



news

YouthAbility is an educational nonprofit that creates job-learning opportunities for at-risk youth.

WINTER 2010

2009: Looking back

Top five accomplishments of the past year

Although 2009 was a difficult year for all of us in Humboldt County, at YouthAbility we have concentrated our efforts into making the inevitable changes as positive as possible. We've done our best to contribute to our local community by improving chances for at-risk youth. Here's our bragging list:

1. Angels of Hope Thrift Store in Arcata, our social enterprise youth-training program, was reorganized under a new manager and has emerged as a self-supporting retail operation offering students, residents and seniors a very large inventory of low-priced, used merchandise in an attractive, well-run facility.
2. As YouthAbility's work with youth was recognized as important to the

community we received many donations—not only of goods for resale, but generous cash gifts, showing community support, and including a truck for store pickups and deliveries. (Read 'thank you' on page 3.)

3. Our training program has been restructured to be more effective and to reach more youth. We served 32 youth and young adults in 2009 who were referred to us from Humboldt County programs (Independent Living Skills Program/ILSP, Welfare-to-Work, OJT), plus another dozen who came through private referrals.

4. The first YouthAbility fundraiser was in March—a successful opening night at the North Coast Repertory Theater with a party where our youth, board and staff met supporters and cast.

5. YouthAbility was the recipient of a Technical Assistance Program grant from Humboldt Area Foundation and as a result

of months of work by our Board and Executive Director, are poised for growth in 2010. (See page 3 for story.)

It was a good enough year!



2010: Looking forward

Plans, goals and dreams.

Like everyone else, we're hoping that this year will be a better one for all of us. Here are five actions for the year ahead...

1. YouthAbility recognizes there are countless more youth who need job training to be able to compete in the current job market. We have new program ideas we are working to turn into plans (see page 2).

2. To aid our creative youth and young adult trainees to begin entrepreneurial thinking, Angels of Hope Thrift Store will be starting a series of Sunday crafts fairs on May 2, and handmade, youth-designed crafts will be available at the store soon.

3. Rose Baker, YouthAbility's Executive Director, is being honored by the Humboldt County League of Women Voters at a luncheon in April (story page 4).

4. As we work for positive change in the community, we'd like to invite community participation. Read how you can help with donations, volunteering and more on page 2.

5. YouthAbility is interested in all that affects our youth and young adult clients, like legislation, new county programs, etc. For more information, see the list of websites on page 2.



Angels of Hope
Thrift Store

create arcata: a weekly art, craft & music fair

For blossoming and burgeoning artists and crafters, Angels of Hope Thrift Store will be sponsoring a fair on good-weather Sundays beginning May 2, from 11 am to 5 pm. Tables are \$10 and should be reserved in advance by calling 822-5019 or by stopping by the store. There will be live (acoustic) music; local acts wishing to entertain should also contact the store. This is a community event to help young people (and some not so young) get started selling the things they love to make. Please come down to 1309 10th Street in Arcata and join the fun. The thrift store will also be open.

Success story #1

Although 2009 was a hard year for finding employment, YA's youth have succeeded. Mike De Leon trained in Angels of Hope Thrift Store. After about 450 hours of training, he's had a job for the last five months and is on the road to a different kind of life. Read Mike's answers to our questions.

What were you doing before you started training with YouthAbility at Angels of Hope?

I was pretty much on the streets, homeless, not getting in trouble, but homeless. Getting money from GR, like



MIKE DE LEON

foods stamps, it wasn't bad, but it was not like I wanted to be.

What are you doing now?

I'm a dishwasher and prep cook at Baywood Golf and Country Club. I like it, it's cool. I'm learning stuff every day.

How did training at AHTS help you?

It helped me know a lot of things, like using the cash register. I really didn't know a whole lot about the responsibility thing. I learned to be more like you've got to be at a job—very social. I learned a lot about people and work. And clocking in and out. I worked before but this was different.

What did you learn at AHTS about looking for a job and being successful?

Shannon (AHTS Site Supervisor) showed me how to get a bank account. And she would go with me and help me. She showed me how to do a resumé and how to present myself. And practiced with me how to face the world when I don't have a job and want to ask for one.

What else did you learn at Angels of Hope that is helping you now?

They taught me how to teach new trainees who came in the things I already knew, like how to help people in the store. I liked this because I was in the same spot before and I saw how much I had learned. It was different being on the other side.

