

AHO YOUTH CONNECT



Ambassadors of Hope and Opportunity (AHO)

*What is the **AHO** Youth Connect?*

The **AHO** Youth Connect is a one stop resource event that provides homeless and at-risk youth basic life-sustaining services including **housing assistance, employment opportunities, medical and dental care, legal aide, financial guidance, peer counseling, library cards, wardrobe, identity cards, food, haircuts, internet services and youth stories.** The Connect was conceived and produced by 25 previously homeless youth and their peers who met weekly for 9 months to plan this dynamic, interactive event. In a single day, the **AHO** Youth Connect offers services that would otherwise take over a year to acquire.

*The **AHO** Youth Connect Model:*

- Each Connect is driven by the **AHO Youth Task Force Team**, made up young people, ages 18 to 25 who were homeless, at-risk and their peers who want to give back. (some are pictured above)
- Offers leadership opportunities for the **young people to be involved in every aspect of planning, strategizing** and bringing this event to life.
- Provides immediate and direct service to youth (ages 18 to 25) through one-on-one support of a trained **volunteer who assists each youth from entry to exit** to ensure they receive the services they came for.
- Engages over **300 local community members** including businesses, individuals, faith communities, non-profit organizations and foundations to participate as sponsors and volunteers. **In-Kind Donations \$30,000.**
- Initiates the self-recovery process by providing youth ongoing follow-up support and peer mentor services.

Services Received by Homeless and At-Risk Youth

Housing Assistance - Follow up workshops, credit clean up, money management
College of Marin - Enrollment, scholarships, tutoring, money for books, housing, moving
Job Fair (5 Businesses accepting applications)
Employment - Job hires
Medical - Check ups with follow up appointments
Dental - Screenings with follow up appointments
Cafe Food
Wardrobe
Identity Cards
Peer counseling, mental health screenings, haircuts, library cards, Internet, youth stories
FREE Bikes, locks, helmets and safety training
FREE Backpack with blankets, toiletries, AHO resource guide, Safeway card, AHO card

Quotes from Youth that attended the Connect: "This was extremely supportive and I strongly believe that more of these events should be available for youth." "Thank you so much for all of your time and support - we've needed this for a very long time. Awesome!"

Quotes from the Host Volunteers at the Connect: "This event helped me to get a better understanding of the extent of youth homelessness and its dynamics." "It was wonderful to help youth at risk and in need. I think this is a wonderful organization - it would be a privilege to help in any way." "I felt like I got to know the youth I was with and I had such an amazing time. I want to be part AHO."

AHO Youth Connect - For more information visit our website www.ahoproject.org