

RISE

Newsletter for StandUp for Kids - Orange County



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RESILIENCY THROUGH CRISIS

StandUp for Kids has been providing support for the past 30 years and perseveres through hardship, one youth at a time.

COVID-19 presents an unprecedented challenge for many and especially the at-risk and homeless youth of our country. Since our founding in 1990, this may be the biggest fight we've ever taken on. Students in middle and high school are losing a support system for food and education, and many college students have lost housing and student services. Young adults are losing employment at a pace not seen since the Great Depression. It is truly a scary and dangerous time. But also a time of hope. Volunteers have come in waves to support our youth. Our staff has been innovative and made virtual mentoring and tutoring steady and impactful. Our "We Deliver" program has ensured that our youth and their families have food and hygiene supplies to keep healthy. This year is truly testing our resolve, but we are showing our kids that we'll be here for them to lean on during these difficult times.



A sincere thank you to Kia Motors America for an additional \$275,000 donation to our national organization to be a vital force for the at-risk and homeless youth of our country.

BLAST from the PAST

Past youth share their stories and how StandUp for Kids has forever changed the course of their lives.

Jennifer's story is one of perseverance and inner strength. Growing up in an unstable home environment she was left emotionally unsupported. She met StandUp for Kids in a time of darkness and found love and care. It's something that she will never forget. Through this experience her current outlook has shifted to reflect the love and support she received in her time of greatest need.



Donny suffered more trauma in adolescence than most people experience in a lifetime. His mom kicked him out of the house at 14, he spent six years living under bridges and was jailed before his 18th birthday. He turned to drugs and alcohol to cope with the pain of being on the streets. Despite Donny's struggles, mentors at StandUp for Kids stood with him every step of the way, providing him with support and care to help him work towards a better life.

"They helped me out a lot when I really needed it. They never gave up on me when a lot of people had."

Andrew, from Fort Lauderdale, experienced a difficult childhood. He lost his mother at age seven and moved in with his father and stepmother. At age 15, his family moved to California and by age 17, amid family turmoil, Andrew was living on his own. Leaving home came with many challenges and sent Andrew down a path of poor life choices. Stuck in Colorado at 21, Andrew explained, "I had just gotten out of a relationship and Justine bought me a bus ticket to California. She saved my butt." That was nearly 10 years ago. Andrew now has a family of his own and works in shipping and receiving. He expressed immense gratitude to StandUp for Kids and encourages anyone in need to reach out.



we need **YOUR** help.

Living Supply Donations:

- Toilet Paper
- Lysol Spray
- Disinfectant Cleaners
- Canned Goods (Vegetables, Soups)
- Dry Goods (Rice, Ramen Noodles)
- Non-refrigerated Milk
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Bread

Hygiene Items:

- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Laundry Detergent

Gift Cards:

- Grocery Stores
- Department Stores

Email: justines@standupforkids.org to coordinate a drop-off.

Volunteers:

Those able to do virtual mentoring & tutoring and those willing to help deliver supplies each week

Sharing:

Our organization and our mission to others who may be able to help

Funding:

To help support housing needs



1ST ANNUAL VIRTUAL END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS RUN/WALK - JOIN US!



Our virtual walk/run campaign is currently in full swing. There is still plenty of time to get involved. Over 1300 miles have been logged and there are 13 teams currently walking, running and fundraising to help youth get off the streets. It costs \$1500 to put a youth through our program and every gift counts.

We have weekly and monthly prizes during the campaign and we're building up to a huge race day on July 18th. Join the campaign and get your training on so you can help us have a record-breaking finale to this campaign.

Pictured to the left is Alex, one of our youths, who put nearly 40 miles on in his first week in the event. Please join us and help more youth like Alex get the love and support they need today!

Register & Donate at www.standupforkids.org/orangecounty/2020run4youth

THANK YOU FOR "HELPING THEM HOME"

Wednesday, April 22nd was our Help Them Home Giving Day

StandUp for Kids partnered up with 18 other homeless-supporting non-profit organizations in Orange County on April 22nd and raised \$27,820 in the span of 24 hours. Such success would not have been possible without all of our compassionate donors, campaigners, and volunteers. A sincere thanks from our youth to YOU. These funds are crucial to the well-being of hundreds of homeless youth in Orange County. The combined efforts of nearly 100 of you will create a lasting impact on their lives, providing food, shelter, safety and love to our sons and daughters in our communities. During this especially dangerous time our kids need us. Thank you for being there for them.



ORANGE COUNTY COLLEGES: COVID-19 IMPACT REPORT

Dr. Stephanie Schneider is the StandUp for Kids OC Colleges Project Director. She compiled data in light of COVID-19 to learn the needs of college youth during this time, researching the nine community colleges and two 4-year public universities in Orange County. Here's what she found:

Access to online instruction is a major challenge. Students who accessed free wifi from their college libraries or local coffee shops now have no internet access. Others who relied on their phones for internet cannot download assignments or course materials. These students have a high risk of failing their courses.

Many students have been laid off from their part-time jobs.

