



StandUp For Kids - Ft. Lauderdale

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF MENTORING YOUTH?

I'm sure each of you reading this can remember at least one significant person in your life that encouraged you to become who you are today. Someone that pushed you just a bit further when you felt you were at the rock bottom, were scared, or just didn't know how to move forward. If you can remember at least one person that fits this description, then you already have an advantage over many of the youth we meet on the streets today.

Most of the youth we meet have no one in their lives that cares about their success, their future, or their feelings. They have no one to show them support, no one to listen to them or offer them advice, and no one to encourage them through tough times.

That is why StandUp For Kids is so important. We step in to fill the gaps in a kids life where just a little encouragement can go a long way. Can you remember what it was like when you had a rough patch in life, and that mentor or special person came to you and said "everything will be alright?" and helped you with solutions on making things better, or simply opened their ears to listen to you? Actions that simple, which don't require anything but an open and caring heart, can change a persons life.

Young people with mentors learn how to lead successful, responsible lives. With a mentor's guidance, they learn how to resolve conflicts and how to understand and accept responsibility. They learn how to identify, set and achieve goals. The proven benefits of youth and mentor relationships are improved academic performance, higher graduation rates, increased communication skills, improved peer/family relationships, and improved self-esteem. These benefits lead to decreases in substance abuse, teen pregnancies, suicide, school drop out and juvenile crime.

We know that mentoring will provide positive impacts on a kids life, but what about the benefits for the mentor? Mentors report that they learn or gain something personally from their mentoring experience, including feeling that they are a better person, and a feeling of effectiveness and accomplishment. This tends to lead to improved health and self-esteem for the mentor.

READY TO BECOME A STANDUP FOR KIDS VOLUNTEER?

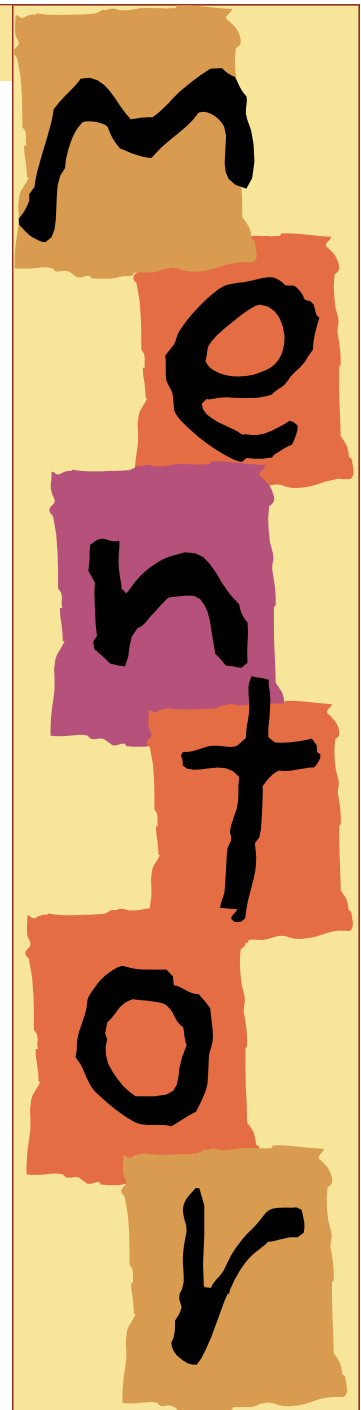
Orientation: 9/22/10 - 7:00pm-8:30pm

The orientation session provides information about SU4K and the Ft. Lauderdale program to all prospective volunteers who are interested in learning more about the organization. For those interested in volunteering, this session will inform you of the various ways to get involved such as outreach, prevention, mentoring, advocacy, fundraising, behind-the-scenes support, and leadership roles.

Basic Training/Outreach Training: 9/29/10 - 6:30pm-9:00pm

Basic & Outreach Training is available to those who have attended an orientation session and would like to become an active volunteer. This training provides participants with in-depth knowledge about the status of homeless and street youth, as well as the methods StandUp For Kids uses to reach them. You will also learn what it takes to become an outreach counselor.

Contact Ftlauderdale@standupforkids.org to RSVP



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"A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself. "

~ Oprah Winfrey



WHY DO KIDS RUN AWAY OR GET KICKED OUT OF THEIR HOMES?

