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YouthHope



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE STARTS WITH TODAY

VOLUME 4

MARCH 1, 2014



YouthHope Construction Needs

- **New Plumbing**
- **Commercial Kitchen Equipment**
- **New Bathrooms**
- **Electrician Services**
- **Contact Us For Specific Information on Our Needs and Requirements**

Or

**Donate Now
By Visiting**

www.YouthHope.org

Or

**Send a Check to:
P.O. Box 7803**

Redlands, Ca. 92375



New YouthHope Job Skills Program....

YouthHope is excited to announce the addition of a new Job Skills Pilot Program as part of our current Job Training Program. The current Job Training Program provides youth with the option to pursue a variety of job training opportunities including enrollment in the following institutions: The California Job Corps., CET, California Conservation Corps., C. R. England Truck Driving School, and the United Technical Institute, among others. YouthHope also provides access to the on-line Food Handlers certificate course for youth who are interested in obtaining employment in retail restaurants. As a part of the Job Training Program, YouthHope Case Managers assist youth with resume building and writing and also provide assistance with job searches. Case Managers will coach youth on the proper way to present themselves at interviews and will also provide appropriate clothing for inter-

views when needed.

If a student is interested in enrolling in a job training or vocational program but does not have the means to travel there, YouthHope will provide the youth with monthly bus passes. YouthHope may also provide assistance with books or required materials or a portion of tuition if needed. Additionally, YouthHope will provide appropriate work-related clothing such as boots, gloves, or work pants if the youth is not able to do so themselves. The new Pilot Job Skills Training Course will begin in mid-March and will focus on the art of creative production. The program's main focus will be to encourage and foster the youths' creative abilities by providing an opportunity to produce art and/or hand made goods with-in a real world

practical application. This program will also allow youth to then market their goods to the public. The youth will be mentored and taught practical real-world applications such as marketing and producing a product that can then be sold. The pilot program will initially consist of a 6-8 week course with a mandatory internship required. The youth will develop an understanding of work ethics, attend a mandatory number of hours in the program, and learn resume writing and interviewing skills. At the completion of the program, the youth will receive a positive letter of recommendation. We are excited about our new pilot program and look forward to assisting our youth with new skills that may lead to future employment opportunities.



Drop-In Center Construction News....

We are making great progress with the renovations of the Drop-In Center! This past month we have come close to completing all of the interior and exterior demolition, the interior framing has been completed, a new roof has been installed, new heating and air conditioning units have been installed, and a new fence was erected. We have had over 166 community volun-

teers donate their time and services or provide monetary donations to the renovations! What a joy it has been to see the community rally around YouthHope!

We were just informed that all of the existing plumbing has cracks and holes in it, so we will also need to replace all of the plumbing in the building. New commercial kitchen equipment will also be required as well as reno-

vating the bathrooms and updating the electrical system. We are still accepting donations toward these renovation needs.

A Big YouthHope **Thank-You** goes out to everyone who has helped to make our dream become a reality!



Youth Story....

Steven was just 14 when he first became homeless. Steven was born in Redlands to an educated family. His father is a professor at a local university. Steven's life started to change when his parents divorced due to his mother's worsening Schizophrenia. Steven's mother moved to San Francisco after the divorce. Not long afterwards, Steven's father decided that he would send Steven to visit his mother in San Francisco. What Steven didn't know was that his father only purchased a one-way ticket for him. At the time, Steven didn't realize that his father didn't want him any longer because he wanted to get married again. Steven lived with his mother for a few months in San Francisco, but it was very difficult to live with her given her mental health issues. Steven was diagnosed with ADHD at an early age, and his mother kept giving him more and more of his ADHD medicine. She would give him multiple doses a day. Due to the excessive medication, Steven wasn't able to sleep at night and he wasn't able to eat much. He always felt jittery and restless. Steven finally figured out that all of the extra medication was causing these adverse reactions, and he started spitting out the medication when his mother repeatedly gave it to him. When Steven realized that

his father wasn't going to let him come back home, he was prepared to run away. He just couldn't continue to live with his mother and her many mental health problems. Luckily for Steven, his new stepmother was sympathetic to his circumstances and sent him an airline ticket so that he could travel to the East Coast and live with a long time family friend. Steven stayed with this family for about six months before returning to the Redlands area. When Steven came back to Redlands, he once again asked his father if he could live with him. His father said no, he could not. At this time Steven was approximately 16 years old and homeless. Steven was fortunate in that he could occasionally 'couch surf' and sleep for a few nights at a time at other people's homes. Unfortunately, occasionally sleeping on someone's couch or floor doesn't always mean that there is food to eat or clean clothes to wear. Many times, Steven would survive by eating catchup packets from fast-food restaurants. Sometimes the catsup would be the only food that Steven would eat for several days. When YouthHope Case Managers first met Steven he only had the clothes on his back. YouthHope Case Managers provided Steven

with clothes, personal hygiene items, hot nutritious meals several days per week, and food from the YouthHope food pantry when he needed it most. Most importantly, YouthHope provided Steven with hope! At a time when Steven was most vulnerable, he knew that there were people who cared about him. Ultimately, YouthHope Case Managers were able to put Steven in contact with a local organization called Inspire. Inspire provides case management services and homes for homeless youth to live in while they are making strides to move forward in their lives. We are happy to report that Steven is now living in a boys home run by Inspire. Due to a tremendous amount of help by YouthHope Case Managers, Steven was able to enroll in classes at Crafton Hills College. He is also working 30 hours a week at a local pizza parlor. Steven is very talented and hard working. He is a gifted writer and hopes to become a journalist one day. Even though he is busy with school and work, Steven still manages to attend some YouthHope gatherings. He has even begun to volunteer his time at YouthHope by helping to write some small grants. Keep up the hard work Steven, we just know you will be successful!

Interested In
Helping YouthHope,
But Don't Have
Time to Volunteer?
Consider Donating
The Following....

\$5.00 McDonald's
Gift Cards

\$5.00 Baker's
Gift Cards

\$5.00 Del Taco
Gift Cards

Stater Bros. Gift
Cards, Any Amount

Note From the Founder....

We have accomplished so much at YouthHope this past two months. We have been extremely busy, but also very productive. The construction and renovations to our new Drop-In Center are progressing well. We have had an enormous amount of community support and literally hundreds of volunteers provide monetary support and/or their time and labor toward the construction and renovation of our Drop-In Center. What a blessing the community has been. We are all just overwhelmed with the outpouring of support we have

received! We have compiled a list of donors, volunteers, and supporters of our Drop-In Center project. Please take a moment to look it over. If for some reason we have inadvertently excluded a name, please e-mail us at: www.info@youthhope.org with the information so that we can include it next month. Please accept our sincerest apologies, as we are doing our best to include everyone who has volunteered and donated. In addition to working on the Drop-In Center this past month,

YouthHope has been finalizing our new job training course and has also re-launched a new version of our website. Everyone at YouthHope has been working hard to complete these new projects. If you haven't done so already, please take a moment to visit our new website. Please don't forget that you can also keep up-to-date on YouthHope's activities by visiting our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/pages/Youth-Hope. -
Heidi Mayer,
Executive Director

