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# YOUTH HOPE

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE STARTS WITH TODAY

VOLUME 9

OCTOBER 1, 2014



## The Loss of a Youth....

The sound of a gunshot pierced the otherwise quiet night on Post Street.

Redlands, a city known for its quaint orange tree groves and friendly local-folk, experienced an unexpected tragedy that night. Marcus Green, a Redlands East Valley High School student, age 17, was shot and killed on the night of September 17th, 2014.

Marcus had been hanging out with his best friend Isaac\* and had planned to sleep over that night. Isaac, a petite 13 year old boy who has experienced a painfully great deal of life in his few years, shared a similar lifestyle to Marcus. Both had little-to-no family support, both had been couch-surfing among their relatives and friends, always on the move and never having a place to call their home; and both came from places where substance-abuse was common among their parents and relatives.

Their age difference made them the most unlikely of friends, but within the last 3 years Isaac and Marcus were **best** friends. You would never see one without the other. Marcus would protect Isaac on the streets, and Isaac in-turn always had Marcus' back. Without fail.

On the night of his death, Marcus had entered a neighbor's yard to clip some of his marijuana plants. It was commonly known in the neighborhood that this man would grow weed

in his backyard, and many local kids would hop his fence to steal it for their recreational use. As Marcus was leaving his yard, ready to show Isaac the few clippings he had taken, the man shot Marcus straight through the chest. Isaac, who had been waiting in the nearby alleyway for Marcus' return, heard the gunshots and ran to help Marcus.

He rushed around the corner only to find the man dragging his body into the alleyway. Isaac, crying and afraid, slapped Marcus, begging him to come-to. Marcus took 3 breathes, and breathed his last.

*"I was there Heidi. I stayed with him 'til 4 in the morning...that's when the ambulance took him away,"* Isaac told Heidi Mayer the next morning. Our dear little Isaac stayed with Marcus' body for 4 hours that night—until he was forced to be removed when the police and coroners arrived.

Marcus Green was a Youth-Hope youth. He was one of our very own. You may have read this story of his death in the local newspaper. Many depict Marcus as a trouble-maker and a youth up to no good—dying for trying to steal a weed plant. Though we recognize his poor decisions in life, we know who Marcus truly was, and the kind of life he was taught. His father had been in and out of prison for more than 15 years of Marcus'

life; and whenever he was out of jail, Marcus was often physically abused. He moved from his grandparents home, to his aunts home, to various friends' homes within any given week. He had no stable upbringing, and since he was 13 Marcus had been on his own, raising himself. Given his lack of a caring and nurturing home, it is no wonder Marcus came to us in need of help. He would be present for every meal time, sign up for Christmas Shoes every year, and would always seek a hug from the volunteers whenever they arrived.

Marcus would be the first to approach the van to unload and help setup when we would arrive on a meal-day, and was always lending a helping hand around YouthHope. Marcus was a typical street-kid but he was one that was moving forward. He was so excited to be graduating from high school this year; and he would have been the first in his family to do so. He truly wanted to make others proud of him, and would do anything to make you laugh. He was a silly, goofy, mischievous, young 17 year old boy, who had a great deal of painful life experiences. We loved Marcus so much and will greatly miss our sweet and silly boy.

Please keep YouthHope, Isaac, and Marcus' peers in your prayers, as his loss greatly affects so many of our youth and volunteers.

### Contact Us

Phone:  
(909) 663-4543

Email:  
[info@youthhope.org](mailto:info@youthhope.org)

Website:  
[www.youthhope.org](http://www.youthhope.org)

Donations can be  
mailed to:

YouthHope  
P.O. Box 7803  
Redlands, CA 92375

## IN NEED OF FUNDS >>>

### ITEMS WE NEED:

- \$5 Gifts cards to Fast Food Restaurants (Del Taco, McDonalds, Jack in the Box, Bakers, etc.)
- Bus Passes to Help Our Youth get to School (value of \$41)
- Men's Jeans & Tee-Shirts
- Coats & Sweaters
- Christmas Shoes

# (RE)GENERATIONS

A 25th anniversary celebration, hair show, and charity event

\$40

Thursday, October 23, 2014 - 6:00pm  
Fox Event Center  
123 Cajon St.  
Redlands, CA 92373

We are very excited to announce an upcoming fundraiser coordinated and hosted by our very sweet supporters at Evans & Co. Salon! In honor of their 25th anniversary celebration, they will be hosting a hair show fundraising event.

Please join Evans & Co. for this fun and fashionable evening and support YouthHope! The event will take you through the decades as the Evans' Team showcases their stylish work while models hit the runway.

The event will include a Silent Auction, Raffle Giveaways, Appetizers and Desserts, No Host Bar, and Dancing!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23rd, 6:00 pm

Held at the FOX EVENT CENTER in REDLANDS

Call Evans & Co for additional information at (909) 793-1991 or purchase tickets at 101 South Sixth St. Redlands, CA 92373.

Christmas is just around the corner and we will soon be in need of donations to help support our "Shoes for Christmas, Hope for a Lifetime" program. Every Christmas we purchase our youth's dream shoe—which happens to be a pair of Vans. This is often the only present they receive all year and so we love to make it special for them!

Shoes can be purchased at the **Agency Board Shop** located at

33527 Yucaipa Blvd C4,  
Yucaipa, CA 92399

Store Hours:

Mon- Thur 10:30 am—7:30 pm

Fri & Sat: 10:00 am—8 pm

Sun: 11—6 pm

Or

Donations of \$45 can be sent to PO Box 7803, Redlands, CA 92375. (Please include "Christmas Shoes" in memo)



## NOTE FROM THE FOUNDER....

Our fundraiser "A Day in The Park Car Show & Family Fun Extravaganza" which was held on September 13th at Sylvan Park in Redlands turned out to be a huge success! Despite the heat, we had an amazing turnout and everyone had a great deal of fun. It was such a joy to see the community come together to support YouthHope! I would like to thank the car show participants who brought their fabulous vintage cars to the show, as well as thanks to the Citrus Valley High School football teams and coaches for supervising the Kids Fun Zone. Also participating in the event were local artists, a quilting display, food and small business ven-

dors and a bicycle playground. Following the week of the event, YouthHope experienced a heavy loss of one of our very close youth's Marcus Green. He was a high school senior in the process of making plans for his future and was relying on the guidance from YouthHope staff to accomplish those goals. YouthHope gave a Memorial Service on September 24 at the center which was attended by family, friends of Marcus, REV teachers, school counselors and staff. The memorial was as much a time to remember him, as it was a time to heal from this loss. He was

a fun, loving young man spending most days at the center interacting with youth and volunteers. He will be greatly missed. His presence has inspired friends and youth in our program to honor his memory by focusing on and completing their own goals that will support their future.

As for our drop-in center, it is slowly but surely moving forward. We are in need of a great deal of funds to make this happen, and we would greatly appreciate a donation of any amount! Thank you to all that have donated their time and resources to push us closer to our much needed center.