

NOVEMBER
IS
HOMELESS
YOUTH
AWARENESS
MONTH

YouthHope



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE STARTS WITH TODAY

VOLUME 3

NOVEMBER 1, 2013



Shoes For Christmas, Hope For a Lifetime....

Believe it or not, the Holiday Season is fast approaching. 'Tis the season to begin thinking about presents. Not just any present, but a present that gives joy for an entire year. Many of you will remember that YouthHope hosts an annual Christmas party for the youth. We provide each youth in attendance with a brand new pair of tennis shoes. This is when we need the communities help! We need several hundred pairs of shoes for the homeless, run-away, and underserved youth that we work with each week. YouthHope has partnered with The Agency Boardshop in Yucaipa to help make Christmas dreams come true. When you participate you will receive a card with a youth's name and desired shoe size. You can then take the card to The Agency Boardshop in Yucaipa, and they will help you locate the correct shoes. After you have pur-

chased the shoes we ask that you bring the shoes unwrapped to Christ the King Lutheran Church in Redlands no later than December 13, 2013. You may drop shoes off Mondays-Friday, 8:00a.m.-4:30p.m. at the pre-school office. You may also send a check for \$48.59-\$53.99 (dependent upon the type of shoes selected) made payable to YouthHope and we will purchase a pair of shoes in your name. In addition, you can visit our website at: www.youthhope.org and pay for a pair of shoes on-line with your credit card.

This special event is a great opportunity to provide homeless and at-risk youth with a gift that they truly need. Many of the youth who have previously participated in the event are still wearing the shoes they received last year. The shoes

have been through countless miles and now many have holes. As we enter into the winter months the kids need shoes free of holes to help keep their feet warm and dry. We also encourage donations of new socks, hygiene items, and \$5 gift cards to local fast food restaurants. The kids also enjoy receiving handmade items such as blankets, scarves, gloves, and mittens.

Please visit our web-site: www.youthhope.org for more information, or call Lorrie at: 909 384-2444 to receive a child's dream shoe information.

Please know that you will be helping to make a youth's dream come true this holiday season!



**YouthHope
November
Fundraisers**
November 15th
3:00-9:00p.m.
Location:
Queen Bean Café
&
Dairy Queen
12045 5th St.
Yucaipa
Hosted by:
Crafton Hills College
Health Class-Students
20% Of all Proceeds
Will Benefit
YouthHope!
Entertainment will be
provided at the
Queen Bean from
6:00-9:00p.m.
November 16th
Crafty Chic Boutique
Christ The King
Lutheran Church
1505 Ford St.
Redlands
9:00a.m.-3:00p.m.
Over 45 Vendors
Selling Cute Crafty
Items
All Craft Fair Proceeds
(excluding vendor sales)
Will Benefit
YouthHope!
For more info. visit
www.youthhope.org



YouthHope
Shoes for Christmas
Hope for a Lifetime



Contact Lorrie at: 909 384-2444 to receive your Shoe Card. All of the necessary information will be provided for you to make Your 'Shoes for Christmas, Hope for a Lifetime' shoe purchase.

Or

Send a Check made payable to YouthHope Foundation
To: P.O. Box 7803, Redlands, Ca. 92375
price range \$48.59 - \$53.99 (dependent upon the type of shoe requested)

Or

Visit www.youthhope.org to purchase shoes on-line or for more info.

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There are 1.7 Million Homeless Youth in the United States
39% are Homeless Youth Under 18
75% of Homeless Youth use Drugs or Alcohol
5,000 Youth Die Every Year while Homeless On the Streets Due to Assault, Illness, or Suicide
Youth, Ages 12-17 Are more likely To Become Homeless Than Adults



Moving Forward Towards a Brighter Future....

Each month we like to share a story about one of the youth we work with. Below is an update to a previous story of a youth who has overcome great hurdles in her young life. Thanks to encouragement and services from YouthHope and others she is moving forward and has great possibilities ahead. Below is her original story....

