



Connections

A Newsletter for Friends of Homeless Youth Connection



Host Family Program Helps Youth with No Place to Call Home

HYC's Host Family program was established to address the housing needs of unaccompanied youth, or youth on their own. Many youth who are impacted by homelessness will do what they have to do in order to survive—sleeping in cars,

bartering sex for shelter, couch surfing from one friend's house to another, or residing with abusive family members who threaten to kick them out. The HYC Host Family program helps to prevent these potentially negative life experiences by matching the youth with a community member who is able to provide a safe place for them to live during the school year. We know when the worry about basic needs is removed, homeless youth can thrive, graduate and succeed.

Are you able to open your home and your heart to a youth experiencing homelessness? HYC host families provide a supportive and caring home, creating a bridge between dependence and independence for a youth experiencing homelessness. According to the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY), the Host Family model is the most effective method for addressing housing for homeless youth. There is an almost 100% high school graduation rate for youth participating in this type of program.

How does the program work? The host family provides food and shelter, while HYC delivers case management services. The Host Family program is voluntary for both the youth and the host family. Both the family and the youth review and complete applications and agreements to participate in the program. If the youth is under the age of 18, the youth's parent or legal guardian must also consent. HYC recruits, screens and trains hosts, then provides ongoing support—including financial—for the host family while the youth resides with them.

If you are interested in learning more about the Host Family program, please email info@hyc.org.

Host Family Connection for Life...



Christine came from a broken home and was kicked out of her mother's home at 17 years old because she did not have enough money to pay her part of the rent. She bounced from neighbor

to neighbor and finally reached out to her counselor as her circumstances were affecting her education. Christine was connected to HYC and was encompassed by services, including identifying a host family to provide housing for her.

Recently, we asked Christine's host family mom a few questions about the program:

What was your experience? "It was very positive. HYC was there every step of the way. They assisted me immediately with any concerns I may have had," said Stephanie B.

What did you think your student learned while living with you? "Christine learned how valuable a person she truly is and her self-worth became very strong."

What was the greatest benefit of the program? "The constant resources for us as the host family and the resources for Christine."

Were there any unexpected outcomes for you personally? "We fell in love with Christine. She was a perfect fit for our family, and we made it official and adopted her."

Would you consider doing it again?

"It was a very rewarding opportunity that everyone should get the chance to experience!"

Giving homeless youth a chance for a brighter future.

HYC Helps Open Youth Resource Center On Campus



The new *Falcon Family and Community Resource Center* is now open! The Resource Center, a collaboration between Homeless Youth Connection, Phoenix Union High School District and Carl T. Hayden High School, held its grand opening on Saturday, October 19. After

months of planning, HYC teamed up with community partners from across Maricopa County to help create the space. We would like to send a huge "Thank You!" to Dick's Sporting Goods, Luke Air Force Base, Phoenix Rotary 100, CarMax and the dozens of volunteers who helped make this happen.



"This space will allow us to support students and families across the district by providing a one-stop shopping experience with access to clothing, toiletries, school supplies and more," remarked Cyndi Tercero, family and community engagement manager for Phoenix Union High School District. "We are so grateful for our partnership with HYC. This would not have been possible without their support," she added.

More than 75 families took advantage of the Resource Center on opening day. In addition to being open during regular school hours, the Resource Center will be open on select Saturdays throughout the year. HYC is truly grateful for our strong community partnerships as we continue to empower our youth to create lasting solutions for their future.

Taking the "Work" Out of Homework



Schoolwork has just been made easier for some of our students with a very generous donation of 60 refurbished laptops. This donation was made possible through a collaboration with Tom Mehlert and AZ StRUT, Mark Ellis and Phoenix Rotary 100, and Howie Simon, HYC Board member. These laptops will provide our students

the opportunity to complete schoolwork, apply for college or search for employment. Donations like this not only eliminate barriers but also provide a lasting solution to help our students be successful and stay in school.

Thankful and Grateful

The holidays can be a hectic time of year, especially for HYC with turkey boxes and fulfilling holiday wish lists for our youth. This is in addition to our regular services and fundraising efforts. It is important to us to take a minute and remember what this time of year is all about. It means different things to different people. For HYC, it means providing hope and resources to homeless youth so they can have a future with choices and opportunities.

There are so many who contribute to investing in HYC youth in different, yet important ways—volunteers, in-kind and financial donors, churches, service organizations, school partners, board members and staff. And, we are genuinely grateful for each act of kindness and support. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of so many young people experiencing homelessness.

HYC is grateful to receive every gift—be it in-kind, a gift of time, expertise or financial. Sometimes we are the recipient of incredibly generous financial support by funders who support our community in many ways, and we are humbled to be stewards of such significant gifts. This past fall season, HYC received funding of \$50,000 from **Kemper and Ethel Marley Foundation**, \$50,000 from a family foundation represented by **Arizona Community Foundation**, \$50,000 from **Mr. Jim Morgan** and \$50,000 from **Valley of the Sun United Way**. These large funders help HYC as we work every day to raise over 1.6 million dollars to serve youth experiencing homelessness.