What are you hoping for the future?

I want to be successful, keep making money. I want to go somewhere with my music. And I can put my mind to it and do it. It's just a matter of time.

Issues and legislation affecting at-risk youth

There is a growing body of concerned people, information, movements and foundations to address the needs of at-risk youth. Many coincide with YouthAbility's mission: To offer a multifaceted program which promotes education, training and self-empowerment for youth and young adults, especially those who are emancipating out of foster care and/or are living on low or poverty level incomes.

This is our list of organizations' websites where you can obtain more information:

www.johnburtonfoundation.org
www.casey.org
www.ncwd-youth.info
www.cypyp.org
www.darlahenry.org
www.onyourway.org

New programs under consideration

After three years of operating a successful training program at Angels of Hope Thrift Store, YouthAbility is looking to expand training opportunities for local at-risk youth.

We envision a facility in Eureka attracting trainees by offering exciting work-based training in the basics of food service and hospitality, while capitalizing on the extroversion and creative talents of the youth. In addition, the facility would be an asset to the community, serving families by offering inexpensive and wholesome entertainment suitable for adults and children.

Our concept currently is 'YouthAbility On Broadway', a youth-training center which is a family-style, karaoke cafe serving ice cream, coffee, prepackaged sandwiches and other light snacks, with internet access for daytime student use.

Possibilities include eventually building this program to encompass additional facilities such as: supervised living space/rooms for homeless youth, with community rooms and kitchen; workspaces for carpentry, repair, sewing/design and other training shops; a tutoring classroom with teacher for those completing high school or obtaining GED; and other extensions to assist youth and young adults on their road to sustainable independence.

We welcome comments and input from the community—call Rose Baker 496-6070.

in the news

If you missed the North Coast Journal article on YouthAbility and our training program at AHTS, visit www.youthAbility.org

events

We want to expand our list to other interesting local events. If you'd like your event included, please email information to info@youthAbility.com

april 23

League of Women Voters Humboldt County State of the Community Luncheon honors YA's Rose Baker. (p.4)

may 2

'Create Arcata' craft, art and music fair on Sundays at Angels of Hope Thrift Store starting May 2 (weather permitting)

how to help

There are many ways: visit Angels of Hope Thrift Store in Arcata, shop a little, meet our trainees. Drop clean, sellable donations at the store, or call for pick ups on furniture 822-5019. Visit our website, sign up for our mailing lists, or donate online. Volunteer, hire a YA trainee, talk to our Executive Director Rose Baker 496-6070 about how you can help. Thank you, so very much!

PAT MEDINA, VOLUNTEER EXTRAORDINAIRE



Spotlight: Volunteer Pat

Volunteers make the world go round, so we like to celebrate and thank our volunteers whenever possible...

Pat Medina has volunteered at Angels of Hope Thrift Store for three years—almost from the beginning. Most of the small items, housewares and home decor at the store go through her office for evaluation and pricing. It's a job that requires a lot of experience and retail savvy, which Pat has. Before coming to Angels of Hope she volunteered at a thrift store in Eureka and for eleven years at a local hospital. For thirty years Pat and her husband owned and managed a jewelry store. That's a wealth of experience she brings to our organization!

Pat says her job keeps her busy and she enjoys being able to work at her own pace—usually for about six hours, six days a week. Her grown children say they like it because it keeps her off the streets.

An important part of Pat's job is to help the youth trainees if they need it and she finds it fun to work with them, most of the time. Same as adults, she says, some are good to be around; some aren't.

She's seen a lot of changes at the store, too, and appreciates the reorganization and the new management.

Asked about her favorite part of the job, Pat said she enjoys everything, and especially the people. There is a sign behind her desk that reads "I'm not bossy, I just have better ideas!" We agree. We sure appreciate Pat and would find it impossible to replace her good humor, hard work and dedication.

YouthAbility receives HAF grant

In April of 2009, YouthAbility was awarded a Technical Assistance Program (TAP) grant from Humboldt Area Foundation. Over the course of the subsequent year, the YA board and staff worked with consultant Byrd Lochtie to formalize and record our vision, values and action plan. Thanks to Byrd for her invaluable assistance, and to HAF for making this work possible.

At YouthAbility, we envision a community in which...

