

RISE



Newsletter for StandUp for Kids - Orange County



A quick "mask down" photo at our flag football day with NFL players Bobby Okereke and Johnny Stanton.

This past year has brought hardships, but we've persevered. Through our many supporters, ambassadors, partnerships, and volunteers, we were able to help and support 330 youth, providing nearly 3,500 nights of shelter, 3,525 meals, and have 7,271 touchpoints despite COVID-19. This work has led to 89% of the youth we've housed remaining stably housed after one year, and a 90% graduation rate of our high school seniors, who all went on to college or full-time employment. Thanks to YOU!

We encourage you to stay involved this year in the myriad events, volunteer opportunities, virtual lunches, and fundraising initiatives. If we all do our small part, we can make a huge difference!

If you, your company, church, school, or someone you know would like to get involved, please email orangecounty@standupforkids.org today!



Out now on
iTunes, Spotify
and Google
Podcasts.
Search
"ListenUp - The
StandUp for
Kids Podcast".

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YOUTH STORIES

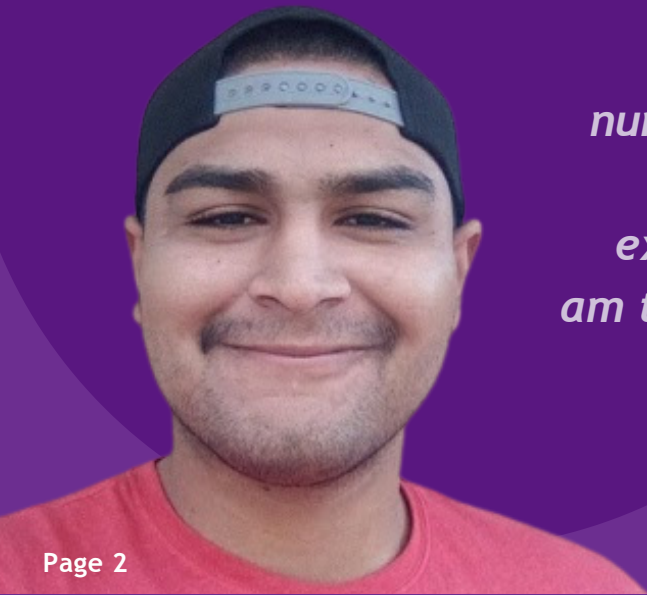
Our youth have overcome many difficulties. These are their stories of hope and tenacity.

Jeffrey's Story

Jeffrey's life has been one of struggle but also persistence. He and his siblings went from the care of their abusive mother to abusive stepfather, eventually being taken in by their biological dad. Lacking the affection and affirmation he needed, he turned to drugs and began living on the streets at fourteen. He cycled between the streets and juvenile detention until his therapist recommended StandUp for Kids. He entered our housing program and is now in transitional housing in Anaheim. Sober since July 4th, 2020, Jeffrey regularly attends AA meetings and has found continuous work. He has saved up enough money for a car and hopes, in the future, to help at-risk youth like himself persevere through challenges and thrive.

"It felt like I was living multiple lives in one body."

— Jeffrey



"Y'all saved me. The number of times you've saved me... I can't express how grateful I am to StandUp for Kids."

— Morgan

Morgan's Story

Morgan lived in the projects of Mason City, Iowa, where a single mother raised her. Often relying on food stamps and welfare to make ends meet, Morgan learned how to take care of herself. Eventually, her new stepfather helped them with financial troubles. Still, her new small-town life came with its challenges too. With siblings, a new stepfather, and overwhelming pressure to succeed in school, she started acting out. Softball became her outlet, but passing drug tests was a challenge. She went into treatment where she met a girl and came out as gay to her parents. However, tragedy followed as the girl committed suicide right in front of Morgan, leading her down a darker path. Sent to treatment in California, she contacted StandUp for Kids and has now formed strong connections with staff members and made friends she can truly rely on. She has begun planning for her future, is employed as a telemarketer at a technology company, and hopes to head back to school to become a special education teacher.



