

SOLUTIONS FOUND

Solutions for Youth Fund Newsletter

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SYF

SOLUTIONS FOR YOUTH FUND

Be a part of the movement that is bringing vital help for over 300 homeless High School students in our community. You can make a difference!

On the Horizon:

As we look to expand into more schools within the counties we currently serve through SYF we are encouraging targeted donations to the following schools:

- ⇒ Central Valley High School
- ⇒ Anderson High School
- ⇒ West Valley High School

Looking Southward

The regional leadership at Starbucks has been such an amazing support for SYF. In fact they are so excited that they are asking us to consider enlarging the program as far south as Yolo county. We are studying the needs and how we might respond to this request.

Any Suggestions or Connections in that region would be welcomed and appreciated!



So far...

Since the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year (September) we have:

- Helped over 50 High School students with clothing, hygiene and education items
- Distributed nearly \$7,000 to meet student needs.



Delivering a backpack to Enterprise (Principal Ryan Johnson) and a winter coat to Foothill High School (Assistant Principal Lauren Stroud)

A Word from the SYF Program Founder



Mike Logan
Executive Director
Children First FFA

In April of this year, during a meeting with local politicians, I learned something that disturbed me very deeply. It was reported that, in Shasta County alone, there are 300-400 children in our high schools who are identified as homeless. The City of Redding is struggling to come up with solutions for the growing homeless population as camps appear on public and private lands, and as business owners complain of vagrancy and criminality problems. This, for me, was the image of homelessness until that evening last April. I had never considered the fact that students enrolled and attending classes at our local High Schools would be homeless.

It could be that these children are living under bridges or in a tent. But for the most part they are couch-surfing from home to home or offered a place to crash at night by the parents of a friend who knows they have nowhere to go. These also are the kids who live with a parent or guardian in

one of the month-by-month motels in town. Any student who lacks a permanent and safe place to live is rightfully identified as homeless because they lack the care, supervision and resources they need to fully participate and succeed academically and socially through High School. Our research discovered that 35% of the adults who are homeless now, experienced homelessness as a child or teenager.

In May, I presented this information along with a plan to assist these students to the Board of Directors who guide Children First as a non-profit organization. The Board approved the plan and allocated the initial funding to create a program that now is in 9 high schools in the north state. With the active participation of High School counselors, principals and staff, we are now able every day to help a student who needs clothes, coats, gloves, and basic life provisions.

The generosity I've found in local and regional businesses has amazed me. This includes the enthusiastic partnership we have found with 9 Starbucks regional managers who are helping us get the word out and advance the fundraising campaign in the various communities we are seeking to serve. These businesses seem to quickly understand what we have the possibility to do on the preventative side of homelessness as we help as many students as we can to complete high school and move forward into a successful adult life.

Gratefully,

Mike Logan

"This is our first referral. We thank you immensely for your help with our needy youth.

Thank you.

*-R. Johnson
Principal*

Student Response:

"(the coat) helped because the weather is getting colder. It means a lot. It's gonna be worn that's for sure. Thank you so much"

Male age 17

Student Response:

"(the clothes) helped me by not having to financially worry about getting the clothes I need.

It meant a lot, feeling like I'm alone most times and receiving such a great gift is heart warming and a great gesture."

Female age 15

"I cannot begin to express my gratitude for your organization and what it meant to these kids. You made it so easy and the kids were thrilled! One of the boys said, 'This is awesome, I usually get gifts that are used.' In fact, one of the boys was reluctant to participate until learning that you didn't even want to know his name. I assure you both boys were in need and I wish you could have seen the look on their faces. Thank you from the bottom of my heart! "

K. Turner
Assistant Principal

Student Response:

"(this gift was meaningful to me because) there are generous people out there."

Male student, age 16

Student Response:

"(receiving the computer) meant a lot to me, it really helps me. It was really hard doing my work without a laptop. It helps me do my math."

Female age 14

"We can be sure students eat a breakfast and lunch at school but the need for a winter coat or new shoes can go unanswered.

This project fills in a huge gap..."

*-K. Simon
School Counselor*



Delivering shoes to Shasta High School (Counselor Molly Huhn)

Student Response:

"(the shoes I received) meant a lot that someone would think about me that doesn't know me"

Male student, age 15

Appreciation to SYF Donors



We are happy to announce that SYF has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Women's Fund. This Shasta regional community foundation has been doing extraordinary work to bring resources into the hands of public benefit organizations who contribute to the betterment and success of women for over 17 years.

We are so honored to be recognized as one of those contributors and given the opportunity to invest these funds in the lives of at-risk teenage girls as they navigate through their difficult High School years. It is through the vision and efforts of foundations like the Women's Fund in collaboration with public benefit organizations that we will find real solutions for those struggling with poverty, marginalization, and other roadblocks to a healthy and successful future.

Find out more about The Women's Fund by visiting: <http://www.shastarcf.org/the-womens-fund#.WIO7s9-nE2x>

Tell your friends and family about Solutions for Youth by directing them to:

www.HelpHomelessKids.org

The Solutions for Youth fund is a program developed and maintained by Children First Foster Family Agency. We are a government-recognized 501(c)3 non-profit organization and are happy to provide a donations receipt for your tax purposes.

Contact us for more information or to find out how you can help meet the needs of homeless and at-risk teens in our community.

Call Karen Kemp at: (530) 526-2766

Or email us at admin@solutionsforyouth.org

