

STANDUP

newsletter



Outreach Counselor of the Year and FIVE YEARS

on the Streets!

Bob Cope isn't just a local hero in Denver, Colorado. He is a NATIONAL HERO, and Rick Koca, Founder & CEO of STANDUP FOR KIDS, told him just that when he recently presented Bob with the National Outreach Counselor of the Year Award. Bob also has the distinction of walking the streets, helping homeless and street kids, for more than five years. Pictured with Bob is Ilene Blum, who also received the Guardian of Kids Award for her efforts in Boulder, Colorado for more than five years. Our sincere congratulations to Bob & Ilene for making a difference in the lives of literally thousands of kids.



Richmond, Virginia Prepares to StandUp For Kids

Since November of 2005, our local volunteer team has grown from a single person to a small band of fourteen. While our leadership team is forming, there are still some great opportunities for dedicated leaders. We are currently recruiting for the following positions: Co-Executive Director, Director of



Volunteers, Director of Community Resource Development, and Director of Fund Development. We are also looking for survey assistants to help us complete our survey of the Richmond area.

Our goal is to obtain program certification from the national office and bring Richmond online early in 2006, but to do so we need lots of help! So, if you share our passion for youth and live in the Richmond area, please contact us via the STANDUP FOR KIDS website, Volunteer Match, or directly at Richmond@standupforkids.org.

We are waiting for you!

Volunteer — Click Here
It just takes a **minute**
Commitment!



STANDUP FOR KIDS— Atlanta made a commitment to their community, volunteers and at-risk youth. In 2005, they almost reached 4,000 hours of community service, including nearly 50 hours a month on the streets. If you're in Atlanta, or 31 of the other cities that we're in (click here to find your community), get involved. Be the "message" there are enough messengers! Be the one that gets it done. With your help we can double these hours in 2006.

Type	Total Hours
Admin	848.5
Training	595.5
Leadership	790
Community and Program Support	864.75
Outreach	529
Other	349.5
Total:	3977.3

Zach Bonner

Little Red Wagon Foundation

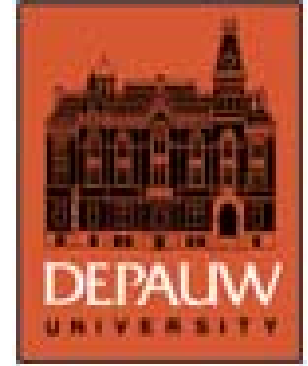
I'm sure you remember our favorite 7 year old on the planet: Zach Bonner of course! Zach has his own charity foundation, The Little Red Wagon Foundation.



Pictured with Zach is his brother Matt. Both are great young men and an inspiration to us all.

We want to congratulate Zach on the occasion of his receiving a "PRESIDENTIAL POINT OF LIGHT!" You go Zach. You're our hero! thank you for all that you do for homeless and street kids.

Winter Term in Service Participants Offered "Guidance and Inspiration to Some Down and Out Kids," Reports CBS Affiliate



"Making a national television appearance was not the reason why DePauw junior Donald Person and twelve of his fellow classmates and two professors went to California in January," said WISH-TV education reporter Leslie Olsen in a report that aired in the CBS affiliate's 5 p.m. newscast this evening. The story opens with footage of the episode of *The Price is Right* that was broadcast nationally today, in which Person was a contestant. "The reason why is because every winter, hundreds of students from here at DePauw University are involved in community service projects around the world." (Click)

DePauw University is located an hour west of Indianapolis, Indiana and has been ranked in the top tier of national liberal arts colleges by *U.S. News and World Report*.



Don't forget our Mission Fish request. See our January Newsletter...



Cox Community Champions STANDUP FOR KIDS

Ron Wells, David Hedberg, Kathy Calvert, John Racer, Darryl Drennon, Delma Herrera, Jim Glick, Penny Malone, Della Berg, Shawn Duncan, Kevin Pieper, Brian Rudolph and Ali Abbasi. This group of hardworking Cox Communications employees has been selected as Cox Arizona's 4th Quarter Cox Community Champions for their work with the STANDUP FOR KIDS organization. They are being honored for their outstanding contribution to the community as part of "Cox Volunteers!," a program designed to recognize, on a quarterly basis, Cox employees who have contributed more than twenty-four hours to a local charity.