STANDUP FOR KIDS 2021 EVENTS CALENDAR

*Plenty of exciting opportunities to get involved. Learn more here:
www.standupforkids.org/orangecounty/events*

April 28, 2021

Help Them Home - Orange
County Giving Day - Online
Fundraiser

Join us again this year as we collaborate with 19 other Orange County non-profits in a fundraiser to support homelessness. This year we are specifically focused on expanding our Roadmap to Success program to additional school districts.

Save the date for our 2nd annual in-person car show. We'll have classic and modern cars, food and cocktails, live music and a fundraiser to come together for youth homelessness.

June 26, 2021

Car Show Event and
Fundraiser

August 7, 2021

Fun Run/Walk Virtual Event
& Fundraiser

Bring your family, company, church or school and run, walk and donate to support our mission. We have an interactive program of prizes and communications to bring excitement and fun.

Join us for our 4th annual gala, our biggest fundraiser of the year and a chance to learn more and be captivated by the strength of the youth we support every day.

September 23, 2021

4th Annual Virtual Gala

November 2021

National Youth Homelessness
Month Campaign & Giving
Tuesday

Each November we have many virtual and interactive opportunities to raise awareness for youth homelessness. Stay tuned!

MEET OUR AMBASSADORS



Bobby Okereke

Bobby Okereke is a linebacker for the Indianapolis Colts of the National Football League. He went to high school in Santa Ana and played for the Foothill High Knights before playing college ball at Stanford. He began supporting StandUp for Kids at the end of the 2020 season by leading a fundraiser where he pledged \$1 for every yard on defense. With fans joining in, Bobby helped raise over \$8,000 to help kids in need. Bobby's impressive on-field performance and off-field commitments to helping people are amazing and we're excited to have him on our team.

Elizabeth Eddy

Elizabeth Eddy is a midfielder for the Sky Blue FC in the National Women's Soccer League. She is from Costa Mesa and went to college at USC before being drafted into the NWS League in 2015. She began supporting StandUp for Kids - Orange County in November 2020 as part of an awareness campaign for National Youth Homelessness month and used her voice to share about the youth homelessness issues in her native Orange County. She has also met and interacted with our youth and is excited to grow together with us. Liz's "sparkplug" personality and energy are bringing help, hope & fun to our kids.



Steven Birnbaum



Steven Birnbaum is a defender for DC United of the American MLS League. He is from Irvine and went to college at UC-Berkeley before being drafted 2nd overall in the 2014 MLS Superdraft. He is currently a captain and leader of the team. He began supporting StandUp for Kids - Orange County in November 2020 by joining our youth in a virtual call where he shared his experiences growing up and what it's like to be a professional athlete. He has used his social media platform to share our mission and continues to find opportunities to support the organization. We're thankful for Steven's support.

Government Partnerships: A Key to Creating Change for Homeless Youth in Orange County

The increase in homelessness across the country in the past couple of years is quickly turning into a national crisis.

As a national organization with a mission to end the cycle of youth homelessness, we are a force fighting back against this alarming trend. There are many ways StandUp for Kids works to help the homeless and at-risk youth in Orange County. We bring multi-faceted, wraparound support to youth who need through these programs: Roadmap to Success (RMTS) for youth ages 12-18, Journey to Self-Sufficiency (JTS) program for youth 18-24, WeDeliver food delivery, STEM (science, technology, engineering, math), Entrepreneurship, OC Colleges, and Internship program.

As part of our work, one of our goals is to be there as both a solution for homeless youth and as a thought leader on what can and should be done to address the issues effectively. As an organization that has worked in Orange County for the past 18 years, we intimately know the population of homeless youth that we support. We know what they need to get on track and move from surviving to thriving. We have renewed our goal of building relationships with government officials and agencies to support our kids and promote legislation that helps our mission in the community.

From our connections and outreach to officials from US Congress, State Assembly and Senate, county leaders, and the city leadership (mayors, city council, etc.), we are continuing to paint the picture of the issue of youth homelessness. We work to understand these officials' perspectives and thus find solutions that can work within the push and pull of these governing bodies.

We are also focused on supporting, finding, and creating meaningful legislation at all levels of government. We work with key lobbying organizations like John Burton Advocates for Youth and Schoolhouse Connection to advocate for at-risk and homeless youth through public awareness messaging and direct communication with legislators.

