STEPHEN CURRY DONATES 2016 NBA MVP PRIZE TO CHC

The Golden State Warriors’ spirit of generosity and community support was in evidence again when Warriors guard, Stephen Curry, was awarded the NBA’s MVP award and donated his prize to Covenant House in Oakland. The prize, a 2017 Kia Sorrento, will be put to good use at CHC, transporting youth to medical appointments, housing searches, and job interviews. Curry, who is known for his generosity and support of the Oakland community, gave the prize in recognition of the thousands of homeless youth in the Bay Area and the hard work that CHC does to serve these youth. After the MVP Press Conference, Curry met with several of the CHC youth to let them know he cared about them and encouraged them to keep fighting for their dreams. Covenant House California is incredibly grateful to the Golden State Warriors and NBA MVP Stephen Curry for supporting The Cov!

Strength in Numbers = Success for Covenant House Youth!

Our Mission...

Covenant House is dedicated to serving all God’s children with absolute respect and unconditional love ... to help suffering homeless youth ... and to protect and safeguard all children in need.
Recently, CHC was able to honor our friends at Major Crimes during our annual Gala! We are grateful to the producers and cast for their constant efforts to bring awareness to issues faced by homeless youth. We are also extremely blessed to have our youth regularly employed as extras on the show!

“Being on the streets made me want to do drugs.”

For many youth on the streets, drug use is a way to numb the pain of their reality. “I could walk all night and not be hungry if I did drugs. It made it easier to survive.” One day, she met a nurse at a walk-in clinic who told her about Covenant House California. She asked Sarah if she wanted to finish high school and make a better life for herself. Sarah exclaimed, “Yes!” Now one year later, Sarah is pursuing her dreams; she is clean and sober, finished high school, is taking college classes, and wants to be a nurse one day. Instead of wandering the streets, her life is full of purpose... and lots of love and hugs from volunteers and staff at CHC. Sarah is now living the life she once dreamed about!

Sarah’s Triumph

Sarah lived on the streets from the age of 16, but doesn’t like to talk about how it happened. She simply says, “My mother decided to move away and didn’t take me with her.” While homeless, Sarah had to do whatever she could just to survive.

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MAJOR CRIMES GIVES BACK

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An emotional James Duff (Creator, Executive Producer and Writer) shared, “Let me say what I feel from my heart—that shelter is not a convenience, food and water are not luxuries, health care and hygiene are not privileges for the lucky few, they are basic human rights and if we deny them to the most vulnerable among us, we lose a bit of our own humanity. For those who are sleeping on the streets tonight, I was once where you are, and I have never forgotten what it was like to start the race from so far behind. But don’t give up; don’t stop running, because if you keep working at it you’ll be surprised at how you can turn things around.”
An Incredible Journey

Covenant House Alumna Kailey entered the foster care system when she was just 3 years old. Like over 50% of the young people served by CHC, Kailey aged out of the system with nowhere to go. Kailey learned about The Cov while homeless in the East Bay. When she first arrived, she was angry, hurt and lost. She remembers that when her case manager asked her what she wanted to do with her life, that it was the first time that anyone had ever asked what she wanted for herself. She decided that she wanted to pursue a cosmetology license... and she got it! As she began to do hair for a living, her heart continued to ache for those young people experiencing what she once did. So, she began to work for an agency that supports youth who are the victims of sexual exploitation. Now promoted to a case manager at a different agency, Kailey is a tremendous advocate for youth, inspiring her clients, just like she was once inspired at Covenant House California!

Leaving a Legacy of Love

Dr. Richard and Patricia Meehan have been some of the most committed supporters of Covenant House California since its inception in the 1980’s. A dentist who served many of the CHC youth when he volunteered his time at the LA Free Clinic, Richard has helped countless homeless youth and adults in his lifetime. Blessed financially through his career, Richard decided that he wanted to use some of those resources to ensure that homeless youth can continue to receive medical and dental care for many years to come. And in 2016, the Meehan’s placed a multi-million dollar gift into a Charitable Remainder Trust, with Covenant House California as the beneficiary! In recognition of the Meehan’s incredible generosity, CHC unveiled the Dr. Richard and Patricia Meehan Medical Clinic at CHC’s Hollywood campus on March 19, 2016. During a moving and joyful ceremony, which included his six children and 20 grandchildren, Dr. Meehan humbly shared his belief that “those of us who have been blessed have a responsibility to help those in need”. What a remarkable legacy the Meehan’s have given to the thousands of youth who have yet to come through CHC’s doors!

A Charitable Remainder Trust, like the Meehan’s gift, is just one of the many ways that CHC supporters can leave a legacy for homeless youth, through planned giving. To learn more about planned giving with CHC, visit http://covenanthousecalifornia.org/planned-giving-pg.php or call Amanda at 323-461-3131, ext. 268.

CHC IS GROWING...

YEAH!

With an estimated 3,500 homeless youth in the Bay Area, Covenant House’s 30 beds are not nearly enough to meet the need. Sadly, CHC has a waiting list for services that is often over 100 youth at a time. CHC is committed to meeting more of the need in the East Bay, and is excited to announce a new partnership with the YEAH! (pronounced Yay!) Youth Shelter in Berkeley, CA. As the only other provider of TAY-specific shelter beds (26) in Alameda County, YEAH! has operated as a Winter Shelter Program in Berkeley for over 17 years. Effective July 1st, 2016, the Board of Directors of CHC and YEAH! are pleased to announce that YEAH! will officially merge with CHC! Not only will this merger provide a better continuum of care for Transitional Aged Youth in the Bay Area, but for the first time in its history, YEAH! will be a year-round program when it re-opens after Labor Day! CHC will also be expanding its Oakland Transitional Housing program by 10 beds this year, and CHC and YEAH! will be launching Rapid Re-Housing programs this year, to get more youth independently housed.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: HILLORIE McLARTY

Seven years ago, Hillorie heard about Motley Crue’s Nikki Sixx’s donation of a music program and studio to Covenant House California. She felt compelled to begin a music mentoring program for the youth at CHC, and quickly became a fixture at the CHC campus music studio. Since then, she has mentored youth, taken them to concerts, arranged music workshops and connected countless youth with professional musicians, industry execs, and individuals who have enriched their lives. Hillorie reflects, “I really love these young people, and the beautiful encouragement they provide for my heart.”
A NOTE FROM OUR CEO

Every day I am blessed to hear the tragedies and triumphs of the young people in our programs. These stories are what keep me inspired and working hard to make sure that homeless youth get a chance to change their destiny. Perhaps one of the greatest joys of my job is to see young people connecting with adults in the community, who completely change their perspectives on what is possible for them. Most of our youth have never had positive adults in their lives, who encourage them, teach them, or even care about them. So, people like Dr. Meehan and Hillorie, who simply spend time with youth, doing what they love to do, can have an immeasurable impact on young people's lives. At Covenant House, we believe that no young person ever deserves to be homeless; that they deserve to be fed, sheltered, educated, and most importantly... loved! So, unlike most shelter programs, we try not to prescribe how our volunteers engage with CHC. We want you to do what you love to do... just do it with our youth! Whether it be hiking, arts and crafts, music, meditation, sports, writing workshops, etc. there are young people who would love to do those things with you. The impact of your time or contribution can literally change the life of a young person like Kailey or Sarah.

Thank you for being a part of our family at Covenant House. The support you provide opens doors for young people who would not be able to experience the love of The Cov, without you!

Bill Bedrossian
President and CEO, Covenant House California