This has the effect of reducing or totally eliminating their income. They must now rely upon food banks or giveaways from local nonprofits or churches who are already stretched to capacity.

COVID-19 TO A COLLEGE STUDENT

These are strange times. Its been weeks since we've had "normal". Weeks since going outside didn't include a mask and gloves. Weeks since going into school or work. And weeks since we walked into a grocery store and actually saw shelves stocked with toilet paper and paper towels. It feels like we're living somewhere between a zombie apocalypse and what martial law might feel like.

My name is Courtney. I'm currently a marketing intern with StandUp for Kids and a full-time student at California State University, Fullerton. I used to work full-time. I was always told growing up that pursuing higher education would mean obtaining a career that would provide stability for myself and my family. I did not think that now, just before graduation,



Stephanie mentoring a college student.

College support services have been eliminated.

Food pantries, hygiene facilities, and community referrals have been eliminated. The support networks that students count on are gone, leaving them at high risk for stress-related illnesses.

Opportunities for 'couch surfing' are severely reduced.

Many families worry about social distancing and keeping their own families safe. Students may be days or weeks away from becoming homeless and living on the streets.



I would be this close to homelessness. I'm not certain I'll be able to pay next month's rent. However, I do know that if I ever need them, StandUp for Kids will be there for me. If you know of 18-24-year olds who need food, clothing, medical, or basic hygiene needs, please urge them to call the StandUp for Kids hotline for assistance. They don't make promises they can't keep. They'll be there for you and try their best to help you in any way they can. I've seen it and it's one of the reasons I'm giving my time to such an amazing organization.



WE DELIVER

StandUp For Kids Launches "We Deliver" Program

The "We Deliver" program enlists our volunteers and staff members to make weekly trips to deliver much needed food and housing supplies to our youth and their families at home. Many have taken a serious financial hit with businesses shutting down and jobs being lost. In choosing between keeping a roof over their heads and feeding their families, We Deliver has made both possible.

"This mother uses the little money that she has to pay for her rent for next month to keep a roof over her kids' heads. It's either pay rent or buy groceries," said Denise Zermeno, Mentoring Program Manager and the tip of the spear for the program.

No one is certain when this crisis will come to an end and when we'll be able to return "normal". However, this doesn't stop the volunteers, staff and supporters like you from doing whatever it takes to support these kids. If you would like to get involved with "We Deliver" by either volunteering or donating please email justines@standupforkids.org. Thank you!

THANK YOU TO THE CROSSING

The Crossing Church - A Force for Good in Costa Mesa

Located in Costa Mesa, The Crossing Church opened 31 years ago with the stated goal of helping people no matter their background or circumstance. Throughout its history the church has routinely shown their commitment to helping those in need through several different mediums. Efforts have varied from book drives for a local elementary school to launching a check-in center that provides supply bins of toiletry items and phone chargers for around 50 adults six days a week. "The Crossing is a church for all people, including those that sit on the margins of society," Executive Pastor Bruce Swerdfeger shared.

The Crossing Church has been partnering with StandUp for Kids for about five years and began with a discovery of shared values and a common mission around the issue of homelessness. The support given through numerous donations and countless volunteer hours is truly remarkable and has helped define the trajectory of StandUp for Kids to be a leading organization in helping the at-risk and homeless youth population in our communities across Orange County. If your church, school, company or social group would like to get involved please email Justine at justines@standupforkids.org.

“

"The partnership with The Crossing has been invaluable. The congregation and leadership have extended their time, resources and love to our youth over and over. On a personal level, as a member, I feel totally supported. I couldn't be more proud to call them my church."

*-Justine Palmore,
Executive Director.*

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SUPERSTAR SPOTLIGHT

A shoutout and big thank you to some of our biggest supporters

“What I love about the organization is you're catching a vulnerable kid and changing the trajectory of their life,” says Kim Severini, Supporter of the Month for April and a long time supporter and Advisory Board member of StandUp for Kids. “You see the kids move along through their journey. Year after year you see them grow and they become different people. It's truly remarkable.” Kim has continued to play a vital role in the success of StandUp for Kids' mission, and we thank her for her constant support and her compassionate heart.



KIM SEVERINI



DR. STEPHANIE SCHNEIDER

Dr. Stephanie Schneider serves as an advisory board member and wears many hats for StandUp for Kids. She's had a long-distinguished career in education working at the Orange County Department of Education, UC Irvine, and USC and decided to focus her efforts on the homeless youth in our communities. At StandUp for Kids, Stephanie works as the Director of the OC Colleges program, helps with grant-writing, is on the Advocacy and HR advisory board committees, provides mentoring to our youth, attends county and city meetings to speak on behalf of our youth and steps up whenever a new fundraiser or initiative is launched. The impact Stephanie has made on the youth of Orange County is immeasurable and immense. Some of Stephanie's fondest memories include seeing a youth she's worked with acquire the funds needed to be able to attend college. Thank you Stephanie!

One of our new partners is Moms Against Poverty (MAP). They have been providing monthly food supplies since the beginning of the year, allowing StandUp for Kids the capacity to provide food through our "We Deliver" program to our youth's homes.

