tony that it was too late to go to the rehab facility we had picked out for him and that he would have to wait. He was adamant that he couldn't wait another day he had to go that night! His only option was a rehabilitation facility that Set Free Church conducted. It would be with adults who were much worse off than Tony, and Tony was only 18. Tony did not even bat an eye, he wanted to go. That night we took him to the Set Free Rehab was the beginning of a new life for Tony. It has been just about a month and he is doing extremely well in the program. His mother called Heidi the other day and thanked YouthHope for saving her son's life. She remarked at how the rehab program and YouthHope had changed her son's life for the better. From Tony we have learned that we cannot lose hope. We must continue to be there for these youth, offer support when it is needed, and instill some hope into their lives.



Note From the Founder

I don't know where the time keeps going. It feels like only yesterday we were busy collecting Christmas Shoes and now here we are in March of 2012. In 2011 YouthHope was able to help 379 youth! We are definitely growing as our numbers show. In 2010 we were able to help 263. Life at YouthHope is still as busy as ever, but with the help of the new staff we are trying to reach all of the youth who come to us each week. Every day between Monday and Friday (and sometimes Saturday and Sunday) I am with at least 5 youth who are needing help. I am transporting them to their medical appointments, court appointments, school, and job interviews. We spend many hours in the car talking and supporting these

youth who cling to us for hope and for help. YouthHope is still very much in need of a vehicle to meet the rising needs of all the youth we serve. Judy has been volunteering with YouthHope since we began, and her love for the youth inspires me. I know she will be a great support to these youth at appointments as soon as we can manage to get a vehicle for her. If anyone is interested in donating their used vehicle please contact me. Not only will you be helping countless youth, you will get a tax write off!

I wanted to let you know a few ways you can also help the youth when you see them out on the streets. I like to keep \$5 gift cards, to places like McDonalds, or granola bars with me so that if they ask for money I can

supply them with food instead. You can strike up a conversation with any of these youth asking you for money. They might not share, but they also might. You can tell them about YouthHope and send them to the First Presbyterian Church on Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday. One of the nicest things you can do for the youth you suspect to be homeless is to look at them and smile. Many times they feel that the whole world is out to get them, and that no one cares for them. Imagine their surprise when perfect strangers begin smiling at them and acknowledging their presence. You never know how far some food and a smile will go!

Heidi Mayer—Executive Director