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**TO DONATE, GO TO
WWW.YOUTHHOPE.ORG
OR SEND DONATIONS
TO P. O. BOX 7803
REDLANDS, CA 92375**

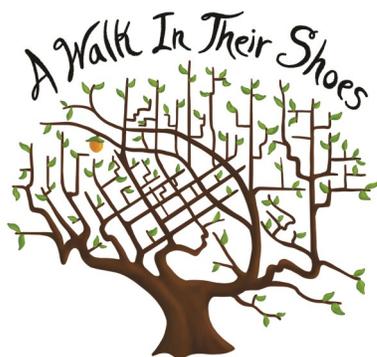
**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR
DONORS WHO HAVE
CONTRIBUTED \$10,000
OR MORE IN 2016**

- Bill and Marty Knipps
- David and Robin Maupin
- Rita Shaw Broker and Associates



The YouthHope Post

YouthHope's 6th Annual "A Walk In Their Shoes"



YouthHope cordially invites you to attend its 6th Annual Benefit Dinner

A Walk in Their Shoes

February 17, 2017 with an awareness hour at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m.

\$75 per individual registration

\$500 per table reservation of 8 individuals

This event will take place at
**The Mitten Building located at
345 N. 5th Street.**

Please RSVP by February 3, 2017.

To ensure your spot, please go to www.youthhope.org/awalkintheirshoes
Fill out the form and submit your payment through the PayPal link on the page.
We are so excited to share this powerful evening with you. If you have any questions please email fundraiser@youthhope.org or call (909) 362-7196.

YouthHope's History

YouthHope's Founder, Heidi Mayer first experienced homeless outreach programs in 2003 while chaperoning a mission trip to the West Coast cities of San Francisco, Portland, and Seattle. She visited dozens of shelters, drop-in centers, and outreach providers in a variety of settings. Heidi found her heart changed by the abused, neglected, homeless, runaway, and underserved youth whom she met and served. She realized that she could no longer sit on the sidelines knowing that there were thousands of youth who were abused, neglected, and going hungry every day. Thus, Heidi spent the next six years providing street outreach with youth from her church to serve the needy and homeless youth in her own community. She felt a calling to provide these youth with support, direction, and services that many were not receiving even if they were living at home. It was that calling that motivated Heidi to take the decisive step to found YouthHope in July 2009. She was adamant that the underserved youth in the area required a stable environment where they could receive essential needs and long term services.

Can't Stop Me

I have this recurring dream where I'm sitting in the back of a dark car with my sister. We are told to be quiet and act like we are sleeping. My parents aren't with us and we are put into a dark house and left there for days. We are told that we can watch tv or sleep, but we better not open the curtains or go outside.

When I wake up from that dream, I know that its real. Its what got me in this position. Sneaking over the border so we can have a better life.

It didn't start out as a better life. With an alcoholic, abusive mother and a father who worked all the time I was left by myself a lot. Things got better after a few years, and my mom became a recovering alcoholic. We became legal and things started to look up.

I was in 6th grade when I met my friend Sarah. We became really close really fast. We ended up playing together all of the time and we opened up to each other about our struggles in the past. One day Sarah and I were walking home from school and she said "I'm gonna kill myself tonight". I didn't believe her because we were always joking around. I said "you better not" and that was the end of that conversation. I woke up the next morning with the news that Sarah did kill herself and I did nothing to stop it.

Its been 10 years since that's happened and I still carry that guilt around. To cope with the grief and pain I started doing cocaine. I didn't do it because I was addicted, but it helped me forget about my guilt. I also started drinking and trying other drugs too.

I learned about YouthHope through people at school. They helped me get into counseling. I loved my counselor and she really helped me heal from many of my past experiences.

It wasn't until we had a death at Youth-Hope that I truly found healing. After one of my best friends committed suicide and I found myself completely broken I knew

if I didn't get the help right then, I would be the next victim to suicide.

I showed up at YouthHope and told Heidi that I needed help NOW. She stopped what she was doing and got me into a sober living house that same day.

I now have been sober for a month. I attend weekly meetings and have accountability at my house. I still have a long journey ahead. I will always struggle with guilt and coping mechanisms, but I won't let that hold me back. I will be successful and live a full life. Just try to stop me!

Did you know?

67% of our youth are actively searching for jobs. They are writing resumes, going for interviews, and earning their Food Handlers Certificate to become more marketable!

Success at YH

In 2016, over 30 youth enrolled in a college or trade school!
#movingforward

A Note From the Founder



I am so excited for The Walk in Their Shoes Dinner this month. It is going to be a great evening of awareness and discussion on how to end youth homelessness. I look forward to seeing you there.

We have gotten off to a great start this year. We have had so many youth already begin the process of becoming self sufficient. During the day you can find youth in our computer lab working on homework, filling out job applications, taking the Food Handlers course, and updating

resumes.

You can also find youth in our classroom working one-on-one with our GED tutors. These youth are working long hours to study for the GED test so they can move on to trade schools or college.

You can find our Case Managers busy taking youth to doctor's appointments, dentist appointments, and job interviews along with sitting and talking with our youth about what they want their future to look like.

I'm so proud of our youth and how hard they are working to move forward in life.

We are seeing new youth every day come through YouthHope. They are broken and need help. We couldn't continue YouthHope without the support of each one of you. Thank you for believing in the mission of YouthHope and continuing to spread awareness about youth homelessness.