We recently caught up with Ladan Judge, Co-Founder and COO. "Our mission is to nurture and educate underprivileged children to their fullest potential, so that one day they can contribute and lead within their own communities and break the cycle of poverty. Working alongside StandUp for Kids helps us fulfill that mission."

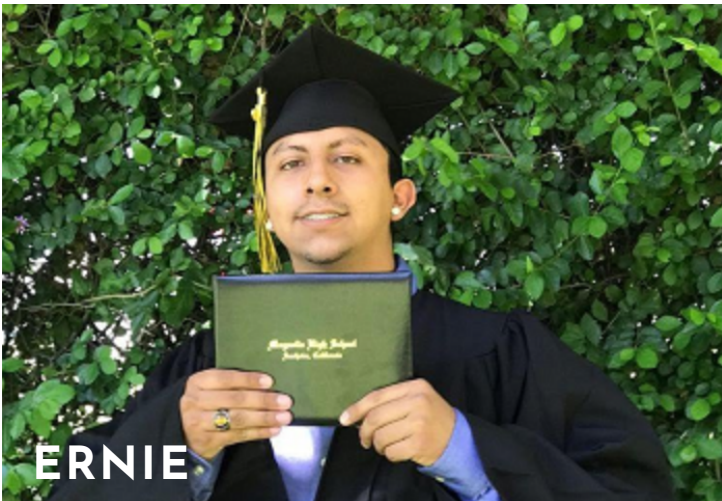
You can read all of these stories and more at our blog here: standupforkids.org/orangecounty/news



MOMS AGAINST POVERTY

MEET OUR CURRENT YOUTH

Kat (at right in the picture) has been in our program since December 2019 and is mentored by Denise, Stand Up for Kids Mentoring Program Manager. Denise has helped Kat with her resume and speaking points for interviews and even took her to Walmart to get interview clothes. Denise advised her to be diligent in finding a job. She instructed her to go to the closest mall, showing her the bus routes to get there, and go into every store and ask them if they were hiring. Kat took her advice and began her mission. Within two weeks, she had gotten an interview and was then hired shortly thereafter. Kat had been working 25 hours a week making a steady paycheck until COVID-19 threw us all a curveball. She is still working with Denise, and still enjoys their one-on-one time.



"StandUp for Kids helped me through a lot of stuff like getting my head on straight from bad decisions I've made and giving me advice on things I need to be able to be successful." Ernie, a recent high school graduate, needs advice like all kids do. He found a caring family environment at StandUp for Kids. Ernie accepted a friend's invitation to tag along on a trip to StandUp for Kids and it would be a decision that changed his life. Ernie envisions himself in the role of an electrician and is planning to shape his academic career towards that path. We wish Ernie the best and we know he'll succeed because he has that inner drive and persistence.

SUPPORT FROM SHADI

Shadi Ala'i Shaffer of the Asset Protection & Elder Law Center AND StandUp for Kids Advisory Board Member is willing to donate 1/2 or a minimum of \$1,000 of any estate planning/trust plan commissions to StandUp for Kids. People need to have their estate plans and trusts in place now more than ever! It's a win-win. Get your plan in place, avoid probate AND donate to our kids!

**Reach out to
Shadi today!**

Shadi Ala'i Shaffer, ESQ.
Tel. 714-966-2646
shaffer@pslawyers.com
www.assetprotectioncenter.com





ORANGE COUNTY

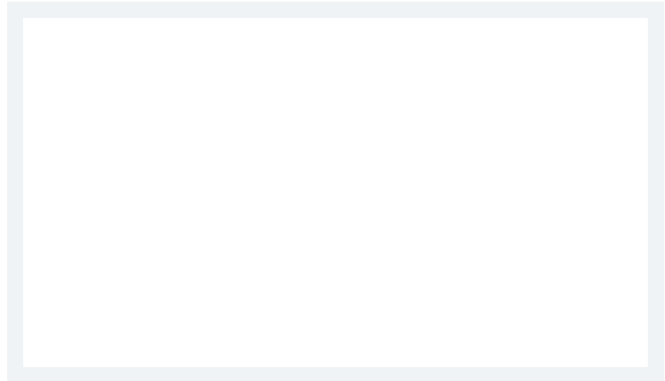
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Follow us on Social Media:

Facebook: @SUFKOC
Instagram: @standupforkids_orangecounty
Twitter: @StandUp4KidsOC
LinkedIn: standup-for-kids-orange-county



One life at a time.



If you are experiencing homelessness in the Orange County area and are between the ages of 12 and 24, please call our hotline at (714) 356-5437

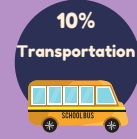


#ENDYOUTHHOMELESSNESS



DONATE NOW

WWW.STANDUPFORKIDS.ORG/ORANGECOUNTY/DONATE



The impact your dollar has on our youth

95% of total expenses are fueled into one of six categories that impact the future of our youth



CARES Act

allows you to receive a tax deduction based on your income and the amount you donate

receive up to **\$300**

in tax deductions