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YouthHope



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE STARTS WITH TODAY

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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. Attend "A Walk in Their Shoes" on Friday, May 10th, 2013
4. Share this newsletter with 5 new people. You never know who can be of help!
5. Donate today to help YouthHope purchase its dream drop-in-center



YouthHope In Need of New Home

For the past two years, hundreds of youth have walked down the cement ramp of the Redlands' First Presbyterian Church to attend YouthHope. Many of these youth received their first meal of the day, re-acquired hope in the hugs of volunteers, and found rest from the heavy burdens facing their young lives. Under the generous covering of the First Presbyterian Church congregation, YouthHope was blessed to expand its programs and establish a strong foundation from which to grow. We are grateful to have been apart of a community that opens its arms to the hurting and broken. However, due to health concerns of Heidi Mayer, YouthHope's Founder and Executive

Director, YouthHope is now actively searching for a new facility from which to serve the homeless and underserved youth in the community. For many years, YouthHope has dreamt of opening a fully functioning drop-in-center that would be made available to youth seven days a week. We are now in the process of searching for that facility within the City of Redlands. A drop-in-center would allow us to serve youth more effectively. By having access to a commercial kitchen, YouthHope could provide three daily meals to hungry youth. With access to running water and bathrooms, YouthHope could offer showers, laundry facilities, and lock-

ers. By providing computer stations, volunteers could administer G.E.D. preparation, tutoring, food handling licensing in a stable, quiet environment. YouthHope is in need of your assistance. It has been wisely said that "It takes a village to raise a child". Together, we transform lives, assist youth in exiting street life, and restore communities. Please partner with us as we search out a facility that will meet the needs of our youth. Join us today as we prepare to invest in our next step. We invite you to donate today via our website at www.youthhope.org or through mail at P.O. Box 601, Redlands, CA 92373.

The Road Traveled

When Charles was only a child, he and his mother lived on the streets of Russia. Devastatingly, at age nine, Charles suffered the loss of his mother and was placed in an orphanage. After five years, he was adopted by an American family and was brought to the U.S. However, because he had spent a majority of his life homeless or in an orphanage, his knowledge foundation was limited and he soon fell behind in school. His parents found his learning disabilities to be frustrating, and when Charles failed to graduate high school, his parents sent him

away from their home in Texas to a behavioral center in Redlands. Within a few months, Charles left the program, fell into heavy drinking, and became homeless. It was in this place that Charles first reached out to YouthHope. YouthHope assisted Charles in joining the California Conservation Corps. Charles thrived in CCC, and later joined the fire reserve. After gaining valuable skills and living on his own for the last three years, Charles once again found himself in need of assistance and returned to Redlands in search of

the support he knew he could find in organizations such as YouthHope. Within a week of reuniting with YouthHope, Charles is already attending C.R. England truck driving school in Fontana, where he is given housing, free school, and a guaranteed nine month job after finishing the two week program. As Heidi drove Charles to his new program early one February morning, the car was filled with both excitement and nervousness as his new adventure was just over the horizon.

A Week's Look at the Job Training and Education Program

In the February Newsletter, we updated you on YouthHope's continued growth within the Job Training and Education Program. So often, supporters may think that YouthHope is limited to meeting with the youth three days a week during meal times. In reality we meet with youth nearly every day of the week to provide transportation to consultations and interviews, to tutor youth one-on-one for the G.E.D exam, or to administer the Food Handling License. On a weekly basis, we search for entry level job openings at local businesses and disperse these to youth in need of work. Although we are currently without a facility, we have continued our Job Training and Education Program by holding tutoring and licensing at local Universities, libraries, and coffee shops so that youth can continue to make progress towards their goals. We have seen more growth within the last week than any other week in the past months.

Within the past week:

- Three more youth have begun the one-on-one G.E.D. preparation course with YouthHope tutors.
- A youth signed up for Center for Employment Training, a six to eight month job training program. This particular youth has signed up for the welding program. Youth attend training five days a week for six hours a day. We currently have two additional youth attending the program.
- One youth finished his Food Handler's License and another young woman began the training.
- A young man started truck driving school. With enrollment, he is off the street, provided training, and guaranteed a job upon graduating.
- Two youth received passing scores on their G.E.D. Upon passing, one young man went on to submit his FASFA appli-

cation for financial aid so that he can attend college this coming fall.

One of the most rewarding parts of the Job Training and Education Program, is to see the excitement on the face of a youth who successfully finds a job, graduates from a program, or passes a difficult test. After weeks of studying, our first young man completed the G.E.D. training program and took the exam. Upon receiving his score, he sent YouthHope the following message:

"Honestly Heidi I have to thank you for making all this possible for me. I came to you for help and you helped me do this, you and the greatest teacher ever Justine. I seriously can't thank you guys enough. I'm so happy I just wanna cry..."

We take pride in our youth's achievements and look forward to many more stories of success.

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 find us on Facebook and Twitter!

A Word from the Founder

With great excitement, we are proud to announce that YouthHope will be hosting its Third Annual Benefit and Awareness Dinner "A Walk In Their Shoes," on Friday, May 10, 2013 at the Mitten Building in Redlands. This event is a great opportunity to have a night out with your favorite person while also supporting the young people within your community. The night will help pay for programs such as the Job Training and Education Program. The night's primary focus is to raise awareness regarding the homeless youth crisis that is taking place in Redlands and the wider region of the Inland Empire. This will also be your chance to learn more about YouthHope

and what we do to help the youth we serve.

We are carefully drafting a unique presentation to highlight key areas of concern:

- Why are youth on the streets?
- What challenges do youth face on the street?
- How do we assist youth in the transition from homelessness to self sufficiency?

We will also provide you with a chance to figuratively "walk in their shoes". Guests will get to see a glimpse into what hundreds of youth in our community are facing day to day. We hope that by the end of the night, you will leave

with joy knowing that your support has allowed lives to be impacted.

If you are interested in attending this year's benefit and awareness dinner "A Walk in Their Shoes", please contact Lauren via phone at (909) 437-4835 or via email at lauren@youthhope.org. For more information visit our website at www.youthhope.org. I hope to see you there.

-Heidi Mayer