The reality is that thousands of teens from every city, neighborhood and school run away or get kicked out of their homes each year. Many of them are going through the normal phases of growing up. Others are in abusive homes or in families that are in emotional and financial turmoil. In fact, the majority of kids we meet on the streets feel its safer there than at the place they once called home.

Common reasons why kids run away (this is not an exhaustive list):

- ◇ Lack of or miscommunication within the family
- ◇ Feelings of not belonging or not being good enough, problems in schools (being bullied, etc)
- ◇ Abuse - physical, sexual or emotional
- ◇ Fighting or violence between parents
- ◇ Parental alcohol/drug use, or criminal activity
- ◇ Loss of parent(s) due to divorce or death
- ◇ Sexuality/teen pregnancy
- ◇ Financial difficulty whether it's ongoing or unexpected
- ◇ Neglect
- ◇ Problems with parents, blended families or non-parental living situations (step-parents/brothers/sisters, other relatives, foster care)

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, “What are you doing for others?”

~ Martin Luther King, Jr.



WHAT HAPPENS NOW THAT THEY ARE ON THE STREETS?

Once kids find themselves on the streets, it can be very overwhelming to try and figure out what to do next. Think about trying to find a safe place to sleep, or your next meal. How are you going to shower, or wash your clothes? How are you going to prove your identity now that your ID and backpack with your belongings were stolen? These are only a few of the things going through a homeless youths mind on a daily basis. If we can prevent kids from running away through our Don't Run Away programs, we can prevent the experiences they may encounter on the streets. For the ones already on the streets, let's work together to bring them the support they need and show them that there are other options.

What do kids experience on the streets:

- ◇ Feeling of not belonging anywhere - couch surfing from place to place
- ◇ Missing or skipping school frequently due to various issues such as lack of transportation, ability to shower/having clean clothes, embarrassment, depression.
- ◇ Going hungry for days at a time
- ◇ Finding a place to sleep in the bushes, cars, abandoned buildings
- ◇ Having belongings stolen such as identification
- ◇ Begging for money/food and stealing
- ◇ Having sex with someone for a meal or place to stay, which can lead to prostitution for money
- ◇ Dealing drugs as a last resort
- ◇ Getting sick or injured from living on the street (skin disease, upper respiratory infections, heat exhaustion, trauma/wounds from fights)
- ◇ Getting arrested

MEMBERS CORNER

Meet Travis - Our newly appointed Director of Outreach!

1. Tell us a little bit about yourself?

I run a company called Preemptive Concepts, which offers graphic design and marketing solutions (which of course, is just the fancy way of saying I am a self-employed freelancer). I also volunteer as the Creative Director for my church Liberty Life Center and am a member of the Coalition for a Healthy Broward. I love to travel off the beaten path and couldn't live without a sense of adventure; generally these cravings stay fed through international missions that I'm so thankful to be a part of. I love any sport involving water, I'm a big nerd so I love to read, and I'm a strong believer that you'll get what you want in life simply by helping others get what they want.

2. What keeps you coming back to StandUp for Kids?

I believe that most people want to see change and wish the best for kids and would hate to see them on the street. But unlike a fruit that falls when its ripe, true change doesn't happen simply by wishing and waiting; if you want to see change, you have to climb the tree and shake the branch! StandUp for Kids understands this and is an effective way to make change happen, it's pro-active, and that's why I love it!

3. What have you learned from working with Standup for Kids?

I have learned a lot about life on the streets and the problems facing our neighbors in the community but what's weird is I think that what is most impacting is what my new friends on the street have taught me about myself. Through stories of survival, I've learned of all I have to be thankful for; through their humility, I've seen my pride; and by their strength I've felt my weakness. I've learned that true greatness isn't in what I can accumulate, but in who I can become.

4. What is the hardest thing you've come to realize?

I think the obvious answer is that it's not possible to do everything and some people just are not ready to be helped. I wish we could say every time we did outreach we cleared the streets of kids, but the reality is that it takes time and dedication, not just from the volunteers but also from the kids. It's a tough realization but the ones who persevere make it all worth it!