In one example, we successfully advocated for CA AB-2416, which helps homeless youth keep their student loan eligibility if their grades suffer resulting from homelessness. We followed the bill through the State Assembly, Senate, and all the way to the Governor's desk, and the bill passed. There are many pieces of legislation coming out each year, so we make sure our voice is heard to give as much support as possible to our youth.

StandUp for Kids was built on meeting our youth where they are: on the streets. Being at the table at the highest levels is crucial to systemic change. We are doing all we can to make sure our communities are safe and supportive for young people to have a high chance at success. If you have a passion for helping and have a working knowledge of government, please reach out to Justine (justines@standupforkids.org) and increase our impact.



CHAMPIONS FOR YOUTH



IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY WE HIGHLIGHTED OUR MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM. HERE ARE JUST A FEW OF OUR "CHAMPIONS."



Our Champions for Youth Monthly Giving program is an exclusive community of like-minded individuals who are making their local community a better place to live by helping those that need it most: the at-risk and homeless youth.



As part of this community, you will receive a thank you pack, the quarterly print newsletter to keep you in the know, access to a quarterly exclusive call with our chapter leadership to get program updates and ask questions, a yearly "virtual lunch" opportunity where you'll share lunch with the youth that you're supporting and to know your part of the solution to end youth homelessness.



Join this heralded group today here:
www.standupforkids.org/ocmonthlygiving



SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

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

NEIL SARRESHTEH

StandUp for Kids- Orange County would like to highlight one of our most recent corporate partners, Walmart, and the dedication their employees have in giving back to their community. The fuel for the partnership came from Neil Sarreshteh, a Walmart employee. Neil came across StandUp for Kids while looking for an organization to get involved with that directly impacted how people in her community were living. She felt it was a good fit for her since she had all the skills needed to impact the youth positively, and Neil's impact as a volunteer has been felt. Neil currently leads our virtual group mentoring sessions and has an empathetic heart. She knows that it is not a race but a patient approach that is ultimately what these youth need. Thank you for all you've done, Neil!



IAN STEVENSON - TRELLIS

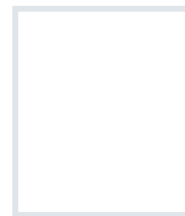
Trellis is a Costa Mesa nonprofit organization whose mission is to facilitate a collaborative approach to resolving the city's greatest challenges: homelessness, literacy, and neighboring. Leading the charge is Executive Director Ian Stevenson. Regarding the mission of Trellis, he explains that "No one nonprofit, no one business, no one church can solve this issue. By coming together, we can work to foster change. When those connections are made, the impact is multiplied." Trellis has connected StandUp for Kids to numerous other organizations to boost collaboration and spread the word about StandUp for Kids' events to local churches. And thanks to Ian and those like him at Trellis, the relationships between StandUp for Kids and others in Costa Mesa working to address the issue of homelessness are stronger than ever. Thanks, Ian!

TED QUINN

Ted is a StandUp for Kids - Orange County advisory council member. Ted is also a youth mentor, leads our annual car show event, is a connector to government and non-profit leaders, AND helps teach and recruit for our STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) program for our school-aged youth. As a youth mentor and advocate, Ted has greatly impacted one of our youth, helping him find a career path, purchasing a car to get to work, and working with him to find housing alongside staff and other volunteers. Ted truly has a heart of gold, as anyone who has met him will attest, and our kids and our organization are extremely thankful to have him on our team. Thank you, Ted!



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



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2021 Q1 Newsletter

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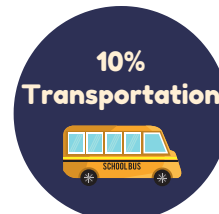
@standupforkidsoc



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

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



DONATE NOW

[WWW.STANDUPFORKIDS.ORG/
ORANGECOUNTY/DONATE](http://WWW.STANDUPFORKIDS.ORG/ORANGECOUNTY/DONATE)



#ENDYOUTHHOMELESSNESS

LOOK FOR US ON
AMAZON SMILE