When I was little, the state decided my parents were unfit to raise me. Instead of putting me in foster care, though, I was moved around between family members and friends. I've lived with a lot of different people. When I was in third grade, I lived with an uncle and cousins who were pretty laid back. They were drunk most of the time. Sometimes when they were drunk, they would burn me with cigarettes, but other than that, they were good to me. When I was twelve, I moved to Florida and lived with my grandparents for a while. That was the happiest place I lived as a kid. My grandparents really loved me. It was also with my grandparents that I discovered my passion for horses. I learned to ride and became a certified horse trainer. My grandparents' health started to fail, though, and by the time I was fourteen, I had to move back home to California to live with my mom again. My mom is bipolar and addicted to every type of prescription drug you can think of. Her boyfriend uses, too. I couldn't stand being in the

house with my mom—we would get into violent arguments—so I ran away. At age 14 I was homeless and alone. Sometimes I slept in the park with a couple other friends. Usually, though, I was able to sleep on couches at friends' houses and no one suspected I was homeless. I kept myself clean so I wouldn't arouse suspicion at school.

While I was homeless, I started messing around with drugs. I took whatever was given to me. Thankfully, I didn't do drugs for long. One night, a friend of mine gave me a little pill after I had already taken some other drugs and my body went crazy. I remember feeling so strange. It was scary. I woke up the next day and I didn't remember how I had gotten there! That incident really scared me and made me realize that drugs weren't a good option.

When I was about fifteen, I met my boyfriend Aaron. I moved in with him and his grandmother. We had our own place and our own furniture, thanks to some help from YouthHope. I stopped going to school for a while, but Heidi helped me get back into school. This last summer, I took part in the internship that YouthHope offered so I could get some work experience and learn about getting a job. Now I'm really serious about finishing high school with good grades, finding a job, and eventually going to college to become a veterinarian. I want to specialize in horses. Most people probably think it is weird for a seventeen year old to

worry about paying bills on top of normal worries about schoolwork and getting good grades. I'm working hard to make sure my life is going to be something very different from my parents'.

This young woman continues to move forward and is now living with a family. She attends high-school and is doing very well with a B average. She has taken part in the YMCA Circus for the past two years and loves it. She will be volunteering to help younger kids in the circus this year. In addition she was just approved to volunteer at the Redlands Animal Shelter and has worked part-time as a wedding server.

YouthHope has contributed to this youths' success by providing the following services:

- Working with the RUSD to get her re-enrolled in high-school.
- Providing buss passes so that she can get back and forth to school.
- Enrollment in Job Internship Program.
- Find employment as a wedding server.
- Access to a Food Handlers Certificate (part of our job training program).
- Letters of Recommendation.
- Enrolled in the YMCA Circus Program
- Resumes for employment opportunities.
- Assistance with documents and finger printing for volunteering.
- Lots of unconditional love and hugs.
- We are confident that this young woman will achieve her goals and will become a self-sufficient educated adult that permanently exits street life.

Note From the Founder....

This November as you sit down to enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends we hope you will remember that there are youth in the community without a place to call home. YouthHope will continue to feed the youth and provide services through-out the holidays. Each year, we provide the youth with a Thanksgiving meal. It takes many volunteers and lots of turkey and fixings to feed our hungry youth. The holidays can be an extremely difficult time of year for the youth. Many wish that they could be with family but are not able to do so. Case managers will be on hand at all YouthHope gatherings to

assist the youth during these difficult times. If you would like to make a difference in our youth's lives, please consider purchasing a pair of shoes for a youth through our 'Shoes for Christmas, Hope for a Lifetime' program. I can assure you that your gift will be appreciated for months to come! This November is also Homeless Youth Awareness Month. Please join YouthHope in getting the word out about youth homelessness in Redlands and the surrounding areas. Our case managers recently surveyed 276 YouthHope attendees of these: 29% were homeless or had been homeless in the past. 34% were abused as children.

19% were in foster care. 37% have parents with drug or substance abuse problems. 76% are low-income. Unfortunately, many youth are sleeping out in the cold because they have run-away, been physically or emotionally abused, have aged out of foster care, or have parents with substance abuse problems. If you would like to learn more about youth homelessness in our area, or would like to make a donation to YouthHope, please visit our website at: www.youthhope.org
- Heidi Mayer, Executive Director