5. What's one thing you would like to see for the Fort Lauderdale Chapter or StandUp for Kids in general?

I see a lot of potential and excitement in our team and new recruits. We have such a variety of personalities and talents that when combined I believe could create an excellent dynamic for change and lasting results in our community.

6. Anything else you'd like to add?

Just a THANK YOU! To all the volunteers and leadership at SU4K!



The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual.

~ Vincent Lombardi



Summer Time Bike Bonanza Raffle!!

With a small donation of \$6 made directly to the Ft. Lauderdale Chapter you will earn an entry into the drawing to win a Magna - children's bike! Pictures are shown below. The bike is slightly used, and is in excellent condition. Show your support, and tell your friends and family to participate and enter to win!

It's easy to help! All you have to do is go to

<http://www.standupforkids.org/fort%20Lauderdale/default.aspx>

and click on 'donate now' which will direct you to the Ft. Lauderdale Chapters PayPal site! The raffle will start on 8/9/10, and will end at midnight on 9/15/10. A winner will be pulled based on the email address provided at the time of donation on the PayPal site, and announced by 5pm on 9/16/10. We will make arrangements with the winner to pick the bike up at our storage facility.

As you know, we are an all-volunteer chapter that works tirelessly to help homeless and at-risk youth here in our own backyard, and we couldn't do it without the support of our special volunteers and supporters! We hope you will take the time to participate in our 'Summer Time Bike Bonanza' raffle! Good luck to all!



*"Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little."
~ Edmund Burke*

Find the *magic* of giving back!

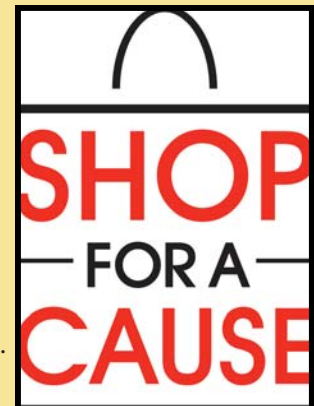
Saturday, October 16, 2010

Since 2006, Macy's Shop For A Cause Event has partnered with non-profit organizations nationwide to raise more than \$34 million for their ongoing charitable efforts. This is your chance to be part of this monumental event on Saturday, October 16, 2010.

Shop For A Cause gives you the opportunity to give back to your community and to help StandUp For Kids! Purchase a \$5 Shopping Pass* for exclusive savings in every Macy's store and online at macys.com on Saturday, October 16th, and we keep 100% of the proceeds. Plus, you can enter to win a \$500 Macy's Gift Card!

Find the magic of giving back, as Macy's celebrates a national day of support for our community.

*Some exclusions and restrictions apply.



**For more information or to purchase a pass contact:
Trish Thorp at ftlauderdale@standupforkids.org or 954-224-9497.**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO ALL THE VIRGO
AND LIBRA BABIES!**



~SPECIAL REQUESTS FOR THE MONTH~

StandUp For Kids - Ft. Lauderdale is in dire need of **bus passes and gift cards to Publix, Subway, Boston Market, McDonalds, CVS, Ross, etc** to provide to kids we meet on the streets so that they are able to get to school safely and on-time, have a nutritious meal and buy basic necessities.

Bus passes are available at discounted rates for students & others who qualify. Prices & discounted rates can be viewed at <http://www.broward.org/BCT/FaresAndPasses/Pages/FaresPasses.aspx>. We appreciate your help in giving us the tools to help kids have consistent transportation to and from school, shelters and work.

If you would like to help in this regard, please contact us at: ftlauderdale@standupforkids.org.



StandUp For Kids - Ft. Lauderdale

PO BOX 2084
FT LAUDERDALE, FL 33303
888-365-4543 or 954-224-9497

Email: ftlauderdale@standupforkids.org

Website:

<http://standupforkids.org/Fort%20Lauderdale/default.aspx>

SPONSOR SHOUT OUTS

StandUp For Kids - Ft. Lauderdale sends a special thanks to The Store Room for their generous donation of storage space to house our donations and clothes for use on street outreach and DHL for their generous donation of office space for our orientation, training & leadership meetings! We appreciate your contributions and support in helping homeless and at-risk youth! THANK YOU!



<http://www.dhl-usa.com/home/home.asp>



<http://sfloridastorage.com/>