

# The YouthHope Post

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To donate, go to

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

Or send donations to P.O. box  
7803 Redlands, CA 92375

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR  
DONORS WHO HAVE  
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- Edison International



- Loma Linda University  
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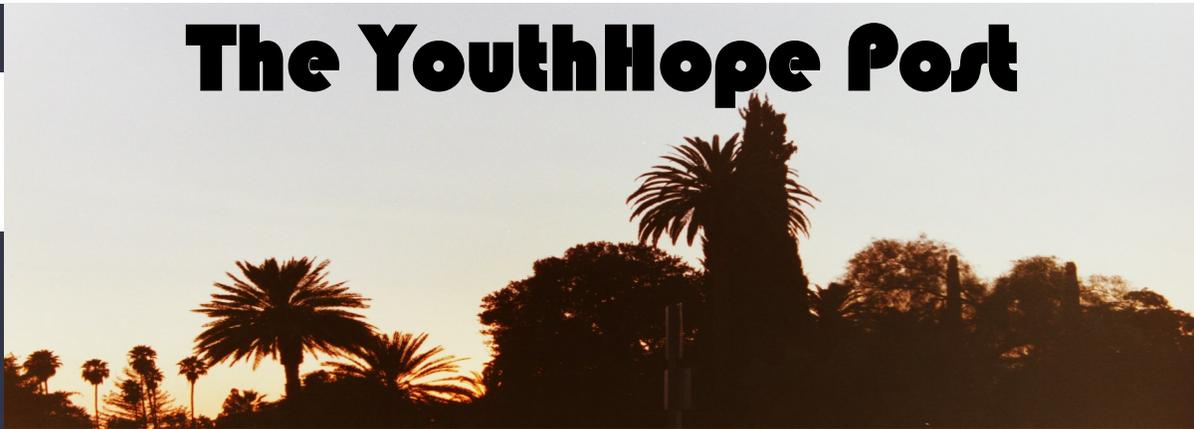
- Rita Shaw Broker and  
Associates



- Weingart Foundation



- Ann Whitlock



## Save the Date: A Day in the Park Car Show September 10, 2016

YouthHope is excited to announce its 3rd annual "A Day in the Park Car Show and Family Fun Extravaganza". This event will take place on Saturday September 10, 2016 at Sylvan Park in Redlands. This event will feature an exciting car show, a kid's zone filled with a giant inflatable slide, game booths, and prizes for kids and families to enjoy, as well as opportunity drawings and several local vendors. This event is a great way for our community to come and learn about YouthHope while having fun with their family.

If you have a car to show, we would love to have you join us. Pre-registered cars are \$25.00 and include a t-shirt.

We are also looking for vendors that would be interested in selling food, drinks, or products. Registered vendors selling food or drink costs \$50 and merchants costs \$30. This is a great opportunity for your business to get grand exposure and big sales.

We had an amazing turnout last year, and we are expecting an even greater crowd this year.

If you are interested in being involved in "The Day in The Park" through showing a car or being a vendor, please visit:

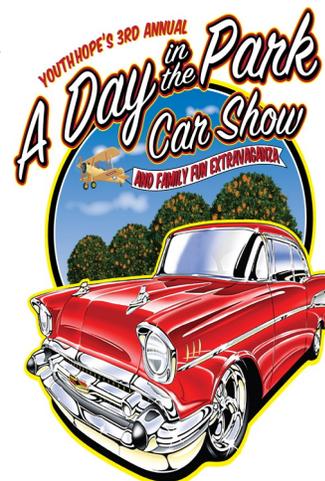
[www.youthhope.org/fundraisers/carshow](http://www.youthhope.org/fundraisers/carshow)

to sign up.

If you have any questions or if you would like to volunteer the day of with the kids zone, regis-

tration or with set up/ tear down please contact Hannah at [Hannah@youthhope.org](mailto:Hannah@youthhope.org).

100% of proceeds of this fundraiser goes towards helping our youth exit street life. Thank you for giving where you live!



SYLVAN PARK, REDLANDS

## Drop In Center

We are so excited with all of the progress that has occurred at our Drop In Center the last couple of months. We can see the finish line and can't wait to reach it.

