

**INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:**

Community	1
Golf Benefit	1
Crafty Time	2
Note from Founder	2

# YouthHope



**HOPE FOR THE FUTURE STARTS WITH TODAY**

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## Youth Get Involved in the Community



Building a loft home in Mexico

### News Flash:

YouthHope is in need of men's clothing, including jeans and t-shirts. Please make sure all clothes are clean as we do not have laundry facilities. You can drop off your donations on Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday from 3pm-6pm at the First Presbyterian Church of Redlands. Contact YouthHope at [info@youthhope.org](mailto:info@youthhope.org) to schedule a drop off time if these times do not work.

Several weeks ago one youth had the opportunity to travel with a YouthHope volunteer to Mexico for a special mission. The pair went to Mexico to work with Hands of Mercy, which is an organization that builds homes for disadvantaged people in Mexico. This young man got to participate in the building of two homes, for two very deserving families. He witnessed the poverty that these families had to live in, which included homes made of milk crates and tarps. This young man also saw the determination these families had to stay together despite their circumstances. It was a chance for this young man, who had overcome addiction and homelessness, see that there were others in this world who have to live in much worse conditions than he had ever had to live in. It opened his eyes to be in the position to help others in

need, when he had always been the one receiving help. It was also an opportunity for this youth to be surrounded by individuals who lived healthy lifestyles, and who were positive influences. The group that the pair went to Mexico with included USC students, who were around the same age as this youth. It was more motivation for this young man to finish his schooling to become a welder, so that he could continue to help disadvantaged people.

13 youth got involved locally by attending the Redlands city wide community service day. The kids all came ready to work, and they got to clean and paint benches at Prospect Park. Work started that day for the youth at 7:15 when YouthHope volunteers picked them up. We then took all the youth to breakfast since many of

them had not had anything to eat since we fed them at the last YouthHope meal. The kids were so excited to work that day, and participate in making their community a nice, clean place. This was a good opportunity for the youth to learn to put aside individual differences, as two rival groups of youth worked together with a common mission: to serve their community. The kids worked side-by-side, ate lunch together, and even played football together at the end of the day.



Some of the youth who worked at the Redlands Service Day

## It's Not Too Late to Sign Up and Help Feed Homeless Youth

The "Slice of Hope" Benefit Golf Tournament is on May 19th. Every participant who signs up before May 7th will receive 5 free opportunity drawing tickets! The drawing includes golf gear from Callaway, and 4 Disneyland park hopper tickets. While you are out on the course, you will also have the chance to win a brand new Chevrolet from Tom Bell Chevy at the Hole in One contest.

"Slice of Hope" will be a fun way to show your support for YouthHope. We encourage you to talk

to friends, family, and co-workers; you never know who may be interested in playing golf. Not only will players get to play a full round of golf at the beautiful Yucaipa Valley Golf Course, but the price of entry also includes a delicious carne asada and chicken lunch.

Challenge your friends at the putting contest, which will be held at the start of the benefit. A prize will be awarded to the winner of this contest. You can also participate in the longest drive contest, with a prize going

to the winner. All proceeds will be going towards the cost of opening a full-time drop-in center. So for your entry price not only will you get to play a full round of golf, and have a great meal, but you will be helping YouthHope reach our goal of opening a drop-in center. A drop-in center will allow us to serve more in a more efficient manner.

Thank you to all of those who have already sponsored this event. You are all making this event a success. To sign up go to our website, [www.youthhope.org](http://www.youthhope.org).



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

You can also find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter!](#)

## Craft Time Builds New Relationships

YouthHope has began a new program entitled "Crafty Time." We use materials found in the home to make useful, and adorable, items. The response from the youth has been great. They are enjoying the hands on time it takes to create something beautiful. So far the class has produced candle holders, vases, hair accessories, and wood signs. The goal of the class is to not only teach youth that they can be creative, but to raise funds for YouthHope in the mean time. All items that are made during Crafty Time will be available for purchase.

We had been hoping that the youth would be responsive to this class, but we did not expect how responsive they have actually been. They each grab a project, take instruction, and sit for two hours working on their individual projects. This gives YouthHope volunteers the chance to build relationships with the youth. The number of kids who attend the Crafty Time class is

growing each week, so we are needing more materials. If you have any glass jars or bottles you can donate them to YouthHope. We are also collecting scraps of materials to make our hair accessories, so for any of you who sew and have scraps, consider donating them to YouthHope.

Here are just a few of the items we have made so far in the Crafty Time class. We hope to be posting the pictures of all of our crafts on our website soon. If you are interested in purchasing any of these items please contact Alana at [alana@youthhope.org](mailto:alana@youthhope.org).



## Note From the Founder

Things are always changing and growing here at YouthHope. I am always excited to see what direction YouthHope is headed. We are always working towards obtaining a building that would function as a full time drop-in center so that we can serve more youth, and feed them more meals. This is never far from my mind when I'm out working with the kids. It would be such a blessing to feed them seven days a week instead of always having to buy them fast food because we do not have a kitchen to cook meals in. It would be wonderful to have a counselor available for those youth who are hurting so bad that they consider suicide. Instead we sit in the car, and I try to comfort them while they cry. We do everything to the

best of our abilities, and we are helping many youth exit street life. If we had a YouthHope drop-in center, more youth could exit street life.

Our efforts have not gone unnoticed. This month we will receive an award from The Brightest Star, an organization that supports youth in the foster care system. Each year they pick fourteen organizations to honor who work with foster youth, and YouthHope was selected as one of those organizations. It is an honor to be recognized by other organizations who are working to end youth homelessness. To learn more about the Brightest Star, please visit their website at [www.thebrighteststar.org](http://www.thebrighteststar.org).

I hope you will consider participating in the "Slice of Hope" tournament on

May 19. Your participation will help us get closer to our goal of opening our drop-in center. We have been hard at work to make this event fun for all participants, so you definitely don't want to miss it.

I also wanted to say "Thank You" to Lexie Greer who put together a fundraiser at Yucaipa High School last month. She worked diligently by speaking to all the local churches, and getting youth to attend her fundraiser. The fundraiser included several bands, and an opportunity drawing, with funds going towards supporting YouthHope. Thank you to all of you who work hard every day to make sure the youth are taken care of, and for all of your support for the mission of YouthHope.— Heidi Mayer

