

# RISE



Newsletter for StandUp for Kids - Orange County

## CONGRATS 2021 GRADUATES...BACK TO SCHOOL FOR THE REST!



A big congratulations to all of our 2021 graduates, including our high schoolers, college students, and our college interns who help make what we do possible.

Many thanks to those who make sure our kids have the supplies, technology, food, housing, and love to ensure they have what they need to be successful.



*If you would like to get involved and make sure our youth have what they need to be ready for school/college, please email [orangecounty@standupforkids.org](mailto:orangecounty@standupforkids.org) today!*



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

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Youth Stories: Meeka & Natalie | 2
- 2021 Events | 3
- Program Updates | 4
- Supporter Spotlight | 5
- What's Happening | 6
- Staff Spotlight | 7



# Youth Stories

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

## Meeka's Story



For 20-year-old Meeka, growing up has been anything but predictable. After struggles with self-identity, a strict upbringing, and a fallout with family, Meeka found herself homeless and seeking help from StandUp for Kids. She primarily worked with Denise, a staff member, who eventually helped her find the home she lives in now.

Down the road, she plans to either return to college to become a social worker or perhaps become self-employed. Although she is still searching for her passions, with so much life ahead, she is on the path to success thanks to the help of StandUp for Kids.

***"StandUp for Kids got me back to being motivated." – Meeka***

***"Thank God that I found StandUp for Kids when I did, because I truly had no clue where my life was heading." – Natalie***

## Natalie's Story



Natalie, a current California State University student, is graduating with a degree in Theater and American Studies under the Arts and Education umbrella. The arts program was the driving factor in her choice to attend the University. Growing up, Natalie never relied on her parents for much, conscious of the financial burden she put on her family. She was helping pay the rent at home, along with her own apartment at college and her school tuition.

At the height of this never-ending cycle of issues, Natalie experienced a traumatic event sending her over the edge. She ended under observation at a psychiatric hospital. But at such a crucial moment, Natalie's family could not provide the support and comfort she needed. It was only then that she was made aware of StandUp for Kids and was placed with two mentors who she refers to as "life-savers": Madeline and Denise. To Natalie, they became friends and family, with a true connection and sense of loyalty to each other.

StandUp for Kids was able to place Natalie within a housing program, eliminating her need to pay rent for the time being. She was also able to receive free counseling and just a helping hand when she needed it most.

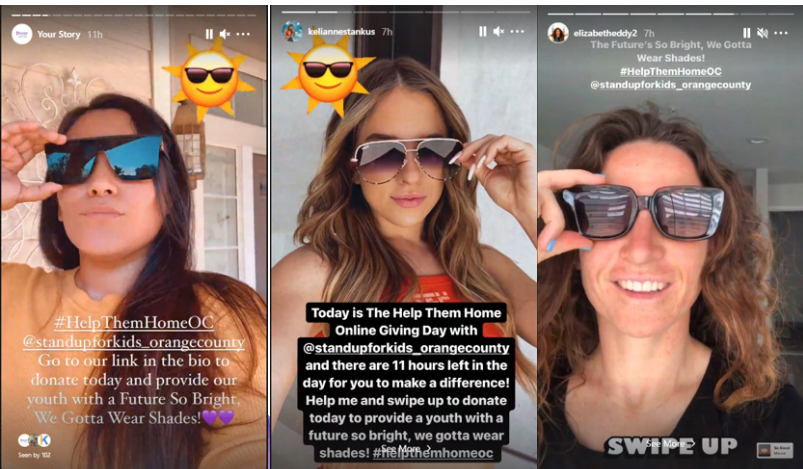


# 2021 Events

APR 28

## Help Them Home Online Giving Day

Thank you to everyone that donated to the online giving event, Help Them Home. With your help, we raised over \$47,000 to support our Roadmap to Success Program.



JUN 26

## Car Show Event and Fundraiser

We appreciate everyone who came to our 2nd Annual Car Show and helped support our mission to help end youth homelessness. With your help, we raised over \$25,000.



