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Inside this Issue:

Christmas Shoes	1
Meet our Volunteers	1
Youth Story	2
Founder's Note	2

TO DONATE, GO TO
WWW.YOUTHHOPE.ORG

OR SEND DONATIONS TO P.O. BOX
7803 REDLANDS, CA
92375

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR
DONORS WHO HAVE
CONTRIBUTED \$10,000
OR MORE IN 2014

- United Mission Workers
- Evans & Co. Salon
- Redlands rotary Sunrise

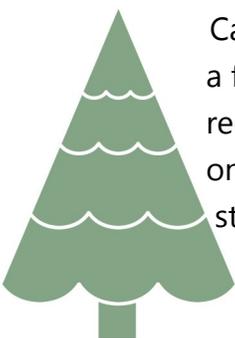


- Kiwanis of Redlands (noon)



THE YOUTHHOPE POST

It's the most wonderful time of the year!



Can you believe that Christmas is almost here? Christmas is such a fun time here at YouthHope. Each year, each of our youth receive a brand new pair of shoes for Christmas. It's usually the only gift that these youth receive all year long! Many youth are still wearing their shoes from last Christmas and they have holes, tears, and dirt all over the shoe that it makes it almost unrecognizable. We are getting ready for our Christmas Shoe party and we need your help! Here are some things that you can do:

- Buy a pair (or 3) of shoes for our youth

Shoes can be purchased from The Agency Board Shop located at

33527 Yucaipa Blvd Unit C-4
Yucaipa, CA 92399

- Volunteer the day of our Christmas Party
- Provide supplies for the Christmas Party



For updates on our Christmas Party and additional ways to help, Visit our website: www.youthhope.org/donate/christmas-shoes

Meet Ruth Vandergoot

Ruth is one of the many behind the scenes volunteers that helps make YouthHope successful. Ruth served on our Board of Directors for 3 years, she writes handwritten thank you notes to our donors, volunteers at every event, and donates financially to YouthHope. Ruth first heard about YouthHope through her church. Her children were on the Mission trips where Heidi really found her passion to help at-risk youth. Ruth's heart has always ached for hurting children since she saw so much heartbreak throughout her 30 year career as a pediatric nurse and the many years she spent volunteering in her church's youth group. When Ruth is not helping with YouthHope she is settling into her new life as a retiree. She enjoys reading, volunteering at her old hospital, learning to embroider, attending Bible Studies, and writing poetry. Thank you Ruth for playing such a vital role at YouthHope. We are so thankful for you and your dedication!

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Its been a whole year....Remembering Marcus Green

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 life style 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 may 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 breaths, and breathed his last.

"I was there Heidi, I stayed with him 'till 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. Many of the news clippings depicted 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, 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 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 continue to keep YouthHope, Isaac, and Marcus' peers in your prayers as we honor Marcus on his one year anniversary of his passing.

A Note From the Founder



Overjoyed! This is how I have felt the last couple of weeks thinking about our "Day in the Park Car Show". The day was so successful and that would not be possible without the dedication and sacrifice that so many of you gave. Whether you helped with the planning, the fliers, the programs, the cars, the opportunity baskets, the silent auction baskets, the vendors, the games, the set up, tear down, or just coming and enjoying the day. Without the

help of every single person that contributed, it would not have been such a success.

A special thank you to Supervisor James Ramos and Assemblyman Marc Steinorth for coming and supporting YouthHope. They even got to meet and chat with some of our YouthHope kids. I have so much hope for the future because of the support that these youth receive.

One of my favorite parts of the

day was seeing our youth volunteer. They helped with set up, tear down, and ran many of the games. How cool to see the youth so thankful for the support from the community that they would come and serve all day.

With Thanksgiving and Christmas around the corner, we are busy getting ready for our Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas party that will hopefully take place in our drop in center!