

## **AHO 2016-17 Homeless Youth Housing Fund Results**

AHO's \$60,000 Homeless Youth Housing Fund (HYHF), was launched in July of 2016 with the support and generous donation from the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael's \$25,000 Vision Fund Grant which served 28 previously homeless young adults. In 2017, the Dominican Sisters awarded \$10,000 toward AHO's Homeless Youth Housing Fund goal of \$60,000 which provided the assistance to serve an additional 40 youth with stable housing, to continue their educations and further their life goals.

### **Youth Served**

The HYHF has successfully provided safe haven housing for a **total of sixty-eight previously homeless young adults** since its inception in July of 2016. These young people were previously homeless, living in their cars, couch surfing or on the streets while working several jobs and attending classes at College of Marin. HYHF offered the financial support for these homeless youths to secure a room in a home, or, depending on their readiness, an apartment with peers. An additional ten young adults were provided a temporary motel stay for a week to ten days to avoid the chronic violence and exploitation homeless youth incur living on the streets.

Through AHO's community outreach campaign with Starbucks corporation, sixty-one youth who secured a room in a home, or their own apartment with peers, received household goods such as kitchen utensils, plates, glasses, cups, pots, pans along with bedding and bath linens from AHO's 120-member Alliance for Youth partner network. Additional donations of furniture included beds, sofas, tables and chairs which helped the youths to furnish their new homes.

### **Resources Provided in Addition to Housing**

In addition, all of the young people served through the HYHF received the comprehensive safety net of resources provided through AHO's 120-member Alliance for Youth partnership of professionals, organizations, individuals and businesses that donate their expertise pro bono. Specific resources provided, with numbers of youth served include:

- All sixty-one youth beneficiaries of the HYHF received fast-tracking into employment with one of AHO's twelve employer partners; Old Navy, Goodwill, Starbucks, Ghilotti Construction, Safeway, Target, NorthBay

Conservation Corp, Carpenter's Union, Laborers Union, City of San Rafael Trader Joes and Comcast.

- A total of forty-six youth received dental work through AHO's groundbreaking free dental clinic program staffed by four Doctors of Dental Surgery (DDS), who are members of our AHO Alliance for Youth service network of partners.
  - Thirty-eight youth had major procedures such as wisdom teeth extractions, root canals, caps and the necessary x-rays and lab costs for these procedures;
  - Forty youth received teeth cleaning;
- Thirty-seven youth received cell phones or assistance with their phone bill
- Twenty-five received assistance to purchase classroom books at College of Marin.
- Twenty-eight youth received ongoing weekly counseling by a licensed trauma specialist.
- Fifteen received DMV identity cards.
- Twelve youth received legal assistance and adult ally support in court.
- Thirteen received eye exams and/or eye glasses.

### **Youth Leadership Opportunities**

During both phases of the HYHF program, the 3-month Phase I that determined youth's readiness to rent a room; and Phase II, (where youth are eligible to share and apartment with peers), received opportunities for leadership with AHO's Youth Team. Youth Team projects included opportunities to share their stories to raise awareness in high schools and at meetings with community and political leaders.

In April 2017, twenty-two of the youth served through the HYHF participated on the AHO Youth Team to create, in collaboration with College of Marin (COM) Student Government, AHO's fourth youth-led Youth Connect (YC) event. The goal of the Youth Connect was to offer all the key resources homeless youth need to move forward beyond their current circumstances; with housing support, jobs, dental care, haircuts and barbers, Cal Fresh food stamps and legal aid. All YC resources were provided at COM on one day, with aftercare support following the event. Four youth on the YC planning team participated as spokespersons of their experience in six high schools to promote the event.

In September 2017, the Youth Team also produced a Town Hall Forum at Dominican University to educate the community about youth homelessness, share the successful AHO preventative model and engage the community in the solution. This project was conceived and spearheaded by AHO's Youth Team that engaged with Senator Mike McGuire to host and participate on the panel, along with Mary Jane Burke, Superintendent MCOE, COM, Dominican University and Tam District to collaborate with them on this historic event.

### **Program Success**

The HYHF has served sixty-eight youth since its inception in July 2016: 28 in the first year, and 40 in the second year. Of the total youth served in 2 years with the assistance of the Vision Fund grants, fifty-nine youth received a room in a home or apartment with peers, and nine youth received emergency motel stays. As of January 2018, there are now twenty-two youth on the waiting list for HYHF.

### **(21) New Alliance for Youth partners in 2017**

AHO began the year 2017 with a 99-member Alliance for Youth partner network of professionals, businesses, faith communities and organizations that assist AHO to provide comprehensive pro bono resources for our youth to achieve their goals. **As we begin year 2018, 21 new partners have come on board to increase our Alliance for Youth support network to 120 members.**

New members include; Senator Mike McGuire, College of Marin President David Coon, Jessica Colvin, Director of Tam District Wellness Centers, College of Marin Students for Social Justice, Mill Valley Recreation Center, Carpenter's Union, Laborer's Union, City of San Rafael and Anna Pletcher, attorney and former President of the Marin Women's Commission and candidate for District Attorney.