What is it like to sleep on the streets, huddled on porches or in parks? What is like to wonder where your next meal will come from, or if you have a blanket to fend off the chilly desert air? What if you were too young to get into a shelter, get a job or rent an apartment? There is a group of homeless that have to answer these questions every day and most Phoenix residents have never heard about them. They are Arizona's numerous homeless youth. Though local statistics are hard to come by, national statistics report 1.5 million youth live on the streets. Children now make up 27 percent -- the fastest-growing segment -- of the U.S. homeless population.

The average age of homeless youth is nine. If this is the first time you're learning about this grim situation; if you are feeling horrified and sickened to learn that this is a reality in your community; if you're wondering what you can do to make a difference, you're not alone.

A small group of Cox Communications Arizona employees and their family members decided that that there must be a way to help these countless children. In December this group of

employees banded together to find a way to make a difference. They learned about an organization that was dedicated to improving the lives of these homeless youth. That organization is STANDUP FOR KIDS, and the local chapter was in need of assistance.

STANDUP FOR KIDS is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization founded in 1990 to help rescue homeless and at-risk youth. The national organization's headquarters is in San Diego, California, but Phoenix and Tucson have chapters also. The mission of STANDUP FOR KIDS is to help homeless and street kids through a volunteer force that works to stabilize and assist them. They work with the kids to get them off the streets, into housing such as apartments and start developing stable lives. STANDUP FOR KIDS also works with schools to promote deterrence programs.

Cox will be making a \$1,500 contribution to STANDUP FOR KIDS on the group's behalf, as well as featuring them in a 30-second promotional spot highlighting their commitment to the community, which will run on Cox cable networks throughout Arizona.

If you would like to learn more about STANDUP FOR KIDS and how you too can make a difference, you can visit their [web site](#) or contact any one of the Cox AZ employees listed.



As we get closer to April, and our all out effort; to bring to the public attention the number of children being abused, you can help. Sign our petition, get involved.

Tell everyone!

www.turnpurple.org



“Good for You”

One of the most rewarding elements of my job with STANDUP FOR KIDS is that I get to travel around the eastern half of the country and meet with ordinary people, people like you, who want to make a difference in the lives of our nation’s most vulnerable youth. These people, who often seem to have very little in common in terms of their experiences, background and upbringing, share a common spirit and a desire to be of service. These are my everyday heroes; they are the people who inspire me.

However, the longer I spend working with our volunteers the more I begin to suspect that they know some things many of us have forgotten. They seem to realize that as much as our kids need them and their efforts, they need to be doing this work every bit as much. There are two areas where this recognition shows up most frequently, though I’m sure there are others. The first has to do with money and the second with community.

“I spend all day doing something I don’t really care about, but get paid really well for,” says one of our volunteers “but once a week I get to come out and outreach to the kids. I don’t get paid a thing, but it’s the most important work I do.” Volunteering helps us to keep a healthy perspective on the importance we place on our work. While we are often encouraged to think that “time is money,” volunteering helps us remember that there are things more important than wealth, and that some time is invaluable.

Many potential volunteers I talk to describe isolation as a primary reason they’ve chosen to begin volunteering. Life is very full, and too many of us are rushing from the moment we wake up until we fall asleep. Over time it can feel like we live in a bubble – keeping the world at arm’s reach all the time.

Volunteering can change that “I knew that once I really let myself see these kids I’d never be able to NOT see them again,” says Atlanta’s Director of Community Resource Development, Becca Orchard. For some people that level of engagement is precisely what keeps them away, but on another level I think most of us are looking for ways to feel more connected to the world we live in – not less.

All of which is to say that volunteering with STANDUP FOR KIDS is not just something we do for the kids. It’s something we need to do for ourselves as well. It’s not simply that we don’t want the kids to have to fend for themselves on the street – it’s that we ourselves don’t want to live in a world where anyone has to live on the streets. Giving our time to build communities that refuse to allow our children to live and die on the streets is not simply heroic – in the end it is self-interested. If you haven’t already gotten involved in your local chapter, now is the time. It’ll be good for you.



Erik Christensen
Director of East Coast Operations



Please report child abuse

1.800.4ACHILD

www.childhelpusa.org