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

Or send donations to

P.O. box 7803 Redlands, CA  
92375

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# The YouthHope Post

## THANK YOU!

As 2016 comes to an end, we at YouthHope are left with one word. THANKFUL. We are so thankful for you! For your support, your donations, your time, your resources, and your hope that you have given our youth.

We have seen so much growth in 2016. We have seen our youth grow and YouthHope grow.

We started 2016 by moving into our permanent drop-in center where we have been able to expand our services and our hours. We would not have been able to do this without YOU! From the hard working Saturday team that showed up every Saturday to rebuild our Drop-In Center,

to the numerous companies that generously donated materials and services, to churches and service clubs that spent days painting and building for us, to the generous financial supporters who donated so we could purchase kitchen equipment, classroom, and computer lab equipment, along with our weekly volunteers who continued to keep our programs running.

They say it takes a village to raise a child, and at YouthHope we have seen that it takes a city to raise our youth. There would be no YouthHope without you.

We are so excited for what 2017 has in store for us. We are excited for the youth who

will graduate high school, the youth who will get off of the streets, the youth who will successfully complete rehab, the youth who will get a job, and the youth who will continue to move forward in life.

We would love for you to continue to be apart of what YouthHope is doing.

Visit

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

To see all of the ways that you can help YouthHope continue its services in 2017.

## 2016 Successes!

- Distributed 715 bus passes to youth to attend school or youth who recently got a job
- 350 hours were spent tutoring our youth to get their GED
  - 25 youth enrolled in college
  - 45 youth graduated from high school
- 20 youth earned their Food Handlers Certificate
  - Over 60 youth received jobs
  - 239 youth received food gift cards
  - 27 youth went to the dentist
  - 9 youth saw a counselor

# The First YouthHope Christmas by Heidi Mayer

When I first started YouthHope, I never imagined some of the things I would experience. From overwhelming sadness learning about our youths past, to ecstatic joy seeing a youth who has struggled so long, finally receive their high school diploma.

I wasn't expecting such a range of emotions on our first YouthHope Christmas, but I did!

Our goal was to provide every youth with ANY shoe that they wanted. It could be any style, any brand, any color. We had 38 youth sign up for shoes that year. The staff and volunteers at YouthHope started searching high and low for these shoes. We went to every store across the Inland Empire to ensure that each youth would have their dream shoe. Somehow we were able to find every shoe!

On the day of the party, we had incredible volunteers that came and decorated the entire room. Each table was set beautifully, there was delicious food, and each of those 38 shoes were wrapped, waiting to be opened.

As the youth started to come, I felt so much joy seeing the look on their faces. They were amazed at what the community had done for them. They felt loved and cared for.

One young lady came walking in, but she didn't have the same look as the others. She looked upset and I asked her if she was ok. She said "I hate Christmas and I only came because you asked me to." My heart broke.

The rest of the night was amazing. I got to share my favorite Christmas story, we ate food, we laughed, and they got to open their shoes. The youth loved it. They all sat there and took off the shoes they were wearing and put on their new pair. They were shocked that they fit and that they were exactly what they asked for.

As everyone was leaving, I saw that young lady standing in the corner. I

went over to her worried that we had messed up her shoes. I asked if everything was ok and she gave me the biggest smile, hugged me, and said "Thank you! This is the FIRST gift I've ever received in my entire life". I was shocked! She had never received a gift. EVER!

I knew from that moment on, that every year we would hand out Christmas Shoes. Even though the shoes are expensive and tough to find, we will continue to give shoes because for many of our youth, it's the only gift they receive ALL year. Maybe the only gift EVER!

Thank you for helping us give our youth HOPE! We would not be able to do it without you!

## Housing Update

Without your help and support, we would not have been able to open a boys house and a girls house. We have been able to provide shelter and support for our youth to move them forward in life! Thank you!

## Did You Know?

**80% of our youth attend or have attended a school in Redlands!**

## A Note From the Founder



It is so humbling to look back each year and see how much YouthHope has grown. This year has been a remarkably big year for us.

We moved into our building. We were able to begin tutoring, provide computers, a clothing closet, a food pantry, and a safe place for our youth to hang out and get the help that they need.

We saw more youth this year than we have in previous years. We saw more youth who are

hurting and need help, but we also saw more youth graduate high school, get jobs, get their Food Handlers Certificate, create resumes, and become self sufficient. All of these successes would not be possible without YOU!

You have been a constant source of support, help, and hope!

As we approach the end of the year, I want to encourage you to continue to give hope to our youth.

We are currently in need of more staff so we can expand our programs and our times. We still need donations of food, clothes, gift cards, and bus passes. We still need volunteers to come love on our youth, and we need financial support to continue running every program.

Thank you again for giving our youth hope and a future. I hope you have a great Christmas surrounded by those you love. I am so excited for what 2017 holds for us.