AUG 7

## Fun Run/Walk and Fundraiser

Our Fun Run is happening now! Join other runners, walkers and donors in supporting us through August 7th. Join here: [standupforkids.org/orangecounty/2021runwalk4youth](https://standupforkids.org/orangecounty/2021runwalk4youth)



SEP 25

## 4th Annual Gala

Our 4th Annual Gala is themed Denim & Diamonds and will have live music, great food and great people. Register here: [standupforkids.org/OCgala2021](https://standupforkids.org/OCgala2021)



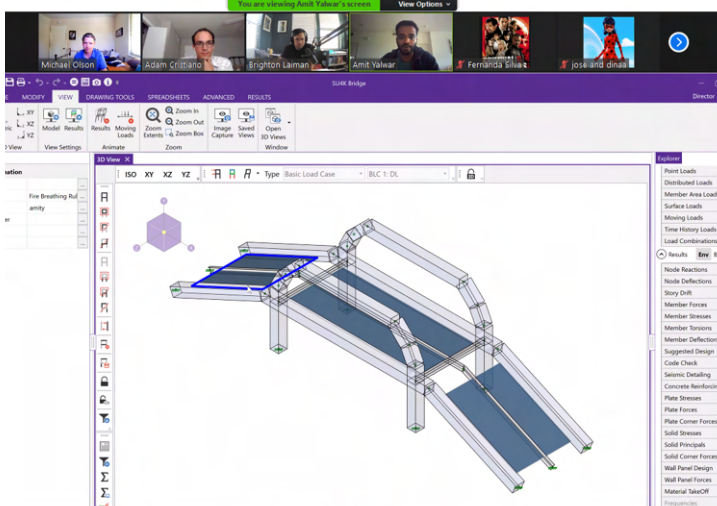
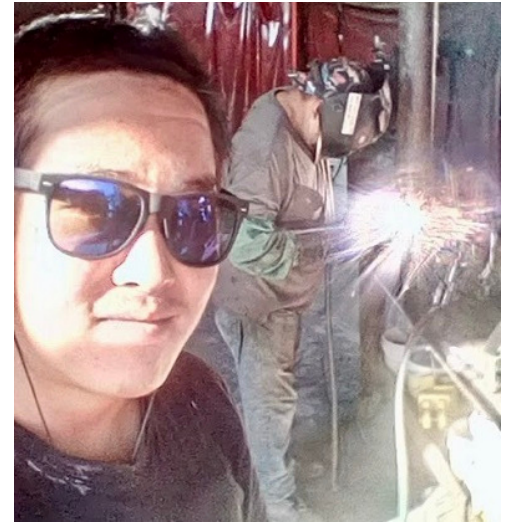


# Program Updates

## Workforce Development

This is a subject that has been a focus of our work since our inception. Recently it's come to the forefront in a more significant way through the city of

Garden Grove and what they refer to as WARP (Workforce Activation & Readiness Program). Because of our expertise in supporting youth 16-24, we've recently been awarded funding and will offer youth a paid internship to learn employment skills and gain experience on the job. The program's goal is that youth are hired as employees with these partner companies at the end of the program. StandUp for Kids' goals for this program is to equip youth with knowledge and tools to find and maintain stable employment, connect youth to employment opportunities, develop partnerships with businesses, and guide and empower youth to ensure self-sufficiency.



Through the application of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math)

## STEM Program

programs, our youth get to explore their interests in these career fields. The program consists of eight-week modules taught once a week to our 12-18 year olds by STEM professionals. The subjects include computer science, architecture, biology and more. Our youth are given hands-on experience through experiments and teamwork, exposing them to how STEM-related knowledge can be applied in the real world.

## Outreach

StandUp for Kids gets out in the community and connects homeless youth with our organization. Our volunteers, through what we call Street Outreach,

walk the streets in areas where youth congregate in order to distribute food, clothing, hygiene products, resource information and to enroll youth in our programs. We make it a point to be accessible at consistent times each week in order to build relationships with homeless youth. We also do what we call Community Outreach, continuously connecting with city offices, schools, churches, other non-profits and any other places where our youth would interface. We ensure that the community knows who we are and what we do and they refer youth to us.





# Supporter Spotlight

## In Memoriam: Heather Tompkins



Heather Tompkins dedicated her life to helping youth succeed in every way she could. Heather was motivated to step up, not only by her father's legacy of providing for the homeless but also because her sister had been homeless for a time. Heather was the "glue" person for our Government Advocacy committee, the highest compliment we can give for a person who works with a group of volunteers and keeps them moving forward. Heather passed recently and is survived by her son Ozzie (pictured left with Heather). Ozzie provided the connection to get Heather involved as he interned as a student from CSU-Fullerton and opened the door to Heather's support of the StandUp for Kids mission. Heather has left her legacy

with StandUp for Kids and we're taking the government program that she helped build and leveraging her contributions to their fullest. Her kind attitude, thoughtfulness, resolve and warmth are missed but she continues to inspire. Thank you Heather and Ozzie.