- low income and foster youth have more opportunities to learn job skills before emancipation, as well as after,
- they have access to job training programs that address their specific issues and teach them in the ways they can understand, so they are able to learn and grow into sustainable and lifelong independence,
- youth who might end up on the streets, on drugs, on welfare, pregnant, or incarcerated can be given multiple opportunities through training programs in a variety of businesses: retail, mechanics, woodworking, food service, and more,
- programs to address these needs are easily accessible and structured to provide the level of support these youth need to benefit from the offerings,
- businesses, agencies and each individual is aware of the difficulties that these youth face and feel compelled to contribute in whatever way they can, including job placements, donations and programs that are well-designed and well-implemented.

thank you...

Our gratitude goes in many directions: to our supporters, both those who shop at the store and those who support our training programs through participation, donations and fundraisers.

A very special thanks to **Mary Barber of Grocery Outlet** in Eureka, who so generously donated the funds for our truck purchase. We can now pick up and deliver furniture—thank you, Mary!
www.groceryoutlet.com/Eureka-CA/

Our March '09 fundraiser was successful, thanks to many donations of goods and services from:
Winnett Vineyards in Willow Creek
www.winnettvineyards.com
Old Town Coffee & Chocolates on 3rd Street in Eureka
www.oldtowncoffeereureka.com
News Channel 3 KIEM-TV
www.kiem-tv.com
Bicoastal Media, Power 96.3
www.bicoastalmedia.com
NCRT (North Coast Repertory Theater) in Eureka, www.ncrt.net

Thanks to **Willows & Rags** on the Plaza for their weekly donations!

We ask you to please support these local businesses for the good they do—in our community and for our youth.

Thanks also to the many individuals who attended our fundraiser or have contributed funds.

Thanks to the folks at the Humboldt County social service programs who have collaborated with us training youth for the last four years.

Thanks are not enough for the volunteers who daily and weekly contribute their efforts at the store. You are the Angels.

And a behind-the-scenes thank you to the YouthAbility Board of Directors, to our Executive Director Rose Baker, and to Angels of Hope Thrift Store Site Supervisor/Manager Shannon Hardin and her hard-working staff.

enjoy reading this?

We can send you future issues. Just sign up on our website, email your address to info@youthAbility.com, or mail a request to PO Box 6358, Eureka CA 95502.

YouthAbility quick facts

Founded 2006

Executive Director:
Rose Baker
707 496-6070

Program collaboratives:
Humboldt County
Independent Living Skills
Program (ILSP)
Calworks Welfare-to-Work

Program location:
Angels of Hope Thrift Store
1309 10th Street
Arcata CA 95521
707 822-5019

Site Supervisor/Manager:
Shannon Hardin

Population served:
Youth, young adults 16-24
emancipating from foster care
and/or coming from low
income or poverty level

Funding:
Grants, donations, store
profits, community

League of Women Voters to honor YA's Rose Baker

On April 23 the League of Women Voters of Humboldt County, at their 2010 State of the Community Luncheon, will honor YouthAbility's Executive Director Rose Baker for her contribution to the community as a Youth Advocate.

Rose has been involved in helping youth since 1982 when she first became a foster parent. Since then she has become a nationally-known expert in therapeutic parenting and a tireless advocate for the needs of at-risk youth. As a certified Love and Logic instructor, Rose has trained thousands, including parents, teachers, social workers and parent trainers. In addition, she teaches court-mandated parenting classes, is a Humboldt County

Juvenile Justice Commissioner, a Humboldt County Post Adoptions In-Home Behavioral Specialist, the current President of the New Directions of Humboldt Foster Parent Association, and has co-authored the workbook "Advanced Parenting a Difficult Child." Her awards include California State Foster Parent of the Year for 2000, Humboldt County Peacemaker Award 2002, and she is one of only 18 Elite Moms in the U.S. Active in many issues that affect the welfare of youth, Rose serves as a board member of Alcohol and Other Drug Care Services (ADSC) and Pacific View Charter School.

The luncheon will be 11:30 am-1:30 pm at the Adorni Center, 1011 Waterfront Dr. in Eureka. Tickets are \$40 per person, the LWVHC member price is: \$35, or reserved seating is available for an additional

donation. Please send payment to: LWVHC, 4835 Dickson Dr., Eureka, CA 95503, or for more information, contact Judy Haberle Bennett at 443-2855.



ROSE BAKER

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YouthAbility is an educational nonprofit that creates job-learning opportunities for at-risk youth.

www.youthAbility.org



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