

October 2017

Volume 14, Issue 10



Inside this Issue:

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Christmas Shoes | 1 |
| Volunteer Spotlight | 1 |
| Youth Story | 2 |
| Did you Know? | 2 |
| Founder's Note | 2 |

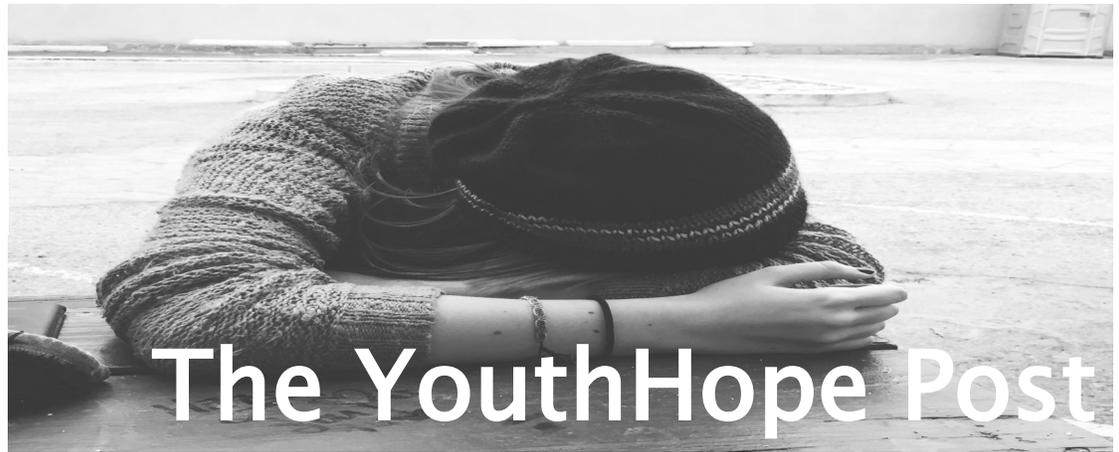
**TO DONATE, GO TO
WWW.YOUTHHOPE.ORG
OR SEND DONATIONS
TO P. O. BOX 7803
REDLANDS, CA 92375**

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

- Harkins Theatres



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



Shoes for Christmas, Hope for a Lifetime



Its that time of the year!

Christmas is slowly approaching, which means our annual Christmas Shoe Drive is starting!

Every year, our goal is to provide a brand new pair of shoes to each of our youth. For the majority of our youth, this is the only present that they will receive all year. They treasure these shoes and look forward to our Christmas party all year.

If you take a walk around

YouthHope during our feeding times, you will still see several of our youth wearing their shoes that they received last December. The shoes have faded, have several holes in them, and the soles are wearing thin, but these youth treasure these shoes and hold on to them so they are reminded daily how loved they are by their community. Last year, we handed out 256 pairs of shoes and we are expecting to hand out more this year.

In order to make this dream a reality, we need your help! Here are some ways that you can give us a hand:

- Buy Shoes!

Shoes can be purchased from The Agency Boardshop

33527 Yucaipa Blvd. Unit C-7 Yucaipa, CA 92399

- Provide supplies for our Christmas Party

For more information on our Shoe Drive and updates please visit

www.youthhope.org/donate/Christmas-shoes



Staff Spotlight: Regina Steele

Meet Regina! Regina started working for YouthHope in 2017 as our Director of Fundraising. She heard about YouthHope back in 2014 when she was looking for potential places to work. She ended up working at another position. Earlier this year, Monica was talking to Regina about the need that YouthHope had for a fundraiser. After that, she met with Heidi and started working soon after.

Regina wanted to work for YouthHope because the youth that we work with really hits

close to home. Regina grew up in a broken home and was considered homeless through her teenage years. Her parents left her and her siblings behind while they moved to a different state. She moved from house to house all while finishing high school, going to college and earning a bachelors. She lived with friends, bosses, and even the school lunch lady.

Regina runs our girls house as well and she loves that she gets to show our youth that they

matter and that we care for them. She also is able to show them that they can break the generational cycles and they can be successful too!

When Regina has free time she loves spending time with her daughter and teaching her new things to love like hiking.

Thank you so much Regina for not only helping YouthHope raise funds, but also being a great example to our youth. We are so blessed to have you on staff.

The First YouthHope Christmas (by Heidi Mayer)

When I 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 make sure 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 that 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 it without you!

Did You Know?

78% of our youth are currently enrolled in school

Success at YH

62 youth earned jobs this year!

A Note From the Founder



Thank you to everyone who made our "Day in the Park" a success. It was such a great day. We had beautiful cars, great vendors, and wonderful people who came to see it all.

Without every single person who participated by donating, bringing cars, selling goods, and coming to enjoy the day, it would not have been such a success. Thank you!

A special thank you to Supervisor James Ramos for coming out and supporting YouthHope. Your

support is so appreciated and needed!

One of my favorite parts of the day was seeing our own youth come out and help make the day a success. They helped with set up, running the games, and cleaning up.

Our youth understand how much our community has supported YouthHope and they want to give back. They know that you have bought bus passes, food, clothes, and supported financially so that they can become self-

sufficient.

Christmas is right around the corner and we are getting ready for our Christmas Shoe drive. This is my favorite time of year and I always look forward to seeing each youth open up their brand new pair of shoes.

Please consider purchasing a pair of shoes for our youth this Christmas season. For most of our youth, this is the only celebration they have all year and they look forward to it all year long.