## CAP OC

Since its inception in 1965, Community Action Partnership of Orange County (CAP OC) has worked tirelessly to address poverty, social justice, and racial equity within the community. CAP OC offers community services to help cover basic needs like food and rental assistance and initiatives to prevent homelessness. For several years now, CAP OC has supported StandUp for Kids - Orange County by providing us with the use of their Anaheim Independencia Family Resource Center. Our partnership has allowed us to provide school-aged youth with mentoring, tutoring, entrepreneurship, and STEM programs in a safe and welcoming environment. We're truly thankful for CAP-OC's support.



## RISA

A big thank you to RISA for their ongoing support and commitment to supporting our kids through donations, the Fun Run and recently teaching a module of our STEM program. RISA, and companies like them, provide crucial support to our youth. Thanks!

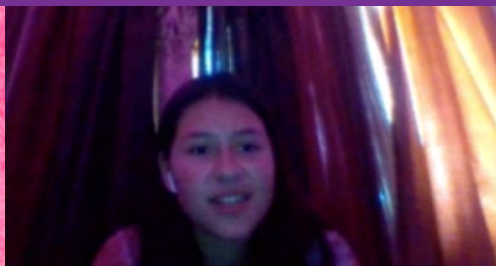




# What's Happening



Derek Klena



A special welcome to our newest ambassador Derek Klena! Derek, a Broadway star and a Tony Nominee for his role as Nick in *The Jagged Little Pill*, has participated in Help Them Home and helped raise a substantial amount for at-risk and homeless youth. He has also done many other things including: providing voice lessons for one of our youths, Natzumy, (pictured left), helped in delivering holiday presents and a donation pick-up from CarMax, and also sang "Times Like These" by the Foo Fighters during our 2020 Holiday Party Zoom call. Thank you sincerely for joining our team!

This past spring, from Friday, April 23 at 5 p.m. through Sunday, April 25, StandUp for Kids volunteers across the country hit the streets for 48 consecutive hours to raise awareness for homeless and at-risk kids and to distribute food, clothing, hygiene products, resource information, and referrals. On the first day, volunteers conducted outreach in Huntington Beach, providing amenities and hygiene items to those in need. On the second day, a picnic event was held at Mile Square Park with our kids that included soccer, games, and arts and crafts. Lunch and water were provided by our wonderful donors. In the evening, further outreach was conducted. On the final day, a food and hygiene drive was conducted at the StandUp for Kids office.



48 Hours on the Streets

## Twitch Events With HydraCore Gaming and DYE\_LON



Twitch is a livestreaming service that has multiple applications and has a strong following of younger folks. Through what is called charity-streaming we were able to host two events last quarter. Thank you to [HydraCore Gaming](#) for a fun and engaging live stream that took place on March 27th and to DJ streamer, [DYE\\_LON](#), for taking the lead in hosting a charity event with a handful of other DJs to host a charity event July 2nd. These two events raised substantial awareness and funding. Thanks!



# Staff Spotlight

StandUp for Kids is sustainably growing and continuing to increase our impact on our community. We have over 140 active volunteers, including many CSU-Fullerton college interns and UCI and other local colleges and high school volunteers. We can grow thanks to donors like you and new grant funding awarded from many cities where we provide support to our youth. Here are some of our outstanding new staff members.



Elle Martinez  
Case Manager



Samantha Beer  
Case Manager



Charles Wilson  
Outreach Counselor



Veronica Garcia  
Communications  
Coordinator





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2021 Q3 Newsletter

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Website [standupforkids.org/orangecounty](http://standupforkids.org/orangecounty)

### Follow us on Social Media:



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@StandUp4KidsOC



@standup-for-kids-orange-county



@standupforkidsoc



@StandUp for Kids - Orange County



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

20%  
Mentoring

25%  
Meals

10%  
Services

20%  
Education

10%  
Transportation

15%  
Housing



### DONATE NOW

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



#ENDYOUTHHOMELESSNESS

LOOK FOR US ON  
AMAZON SMILE

