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YouthHope



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE STARTS WITH TODAY

VOLUME 6

JUNE 1, 2014

SOCIAL MEDIA
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As Summer Approaches...

For many families in Redlands and the surrounding areas, summer is a time for vacations, pool parties, and outings with friends. Summer is most individuals' favorite season of the year and it's a fun time to relax and celebrate the school year ending. However, our youth have a different perspective on summer.

As our youth struggle in school, or move around from city to city, their education is directly affected and they often fall behind. Summer school is their only option in attempting to complete schooling on time. Not only does this season bring more schooling, but as the temperatures rise, it becomes more and more strenuous to get around. Our youth don't have vehicles—they walk, ride their bikes, and often take the bus. With the heat waves and high temperatures, walking can become unbearable, and it may take

hours before they get anywhere, as they need to frequently take breaks in the shade to prevent themselves from experiencing heat strokes.

Summer temperatures are not the only thing on the rise this year. With the school year



coming to a quick end, there is a flux of new youth on the streets lately. We have recently been noticing a common occurrence of the beginning stages of youth homelessness—one in which parents will stop allowing their son or daughter to live in their home once they turn 18. The parent will carry out their financial or parental obligations until age

18, and at that point it is then time for the youth to figure out life on their own and with no safety net—they soon enter street life.

Summer is not only challenging for our youth, but for YouthHope as well. This often becomes a "dead season" of funding, and many forget about us throughout this time. Please keep YouthHope in mind as you embark on your Summer ventures! Please donate to YouthHope and help us keep our services and programs open and available to our youth. They are still on the streets and in search of love and care, the changing of season does not change this.

Thank you for your ongoing support of YouthHope! Please share this newsletter with others and help us gain support as we love on our youth and work to bring nourishment and genuine care for their physical and emotional well-being.

Building Updates...

The construction of the building is moving along slowly but surely. The kitchen plans are currently submitted to the San Bernardino Department of Public Health and we are awaiting its hopeful approval.

A small crew of volunteer electricians have been working very hard on their time off to help us install the wiring and lighting, and **we are incredibly grateful for their services!**

The next task following the wiring will be the plumbing and dry-wall installation. Plumbing itself may become the money-pit of the construction as the building had previously been using a septic tank to fulfill the plumbing needs. As we look into the options of improving this, we are seeking both plumbers and funding for this particular need. If you know of anyone in this position to help us, please share this article

and/or tell them about YouthHope. **We are so grateful** for all who have helped and continue to help with this project and we are anxiously awaiting the day we can open the doors to our youth and have a stable place for them to feel at safe and find support.



Gavin's Story

A mothers' hug, a fathers' care—this is all Gavin wanted and wished he had growing up. Just a family to love him. Instead, Gavin was placed in foster care at age 3 due to substance abuse in the home. His parents chose the drug over their child.

From ages 3—11 he went from foster home to foster home, not having a parental figure to provide the genuine love and care every child needs for a healthy development. Gavin grew up without an understanding of what it meant to be loved.

At age 11 Gavin and his brother were both adopted into a family that had been his foster care providers for the last year. Though his adopted family cared for Gavin and helped to raise him, they did not know how to love him and treat him like a son.

As Gavin grew up and went through the struggles of high school and identity searching, his family was less than supportive. They could not understand why his ADD affected his

schooling so much, they could not understand the depression and pain he was experiencing as he faced the fact that his birth parents could not let go of their drug to raise their child. To be abandoned and neglected in that way makes a child feel unworthy and unwanted. As they grow up and try to discover and establish their own identity, this pain becomes a part of that identity.

Due to the ADD, depression, and struggle in school, Gavin and his adoptive parents fought constantly. Instead of encouraging Gavin and being a supportive family for him, they put him down and discouraged him for his "failures". Gavin soon fell very behind in school and dropped out altogether. He could no longer take the verbal and emotionally abusive environment at home, so he left and began couch surfing with friends.

Gavin came to us a few months ago, seeking an encouraging environment. His friend introduced him to YouthHope, promising that "there are good people

there." The first day we met Gavin, he hardly spoke two words together. He was so quiet and afraid to let an adult in, that he did not make eye contact with anyone.

The next couple weeks were similar to this behavior—he would only talk to one friend, he would sit quietly and listen to everyone else, but would not engage. As we would make small conversation with Gavin or offer a meal or an encouraging word—he slowly began to feel comfortable with us. Slowly he began to share his story. Gavin is now one of the most talkative and outgoing youths that frequently attends YouthHope. You would not recognize the young man who attends today from the one who walked in a few months ago. Acceptance and love was all he needed to move forward and realize he is wanted and valued! Gavin is actively pursuing taking his GED and we are so proud of how far he has come and how hard he is working to move forward!

To Donate:

Send your donations to YouthHope at

P.O. Box 7803
Redlands CA 92375

or donate online via
our website
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



Note From the Founder....

May has become a catch-up month for us at YouthHope. With unforeseen emergencies occurring in April, the month of May has sped by in a fast motion of recuperation and recovery. As June arrives I am excited for the successes of our youth, as many of them are graduating from high school and ready for the next step in their journey. We are SO PROUD of our graduating youth and are preparing a graduation party for them to celebrate this great achieve-

ment! We'll have balloons, streamers, and a cake—commonplace party items that many of us take for granted, are little things that make our youth feel extra special, and extra proud of themselves for making it this far. Celebrate with us and send our youth graduation cards, just saying "congratulations!" (Please do not send cash). To send a card to a youth at YouthHope please send to P.O. Box 7803, Redlands, CA 92375.

On a different note, I would like to ask for your continuing sup-

port as summer quickly approaches. This is the time of year that YouthHope often struggles for funding, and we ask that you please don't forget about us during this time! We hope you have a wonderful summer, and a wonderful vacation time!

