STEPPH CURRY BRINGS JOY AND SHOES TO OUR YOUTH IN OAKLAND

Recently, the youth of our Oakland campus were overjoyed with a surprise visit from Steph Curry of the Golden State Warriors.

A special treat, each youth received a pair of his new signature shoe from Under Armour, and Curry served them all a delicious barbeque meal from his wife Ayesha’s restaurant, International Smoke. Curry spent several hours with the youth, taking the time to greet each of them individually, which was an incredible experience, especially for the basketball fans in the room. The event was a partnership between the Warriors’ Season of Giving initiative and DoorDash, and testament to Curry’s dedication to the East Bay community.

We are excited that this event has given us an even greater personal connection to Steph Curry and the Warriors organization, that we can continue building on for the benefit of our young people!

ON THE CORNER OF HOPE AND A NEW LIFE

Twenty five years ago, Anthony had almost given up. “I was contemplating jumping off an overpass, when I heard God say that I should ask for help instead,” he shared. This is when he decided to use a pay phone and pour his heart out to the operator who connected him to Covenant House. Brian Bob, now a 28-year Cov veteran, answered the phone that night and picked up Anthony in front of Tommy’s, the exact same spot shown above.

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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.
Anthony’s parents were alcoholics, drug addicts, and constantly locking him out of the house. He ended up leaving, at only 15 years old, when he came home from school to find his mom had cut up all of his clothes into tiny little pieces.

His first day on the streets, near Skid Row, he got mugged and robbed. Anthony would sleep under freeways and cardboard boxes to keep warm. He eventually wound up without any shoes and looking through trash cans for food.

At 18, Anthony wanted to end his life.

“I picked up a pay phone and I cried to the operator and told her I needed help. She transferred me to the 1-800 number for Covenant House. Brian Bob came to get me in the big red Cov van, and my life has never been the same,” he said.

When he arrived at the Cov, Anthony wondered if this was the right place for him. He shared, “At first I was so scared in the crisis shelter, ‘cause I didn’t know what a shelter was like, and I had three other roommates. But then it was kind of easier because I knew that the other kids were going through the same issues as me.”

Soon after, he got a job on-site in the cafeteria. Then, he worked as a manager at Starbucks in Beverly Hills. He got into the Rights of Passage program and graduated to single independent living when he got a job at Paramount Pictures.

Anthony reflected on his full circle moment by going back to that corner in front of Tommy’s, “Brian, thank you for saving my life that night.”

1996
In 1996, Covenant House California celebrated the opening of its first residential center in Los Angeles.

1988
CHC began as a street outreach program primarily driven by a handful of dedicated volunteers who provided food, crisis intervention, and warm concern to homeless youth.

1998
We expanded our reach into the Bay area with various programs, including Street Outreach in 1998.

IN 2020 & BEYOND
Covenant House California will begin expansion of its Los Angeles and Oakland campuses, secure a new facility in Berkeley, and begin providing services in Orange County!
Years of helping our youth
Advocacy for those whose voice has been silenced by homelessness.

2005
In 2005, we officially opened our second shelter facility in Oakland.

2016 & 2017
In 2016, Covenant House California acquired YEAH! shelter in Berkeley.
In 2017, DreamCatcher Youth Services, in Oakland, became a program of Covenant House California.

TODAY
In 2019, we began renovating an apartment complex for 30 of our residents in Los Angeles and completed construction on a new Medical Clinic in Oakland.

Fred Ali, former CEO of Covenant House California, and Bill Bedrossian, current CEO of Covenant House California, give us an inside look of their memories and future aspirations for the Cov we love.

What is your favorite Covenant House memory?
F: So many memories, many just having to do with talking with the hundreds of kids I got to know over the years and listening to their stories of grit and determination. Incredibly inspiring. Obviously, the grand opening was a big moment, celebrating the hard work of some many to make this dream a reality.

B: I think my favorite memories are being at the Cov each Christmas morning, with my wife and kids... Seeing my boys run around with the youth, the joy of the youth having a place to be on Christmas morning, their laughter from being able to sit with Santa for the first time in their lives. The holidays are a special time around the Cov, and the community really gives so generously to our youth.

What inspires you most about the work?
F: I have always been inspired and motivated by the fact that these are God’s children and we can’t turn our back on them.

B: It is the youth! They inspire me every day... from a young person coming in my office to give me a cupcake from his job at Sprinkles, to the youth graduating with her Masters in Social Work from Berkeley, to the alumni who is buying their first home. Little or big, I am inspired by how our youth overcome incredible hardships to achieve their dreams. It leaves me shaking my head and smiling every single day!

What hopes do you have for the Cov’s future?
F: My hope is that Covenant House California will continue to grow, develop, and provide excellent services based on the needs of the youth we serve. To use its voice and influence to advocate for policy changes that will result in better outcomes for all youth, and in particular, our most vulnerable youth.

B: Right now, I am so excited about our Capital Campaign and the expansion that will come as the result of our continued support. I’m energized by the possibility of doubling the number of youth we can serve, by going into new communities where young people need us, and just spreading the love of our community of support who so generously invest in us. I hope that 30 years from now, our legacy will be that we were catalysts in a movement that nearly eliminated youth homelessness in California!

Community Support
From volunteers to donors to celebrities, the support you have shown towards our efforts in helping end youth homelessness is why we help over 3,200 young people each and every year. From all of us, we thank you!
A NOTE FROM OUR CEO

30 years! Do you remember what you were doing 30 years ago? I sure don’t! But, I do know what Fred Ali was doing 30 years ago... he was shedding blood, sweat, and tears to open Covenant House in California! It was no easy task, but he, and many of you, gave your hearts and resources to make this incredible dream possible. And, I believe that the most important thing that Fred and his team created 30 years ago, was the mindset that Covenant House California was going to be more than just a place for homeless youth to get services; that it is a family that will be here for our youth, even after they move along. And, our family sure has grown! By, serving over 3,000 youth a year, employing close to 250 people, and over 5,000 donors annually, we have become quite an impressive community of support. We have former youth, in both LA and the Bay Area, who are now full-time employees of the Cov, we have former youth and employees who lead support groups, and volunteer their time at the Cov, even serve on our Board of Directors. We have over 3,000 volunteers a year, who come on our campuses in support of our youth. If there is one thing that we have learned in the last 30 years, it is that every young person deserves, and needs, a community of support to succeed. And now, as we embark on bold new initiatives to serve more youth experiencing homelessness than ever, I am so thankful that we have a family of thousands of people in CA, and beyond, who are going to make sure that we succeed. I am thankful for the role you play in our family; in creating a community of support that believes no young person deserves to be homeless.

Thank you!

Bill Bedrossian
President and CEO
Covenant House California