In Memory... Mr. Jim Morgan



It brings us great sadness to say goodbye to Jim Morgan who undoubtedly had a soft place in his heart for homeless children and families. For more than 15 years, he contributed his time and financial support to several valley non-profits, including HYC. His contributions helped to provide resources, education and safe housing for so many children and young people experiencing homelessness. He was committed to create lasting solutions and opportunities to ensure a healthy and brighter future for the homeless.

We have been deeply honored to be a beneficiary of Mr. Morgan's generosity for the past five years. He will always be thought of fondly and as a dear friend to HYC.

HYC Attends National Training Conference

This past November HYC, was represented at the 2019 National Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) Grantees Training/Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Three HYC staff members participated in the national four-day training conference for RHY grantees as well as other youth service providers. This event provided a significant opportunity for individuals to come together to share knowledge, experiences, and creativity to engage in the common goal of providing effective services to the country's runaway and homeless youth.

The training provided attendees the opportunity to hear from experts in the field, to learn about best and promising practices from other service providers, to collaborate to explore effective approaches to serve at-risk youth, to select from more than 30 workshops and to participate in networking sessions to better enhance HYC services and programs.

HYC was awarded Federal funding in November 2018 for our transitional living component of our program. We learned that there are currently only 200 recipients nation-wide for this type of Federal funding, and HYC is one of five programs successfully implementing the Host Family model with positive outcomes.



No matter how you say it, we are grateful for the support we received from the community for Thanksgiving. We received more than 250 Turkey Baskets...the most we've ever received! Thanks to our generous donors we were able to deliver those baskets to not only HYC students and families but to our community partners as well.

This enormous undertaking couldn't have been accomplished without the help of HYC volunteers. Over the course of two days, 32 volunteers delivered 134 turkey baskets to HYC students and families throughout Maricopa County. After completing her delivery, a volunteer shared her experience with HYC staff. "When the student realized I was there to deliver the turkey box, he ran outside to help me. His smile was beaming from ear to ear when he saw the basket!" Our donors and volunteers helped create this cherished memory and for that, we are forever grateful.



Your Monthly Gift Gives a Homeless Youth Hope



When you become a **Give a Teen a Chance Sponsor**—a monthly donor—you make it possible for HYC to provide dependable resources and

make a lasting impact for youth who are experiencing homelessness. Your monthly gift means more consistent and timely funding, allowing HYC to be strategic in our growth and better plan our resources to offer critical services to homeless youth seeking help.

Give a Teen a Chance Sponsors will receive quarterly student updates. You will also have the satisfaction of knowing your support will go further by helping to reduce administrative costs and impacting more youth experiencing homelessness.

It is Simple and Easy to be a Monthly Sponsor

Register online: hyc.org Click **"Donate Now"** then click on the orange **"Monthly"** button; at the bottom of the page click **"Donate."**

To make your monthly gift, choose any amount that works for you, select **"make this a monthly donation"** and your subsequent giving will happen automatically.

If you're not quite ready to join, but have questions, please contact dmboeck@hyc.org

How Your Monthly Gift Makes a Difference

\$10 per month will help contribute to medical co-pays and prescriptions

\$25 per month will cover academic fees for classes or bus passes for one student for one month

\$45 per month will cover weekend meals for one student for one month

\$95 per month will cover full HYC services for one student for one month

\$165 per month will cover one week of emergency home services for one student in urgent crisis



9950 W. Van Buren, Suite 114
Avondale, AZ 85323 • 623-374-3747

hycaz.org

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Calendar of Events

Save these dates and mark your calendar with this important list of upcoming HYC events!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11 Volunteer Welcome Event

Location to be determined.

Join us to find out more about volunteer opportunities with HYC.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

Taco 'Bout it Tuesday

6 pm – Location to be determined.



Specifically for people interested in learning more about our Host Family program which provides housing to youth who are on their own.

JANUARY 27, 2020 – FEBRUARY 2 Waste Management Phoenix Open



Love Golf? Love HYC? Combine your two loves by supporting the **2020 Birdies for Charity** program! All pledges and donations to HYC directly support our programs. Visit <http://bit.ly/BFCHYC2020> today!



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Follow our social media to stay even more connected! 'Like' us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram to make a difference in the life of a teen today!

Everyday Ways to Support HYC DONATE WHILE YOU SHOP!

Visit Frysfood.com/topic/new-community-rewards-program, and



click the "Enroll" button. Sign in using your Fry's account information

then search for and select Homeless Youth Connection. That's it! A portion of your future Fry's purchases will now automatically be directed to Homeless Youth Connection!

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You shop. Amazon gives.

If you're an Amazon shopper, simply go to smile.amazon.com and log into your regular Amazon account. Underneath the search box, you will see the option to select a charity. Select **Homeless Youth Connection**. Now, whenever you shop on Amazon, use smile.amazon.com and a portion of your purchase will be automatically directed to HYC!