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YouthHope



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE STARTS WITH TODAY

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

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**Five reasons you
should attend “A
Walk in Their
Shoes”**

1. One ticket sale equals 15, \$5 food gift cards for hungry youth
2. One ticket sale helps two youth receive a bus pass to school or work for 1 month
3. For the price of one table you will provide nearly 6 hot dinners for 40-60 youth
4. Your attendance will help uninsured youth gain access to medical care and insurance
5. You will provide encouragement to 370 youth who have no hope

Come Take “A Walk in Their Shoes”

The time is finally upon us! “A Walk in Their Shoes” will be held on October 12, 2012 and there is still time to reserve your spot to this special event. All registration forms must be received by October 5.

All of us at YouthHope have been busy preparing for this evening of awareness by gathering up-to-date statistics and developing innovative ways to present those statistics. We will not only be presenting national statistics, but statistics that come straight from YouthHope and the kids we have been able to help. We at YouthHope were shocked at some of the statistics we uncovered, and now it is no surprise to us why we continue to be so busy.

Your attendance will help to

raise funds for YouthHope programs which include providing such services as grocery assistance and bus passes.

We are asking for a donation of \$75 per plate and a donation of \$500 for a table of eight people. Your price includes entrance into the awareness hour, a delicious Italian dinner, and a presentation of several of our youth’s stories. These stories will be presented by local actors who will provide monologues of each youth’s individual story. We hope that those in attendance will get a feel for what it is like to walk in the shoes of homeless and at-risk youth so that they will gain a better understanding of why youth are in such a danger-

ous situation.

YouthHope will also be presenting information and how your support has enabled us to help over 370 homeless and at-risk youth. We hope that each participant will walk away knowing that he or she made a difference in a young person’s life just by attending this special event. It is our hope that guests will be inspired to reach out to this fragile population and help them succeed because all that any of these youth want is for someone to care for them.

Please go to our website, www.youthhope.org, to register for a “A Walk in Their Shoes.” You can also contact Rachel Benedict at (909)435-6945 for any questions about this event.

A Walk In Their Shoes



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!](#)



A Flame of Hope, A Single Light in Darkness by Jenny Rios

This past year YouthHope had the pleasure of working with Dr. Toms. She and her interns would attend YouthHope on Thursdays to treat youth for any medical conditions they were experiencing. One of the interns, Jenny Rios, journaled her experiences from working with Dr. Toms and she has allowed YouthHope to share her thoughts with you:

I was so excited tonight, the rain was falling, an new variable. Would there be more or less kids? As if without fail there are a good bunch of kids. Standing outside feels good but so does walking into the basement. For the first time it feels safe and warm. The single light bulb is on, shining down on the two long school tables and dried paint that covers them. Many of these kids love to draw. A silent way

to cry, scream, and yell. It amazes me how they don't care who sees. My work normally stays hidden. My cries muffled by the bottom drawer of my desk. Too intense to destroy, but too raw and truthful to show the world, sometimes. Tonight as I walk down to the sanctuary I can smell the fresh paint of the graffiti board a young kid has been working on. Skater with slick, black hair and a lip piercing, he works so intently at it no one else matters, nothing else matters. Under the single flood light it looks amazing; swirling cascade of blue and silvers. His father has come looking for him. He asks the boy when he is coming home, "tonight?" The father is looking around, uncomfortable. The boy never looks away, he quietly replies "I don't know" adding more blue to the silver lining. The father looks wounded, helpless. I wonder if he is the reason for his

son's distrust. The boy feels safe here. He doesn't bother anybody and nobody bothers him. Probably not the same at home. The father leaves, I can't see his face to know if he is angry or not. The boy stops painting, he looks upset. A few minutes more and he left too. Someone covers the art work, saves it for another day. I'm glad they did. The paint brushes are still here, but I wish he had taken them. Let it be his light, his flame, or hope. But here they sit; the wet paint trickling off the brush, mixing with the rain. I imagine the boy walking into the darkness of his path, no light tonight.



Note From the Founder

I would like to extend a sincere "thank you" to all of you who have put in their effort to raise funds for YouthHope. Last month I was honored to attend several events that our supporters put together. On September 12 I had my first experience with opera at the Redlands First United Methodist Church. The music was beautiful and I thank all of the performers who participated and made this such a success.

The University United Methodist Church put together a dinner and concert. A performance was given by "The New Gang on the Corner" which is a barbershop quartet. A delicious barbeque dinner was also served.

A big thanks, also, to the Redlands Art Association who provided YouthHope with a grant for our Craft Internship Program. This program involves teaching youth how to create crafts while at the same time providing them with essential job skills. The Redlands Art Association has been essential in helping YouthHope provide healing through art and we look forward to what the kids will continue to learn from this program. Thank you to the Women's Council of Realtors for providing much needed support for YouthHope. Since we met the Council they have been advocating for YouthHope and the homeless youth we serve. I am so thankful for all of you who are reaching out to help these wonderful youth!

I am so excited for the fall season as it is my favorite season. I love the smell of pumpkins and fallen leaves. Mostly I love sharing this season with the kids at YouthHope, many who do not have good memories of fall. It is my hope that by attending YouthHope they will begin to create happy memories on their road to healing. I hope you will join me for "A Walk in Their Shoes" Benefit Dinner and help the youth build happy memories through your support. Thank you to all of those who are helping this event to be a success through your donations and through your participation. I look forward to seeing you on October 12!

Heidi Mayer—Executive Director

