



Connections

A Newsletter for Friends of Homeless Youth Connection

Community Collaborations

As HYC continues to grow to meet the needs of homeless youth in our community, we believe it is important to reach out to other service providers to learn about their services and to educate them about HYC. For the past several months, HYC has been working with the East Valley Collaborative to identify local providers to assist the homeless youth in the East Valley. Through the group's efforts, they have created a website highlighting services and they are planning a community-wide forum to introduce all of the programs and services available to homeless youth in the East Valley.

Additionally, HYC is working with members of the Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care on a new initiative to reduce the number of youth experiencing homelessness through a national Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program. This is an exciting opportunity for Arizona. The program will select 10 communities across the country to participate and each community will be eligible to apply for \$1 million to \$15 million in new funding. If selected, the funding will assist each community in a six-month planning process and allow each community to apply for funding for housing opportunities for youth.



HYC is excited about the opportunity to participate in this community-wide collaboration. As a result, other nonprofits and public programs that work with youth are learning about HYC, the services we offer and the youth we assist. Additionally, HYC is learning about new resources that are available for our youth. The increased awareness will help with our expansion throughout Maricopa County.



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December 5, 2016



Thunderbirds Charities/ Waste Management Phoenix Open Birdies for Charity Program to Benefit HYC

HYC is one of the designated charities provided the opportunity to generate contributions for their organization based on the number of ‘birdies’ made by the PGA TOUR players during the Waste Management Phoenix Open. As a participating charity, HYC is asking for pledges per birdie—and pledges can be as little as one cent! The 2016 Open had about 1,340 birdies, which means that a one cent pledge would have been \$13.40. The highest number of birdies was 1,746 in 2014.

In golf, a ‘birdie’ is a score of one stroke better than ‘par’ for any hole on the golf course. ‘Par’ is the normal expected score of a golfer on any given hole. For example, if Par is 5 then a Birdie would be 4 strokes.

HYC may also be eligible to receive a 10% bonus on the total amount of pledges collected if we have a minimum amount of \$500 collected by the April payment deadline. So, please help us collect pledges for this fun campaign—it’s so easy! Just visit the link below and make your pledge today!

www.birdiesforcharityaz.com

WEST VALLEY MAVERICKS FOUNDATION Shopping with HYC Students

For a second year, the **West Valley Mavericks** sponsored a shopping event for 50 HYC students. On September 24, students in our program had the wonderful opportunity to shop with the volunteers from the West Valley Mavericks, who generously sponsored \$5,000 for students to purchase clothing, shoes, and other much needed items. The Mavericks are an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization group of business and community leaders that are helping build, shape, and support our West Valley communities by creating events raising money for charitable causes.

Kohl’s of Avondale graciously opened their doors to our large crowd of students and volunteers, including those from the Mavericks and the Goodyear’s Cancer Treatment Centers of America.

Our youth were overwhelmed by the support of the Mavericks who not only sponsored the event, but took the time to shop and get to know our students one-on-one. This is a unique opportunity not only for the students to buy new things, but to tell their story and explain their struggles. Thanks, as well, to McDonald’s for donating breakfast for all to enjoy before shopping.



In addition to the Mavericks, HYC would like to thank a few of our recent sponsors and donors—their support is vital to our efforts in serving our homeless youth!

A & C Properties, Inc.

Arizona Legacy Foundation
Tin Man Award

Church at Litchfield Park

City of Avondale

City of Buckeye

City of Goodyear

City of Litchfield Park

City of Peoria

City of Surprise

Community Foundation of
the Great River Bend

Executive Council Charities

FirstBank

John F. Long Foundation

Miller Family Philanthropy

National Association for the
Education of Homeless
Children and Youth

Phoenix Suns Charities

Nina Mason Pulliam
Charitable Trust

The Sundt Foundation

Tohono O’odham
Nation

T.W. Lewis Foundation
USAA

Westinghouse Electric

Student Highlight

Each youth participating in the HYC program has a story. The story below highlights why this student needed HYC and how they are turning their story into success.

Meet Daniel,* who lost his dad in the Rwanda civil war. His family was able to escape Rwanda and make it here to America five years ago. His mother remarried to another man also from Rwanda. Within their culture there is a great deal of violence. Being in America has allowed Daniel to see a different way of life, which includes minimizing violence. Daniel's stepdad is quite forceful with discipline and one day Daniel chose to step between his stepdad and his younger brother. His stepdad ended up throwing Daniel out on the street. After one night in a hotel, HYC was able to help secure a temporary host family for Daniel, which has allowed him security and safety. After about a week, the temporary hosts called HYC to let them know they had fallen in love with Daniel and are choosing to become his permanent host family. This will give Daniel the opportunity to finish his senior year in the same high school. Daniel has also recently secured employment and will be working on budgeting and moving towards independent living. So far, Daniel is settling well into his host home and has been introduced to golf and taken an interest in major league baseball. Daniel is very interested in rugby and hopes to be a professional player or join the military. His host family says: "We are learning together each day. There is a lot of laughter. Daniel is a very nice addition to our family and with minimal effort on all involved, we are making our house into a home."



(Name has been changed to protect the privacy of the student.)

These HYC Students Need Your Help Today!



If you have considered our mentoring program, we have students waiting for a mentor match today! Please call us if you are interested in volunteering to be an adult mentor.

"Ethan" is a student at Peoria Flex Academy. Not long ago, Ethan's dad passed away and he is still grieving from the loss. His mom travels frequently back to their hometown in Mexico, so Ethan lives with his aunt. Unfortunately, the neighborhood where he lives is unsafe. His case manager believes he is being targeted by local gangs, and we are all doing our best to keep him away from this dangerous lifestyle. He is currently learning to manage his grief and anxiety. He desperately needs a mentor to help him learn

about the positive ways to spend his time, such as joining a local Boys and Girls Club. His teachers and counselors report that he is a kind, smart young man who is just struggling to remain positive.

"Chris" is a senior at Tolleson Union High School. He lives with his aunt and grandma. He does not get along with his stepdad and was kicked out of his home six times over the last year. He has a part-time job but with all the emotional instability in his life, he is not doing well in school. It is hard for him to imagine being accepted to college because he is struggling in school with his current studies. We are confident that with a more stable lifestyle, Chris could improve his grades, complete his education and go on to college. He is interested in being a police officer but needs good advice on what path would be best for him in the future.

(Name has been changed to protect the privacy of the student.)

Holiday Hope For Teens

Wow, summer sure flew by—and we're planning for the holidays already! If you're looking for a special way to give this holiday season, please consider being a part of our Holiday Hope for Teens program. Sponsors and donors are needed to 'adopt' a teen for the holidays by helping grant the holiday wishes of our homeless youth. Each year, all of the students in our program will fill out their gift list including needing items (clothing, shoes, etc.) and a \$50 'wish' gift to help them celebrate the holiday season. If you are interested in participating, please call our office to obtain a gift list. If you'd like another way to help during the holidays, many of our families also need assistance purchasing food for holiday dinners, and gift cards for local grocery stores are very helpful. If you are interested, please call 623-374-3747 for details and a wish list.



We ask that all gifts be wrapped and delivered to the office no later than **Monday, December 5** to ensure timely delivery to our students before Winter Break.



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www.hycaz.org