In October, Loma Linda University Health, Community Health Development Office graciously funded our classroom. We were able to purchase tables, chairs, computers, furniture, along with other essential educational items needed to provide a place where our youth can study for their GED tests in a quiet, safe envi-

ronment. Without this funding, we would still be tutoring our youth in McDonalds, at the park, or in the library.



In December, Edison International awarded us a grant to purchase Dell Computers to complete our computer lab. We have seen youth come through the computer lab each week completing their Food Handlers Certificates, searching

for jobs, doing homework, and writing resumes. These youth are moving forward and we are so thankful that we can provide a place where they can continue to become self sufficient. Thank you Edison International and Loma Linda University Health, Community Health Development Office. You are making a difference in these youth.



# Your Future Doesn't Come From Your Past

I have big dreams! Like huge! I'm going to be a doctor. No if's, but's, or and's about it. I guess you could say I'm different from other people like me.

If you heard my story, my background, you would probably think that I would be a drug addict, or an alcoholic, a school drop out, or giving up on life.

But I'm none of those things. I'm successful and I refuse to let my past decide my future.

My parents are meth addicts. My entire life was spent homeless, searching for food. I remember days of walking around Redlands digging in trash cans looking for anything edible. Once we were done searching for food, we would go to whatever motel or car we were living in at the time to my parents passed out from doing too much meth that day.

As I got a little older, my parents managed to get enough money to rent a shack from a family. It literally was a shack and all 5 of us had to fit into it. I wasn't about to complain though because it was better than what we were used to living in.

One day I was sitting down and out of nowhere I heard a large boom. The next thing I knew, I was running out of the shack because it was on fire. As I was trying to figure out what happened, I kept saying over and over again "I gotta get out of this mess. I gotta get out of this mess".

Once I got outside, I realized what happened. My parents meth lab had exploded. Everything that I owned was gone. I didn't have much before, but now I had nothing.

So with nothing to lose, I left. I left my parents, my siblings, and the only life I knew and I never turned back. I ended up moving in with my friend's grandma. It sounds weird, but it was the only person I knew that would be a positive influence.

My friends Grandma told me about YouthHope. She told me that they could help me and be the support that I needed to ensure a better life.

When I met Heidi and the rest of the volunteers at YouthHope, I knew that I would be ok. I knew that they would help me. They wouldn't let me down. And I was right.

The biggest blessing that I have received from YouthHope is the constant source of food that I could take home. The food pantry at YouthHope was the only food that I

received. I didn't have money to go to the grocery store and my friends grandma fed me when she could, but she didn't have a lot of money either. I was so appreciative for the food that I got at YouthHope.

YouthHope also helped me get a job. I have been able to save money and I'm starting a savings account for when I leave for college.

I'm finishing my Senior year in High School and have become very involved in school. I love the friends that I have made in school and at YouthHope. I consider them all family and they have all helped me more than they will ever know.

I also got a full scholarship to a college in Florida. I can't wait to start! I have never been so excited to be alive and have never looked so forward to my future.

Without the help of YouthHope, I don't even know where I would be. Thank you YouthHope! You have saved my life!

## Did You Know?

30% of our youth have experienced some type of abuse as a child.

The trauma that comes from abuse is life changing. At YouthHope we provide youth with counseling to help them overcome that pain and move them forward to a brighter future.

## A Note From the Founder



The school year is almost over and we have had so many great successes this year. One of these great successes is our YouthHope Skills Class.

This class happens every Tuesday at our Drop In Center. These classes are meant to help our youth with skills that they may not have learned due to their lack of sufficient living circumstances. Some of these classes include nutrition, fitness, self-esteem, anger management, relationships, decision making, peer pressure, among others.

What makes this class especially great is the partnerships that we have created. Loma Linda University Health teaches each class and puts together the curriculum for the classes. Orangewood High School awards credits to those students who attend the full 8 weeks. This is beneficial for the youth who are behind on credits because it allows them to make them up in a more relaxed environment.

We are finishing up our second year offering the Skills Class and we have seen growth and improvement. We are excited to see what next year will bring.

Amongst our programs, we are still working on our building. The outside is done and we are finishing up the kitchen. We are so thankful for the continued support that we receive!

