

September 2015
Volume 12, Issue 9



Inside this Issue:

Youth Homelessness	1
Meet our Volunteers	1
Youth Story	2
Did You Know?	2
Founder's Note	2

TO DONATE, GO TO
WWW.YOUTHHOPE.ORG

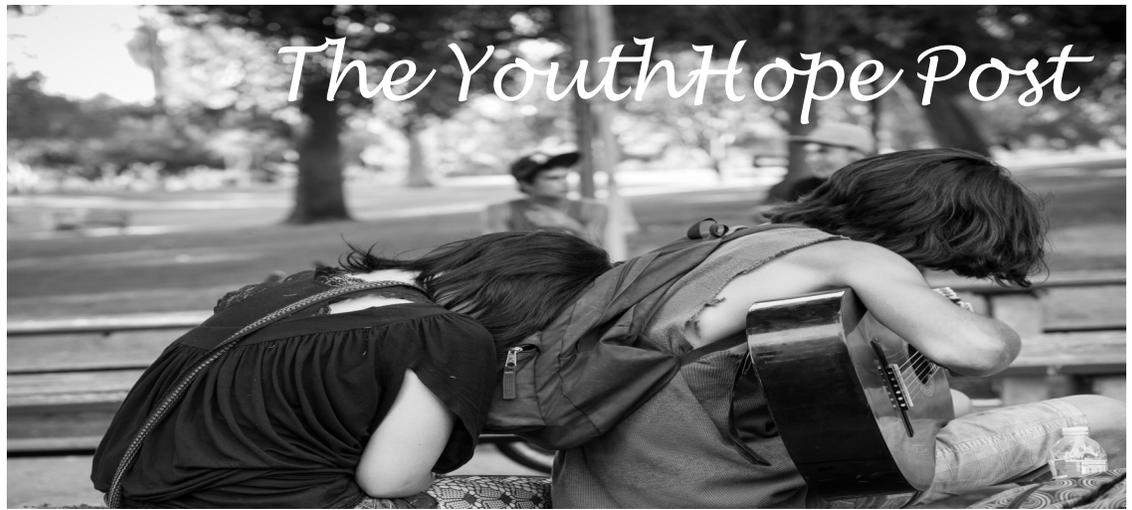
OR SEND DONATIONS TO P.O. BOX
7803 REDLANDS, CA
92375

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

What exactly is youth homelessness?

According to McKinney-Vento Act, a "homeless youth" is defined as:

"INDIVIDUALS WHO LACK A FIXED, REGULAR, AND ADEQUATE NIGHTTIME RESIDENCE".

In the Redlands School District alone,

THERE ARE 3,952 HOMELESS STUDENTS BETWEEN PRE K AND 12TH GRADE
62% OF THE HOMELESS YOUTH IN REDLANDS GREW UP IN A FOSTER OR GROUP HOME.

*Source: Redlands Unified School District records for the 2014/2015 school year/YouthHope Database

In San Bernardino County,

80% of homeless youth do not have a job

38% of homeless youth report difficulty accessing services to help them become self-sufficient

In the City of Redlands,

87% of homeless youth do not have a job

10% of homeless youth report difficulty accessing services to help them become self-sufficient

At YouthHope,

Since January 2015, over 50 youth have attained jobs

In the past year, over 1200 youth have attended YouthHope to receive services

*Source: Homeless Task Force 2015 Statistics, YouthHope Foundation 2014/2015 Statistics

Meet Donna Ferracone

Donna is one of our incredible board members that has been with YouthHope for the last 5 years. Donna has extensive experience with nursing where she worked for 30 years in the Emergency room. She also has 20 years experience working with college aged students at Crafton Hills College. Donna first heard of YouthHope when Heidi spoke at Kiwanis. When she heard the mission of YouthHope and saw that her desire to help youth aligned with YouthHope, she knew that she had to get involved. Donna started helping with Fundraisers and shortly after, became one of the board members. She continues to serve faithfully by finding support for fundraisers, advocating at local service clubs, and finds donations to help our youth. When Donna is not helping with YouthHope, she loves being with her great-grand babies. Thank you Donna for serving with YouthHope and giving where you live!

CONTACT US:

P.O. Box 7803
Redlands, CA 92375
www.youthhope.org
info@youthhope.org
(909) 663-4543

My name is Juanita

My name is Juanita and my story is short and not much different from many of my friends except that because of YouthHope I believe the ending to my story may be a happy ending instead of sadness.

Both of my parents are meth users and because of that we have lived in parks, trailers, campers, garages, cars...pretty much anywhere. You name it. Growing up, it was just part of the routine to go through restaurant garbage cans. We knew the best places and my brothers and I worked just as hard searching for food and other people's thrown out "valuable stuff" that got put out for garbage, as most people do at an 8-5 job. We really wanted a better life but just didn't seem to know how to take the right steps.

While we were looking for food, YouthHope quickly came on our radar. Because we dressed decent most people at school would never have guessed the level of our poverty. The YouthHope drop-in center became a much needed stop for food and clothes, but more important we soon discovered a staff that really seemed to care.

When my brother got a bad chest cold and fever one winter, one of the YouthHope caseworkers took him to the SACC Clinic in San Bernardino for medical care.

When my wisdom teeth and other teeth started hurting and looking pretty bad, they helped me get dental care and when I was old enough they helped me get my MediCal card.

But most importantly, I was able to enroll in Crafton Hills College! The Housing Director helped me with registration. I can't believe it, I'm a college girl! I also have a part time job thanks to Judy, one of the YouthHope staff who helped me with a resume along with getting my food handlers license. I can't believe I qualify for tuition aid. No more dumpsters for food. No more wondering where I will sleep at night.

School started this week and I can't believe how helpful my teachers are. Plus I'm making some new friends who I think will study with me.

I'm super scared but the staff at YouthHope tell me they are sure I can do it. You see, I want to be a teacher

someday. It was some of my teachers along the way who were the only support that kept me going. I want to be one of those teachers. YouthHope staff say they believe in me plus they have tutors to help if I get stuck.

Like I said earlier, I never thought this could be me.

Thank you YouthHope!

DID YOU KNOW?

50% of the youth that are emancipated from the foster care system this year, will be homeless within six months.

-Covenant House California

<http://covenanthousecalifornia.org/statistics-pg.php>

A Note From the Founder



Summer is over and our youth are back in school. YouthHope is in full swing helping our youth with bus passes to get to school, providing notebooks, pencils, backpacks, and clothes. Our youth want to fit in with their classmates and when school starts they want to have new clothes just like their peers. This means our youth are searching through all of our donations to find some new outfits that will give them the confidence needed to start the

school year off right.

We have some very determined youth at YouthHope. We currently are averaging 2 youth a week obtaining jobs while also going to school. We also have youth who are re-enrolling into high school, trade schools, and local community colleges. Our youth do not want to stay on the streets. They don't want to become a statistic of recurring homelessness. They don't want to hurt and suffer any-

more. They want to become self-sufficient and leave the life of drugs and alcohol. It is such a honor to see how hard these youth will fight to live a life they have always dreamed of even though family and friends have turned their back on them. This is why I started YouthHope and it brings me so much joy to see lives being changed. Thank you for supporting YouthHope and for giving these youth a chance to exit street life and live their dreams.