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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



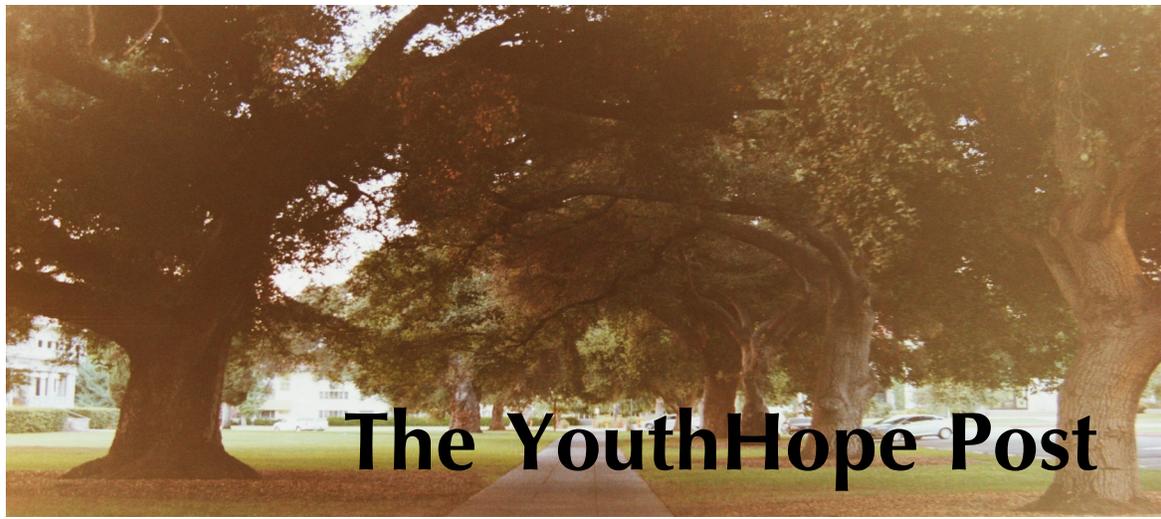
- Kiwanis of Redlands
(noon)



- Loma Linda University
Health, Community
Health Development
Office



LOMA LINDA
UNIVERSITY



The YouthHope Post

November is National Homeless Youth Awareness Month

**In the U.S., 1.6 Million
youth experience
homelessness each year!**

*www.nctsn.org

At Youthhope,
53% of our youth
were abused as
young children

At Youthhope,
33% of our youth
have parents with
drug and alcohol sub-
stance abuse
problems

At Youthhope,
62% of our youth
are classified as
low income

How can you help? Here are some ways:

YOUTHHOPE'S ALMOST OPEN HOUSE

We are almost there! Come make our Almost Open House complete. With your help, this building will soon be used as a drop in center for our youth!

November 13, 2015 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Come see how you can help COMPLETE our drop in center. Heidi will share at 6:15 about the progress of YouthHope, as well as the needs of our building. Light refreshments will be provided.

Come anytime between 5:00-8:00, bring friends, and see how you can impact your community.

Questions? Email info@youthhope.org

CONTACT US:

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

How hungry will you be this Thanksgiving?

We were having our Thanksgiving meal with our YouthHope kids when our sweet Darren arrived. He was extremely skinny to the point where we knew he didn't have a full meal for the last few months. He was very shy at first and would only talk to some of our Youth-Hope kids. Once he ate however, he lit up. We gave him a plate of warm thanksgiving food and he opened up to Heidi about what was going on in his life.

Darren was 15 and probably only had a 5th grade reading level. He told us how he loved school but couldn't go very often— his mom was mostly on the couch as a drug addict and his father was not in his life. He told us about her drug addiction as well as her bipolar disorder, and that this combination led to him receiving many beatings. They rarely had food, and Darren didn't get to go outside much once his mom found her favorite punishment for him.

If she wasn't successful finding drugs, she would beat Darren and put him in her cedar chest. He quickly came to fear the chest and captivity. From his early childhood until he was 13 he hadn't been out of the house much because he was locked in the chest. Due to her bipolar disorder, his mother was constantly angry and depressed and did not tend to her son's needs.

Darren was constantly hungry, failing in school, and getting sick often. The cedar chest was a common place Darren found himself, even if he didn't misbehave. All he

wanted was for his mother to love him and spend time with him.

And things grew worse. His mom got a boyfriend who was an even worse addict and brought the drugs to Darren's home. Darren would constantly step on needles that had been left everywhere in the house. Together her boyfriend and her would use drugs, and take turns beating Darren and locking him in the chest. He would be locked in for many hours, and sometimes he thought they would leave him to die.

One day, Darren witnessed his mother's boyfriend beating his mom. He tried to defend her, but was already very weak from malnourishment, and couldn't do much against her boyfriend. The boyfriend beat him

to a point where he blacked out and woke up in the cedar chest. He was kept in there for 2 days. Once his mother let him out after the second day he decided he had to leave or he would die next time. Darren left his house at 13 and wandered the streets for a year.

He heard about YouthHope from other kids on the streets and we got to welcome him to our YouthHope thanksgiving dinner. It was his first Thanksgiving dinner he had ever had. We've been providing him with food and healthcare resources, as well as helping him overcome his severe learning disabilities. He is a very hard worker who is in our GED program and a very sweet and humble kid. He's overcome a lot and we are very proud of him.

Shoes for Christmas, Hope for a lifetime

Do you want to provide what may be the only Christmas gift to a youth?

Head to The Agency Board shop located at

**33527 Yucaipa Blvd. Unit C-4
Yucaipa, CA 92399**

Tell them you want to purchase a pair of shoes for a youth and you will be given the opportunity to purchase a pair of shoes for one of our youth!

Did You Know?

In the Redlands School District, there are 41 students who live in motels.

-RUSD statistics

A Note From the Founder



November is such a special month. It is filled with time spent with family, reflection on all that we have to be thankful for, and preparation for the holiday season. As we head into this reflective season, I hope you all also remember our youth as November is National Homeless Youth Awareness month.

Thanksgiving is one of the hardest holiday that our youth experience. When they come see us for our Thanksgiving

dinner, it is a last resort. They would give anything to go to a family event even if their family has turned their back on them or has hurt them in the past. Our Thanksgiving meal with our youth usually involve lots of tears, lots of hugs, and listening ears as we comfort our youth and help them see the hope that they have in their future.

We have several opportunities for support coming up. Our Almost Open House will be a

great time to see our building and to see how you can be apart of finishing it. Our annual Christmas Shoe drive is happening now and we have over 200 youth that have signed up for new shoes! If you would like to purchase a pair, email Monica at monica@youthhope.org and she can give you the information needed to purchase a pair of shoes.

I hope as we enter this holiday season you are blessed with family, food, and smiles!