



Your Donations  
Save Lives

August / 22 / 2013

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### Support Build Futures

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### Client Spotlight

Sean, 18 years old, contacted Build Futures in August of 2012. He was homeless and had lost his job and someone had stolen his wallet with his ID and social security card. He never knew his father and his mother's boyfriend had thrown him out. He was 18. Build Futures rented a shared room for him near our office. He began helping at Build Futures while we worked to get his documentation. A combination of problems resulted in it taking three months to get his ID and social security card. During this time, Build Futures worked with him to get his high school diploma. He learned internet skills while working with us. We gave him a bike for transportation and ended up paying his rent for four months. Once he had his documents he found a job quickly with a parts company selling their parts online based on his experience with Build Futures. Seven months later, he was making \$13 an hour. He recently sent us a picture with him in a tux taking a girl to prom. **His life has been transformed.**



One interesting side note is that Sean made it a point to tell us that they wanted to charge so much to rent a tux that he did research and found an outlet where he was able to buy everything, including shoes, for much less. He said he remembered we told him to get things for free or really cheap whenever possible and always do your research before buying.

**Instead of going back to school, homeless kids are struggling to find a safe place to sleep. Help us get them off the streets and into a safe place, where they can rest, eat and start a new life.**

[Look us up on Guidestar!](#)

**96% of All Donations Go Directly For Clients' Needs**

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**Make checks payable to:**

**Build Futures**

**19036 Stonehurst Lane**

**Huntington Beach, CA 92648**

**Normal Kids, Tough Lives: Circumstances are not a choice, but we can help**

**By Katrina Brooks**



Have you ever brushed shoulders with a young adult as you exited a restaurant with your take-out order? Have you ever made eye contact with a youth sitting outside of your favorite coffee shop? Have you ever watched a group of teenagers converse while your kids play at the park? Have you ever wondered if these kids are homeless?

**These are our kids**

The kids served by Build Futures are kids you see every day on the street and would never realize are homeless. They are clothed as everyone else, may have a fashionable "bed-head" hairstyle, and may be carrying a bag or backpack. Not much difference in the way your own child's appearance may be perceived by a stranger. They look just like your kids or your friends and family's kids. [Read More...](#)

**Volunteer Spotlight**

As I volunteer with Build Futures there are times when I have a hard time continuing working on the current task because of the constant barrage of shocking conditions that people my own age, whom also live in the same area, have to wake up to everyday. But as I read and organize files of case notes, I tend to see that glimmer of growth. Maybe this is selfish, but that growth is in me. Our clients are inspiring, our clients are optimistic, our clients can be the strongest people you will ever meet, but you just have to give them a chance. Some battle with violence, abuse or drug use that make our troubles look petty and small. Every week I look forward to coming into our Huntington Beach office, something rather rare in most people's Tuesday mornings, to work with other volunteers that share my passion for facilitating change in another's life. There is something new every day whether it is a new client or volunteer, that is something positive I can share. The one thing I regret is that I cannot continue my work with Build Futures long enough. Next year I plan to start my journey towards a master's degree in social work and bring what I've learned from Build Futures with me. Build Futures has saved many lives and I look forward to helping more homeless youth as I continue my time with Build Futures. [Read More...](#)



**Volunteer Now!**

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**Build Futures Provides the Safety Net for Homeless Youth (Ages 18-24) who have:**

- No Safe Place to Sleep**
- No Family or Friends**
- No Healthy Place to Eat**
- No Community**
- No Church**
- NO HOPE!**

They are alone, afraid and cold. Impossible to attend school, obtain employment and survive. Build Futures goes to these kids in the street and assists them to become safe and self-sufficient.



## Build Futures: How YOU Can Help Solve Orange County's Youth Homelessness

Whether you enjoy working with kids or if you are more of a behind-the-scenes person

who enjoys making things happen, we need your help!

With busy lives, it can be hard to find time to volunteer. However, the benefits of volunteering are enormous to you, your family, and your community. Volunteering or donating to Build Futures can help you find friends, reach out to a grateful and deserving community, learn new skills, and even advance your career.

There are a number of ways that you can assist these youths to achieve healthy and productive futures, such as:

- Becoming a Mentor
- Becoming a Youth Advocate
- Sponsoring a Youth
- Becoming a Program Volunteer
- Becoming a Donor
- Help us turn "Hopeless" into "Hopeful"

## Normal Kids, Tough Lives: Circumstances are not a choice, but we can help continued...

### Differences

But there is a difference in how they live. For many of these kids, the backpack they carry posses all their belongings. The clothes they wear don't change daily. And the "bed-head" hairstyle was not formed for style, but was fashioned out of hardship.

### Working through Adversity

You don't see Build Futures' kids on the side of a freeway holding a sign or walking through a parking lot asking for money. You see Build Futures' kids at the same places you would see your own.

### A "Normal" Day

And as normal as these kids look, their daily routines are anything but. How would you feel if you saw your son's teammate pull the Starbucks coffee cup you just threw away from the trash so they could get a free cup of coffee? What would you think if you observed your daughter's classmate waiting for patrons to leave a half-eaten meal on the table so she could sit down and enjoy a meal? Would it spur you to act if you noticed a kid from your neighborhood go into a park bathroom at dusk to clean up before heading out to find a "safe place" for sleeping?

### It's not a Choice...

Build Futures' kids were teammates, classmates and neighbors. Some have had to flee abusive, dysfunctional family lives. Some were left with nowhere to go when a parent became very ill and/or died. And some attend school and work, but don't make enough to provide shelter for themselves. These kids don't choose to be homeless, but life's circumstances have given them no other choice.

You can give them another choice by donating to Build Futures to give these kids a safe place to sleep and a fresh start.

## Volunteer Spotlight

continued

Within a very short time, Jeremy, has entrenched himself into the inner workings of Build Futures. After learning about our work at the Golden West Peace Conference, he found a commonality with our mission and his goal to work with homeless young adults to go from surviving to thriving. He uses his experiences working with other nonprofits and college programming to help promote positive energy and chemistry within our new young group of volunteers as our newly appointed Volunteer Coordinator.

Jeremy received his B.A. in Negotiation, Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding from Cal State Dominguez Hills while working with numerous organizations helping at-risk youth in the LA County area. Now home, he works with Golden West College to help promote collaboration between the community and students through the Service Learning Program. He plans to further his education as a Graduate in Social Work and continue to further develop Build Futures' collaboration with other nonprofits and the community we serve.

### [Volunteer Now!](#)

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### **96% of All Donations Go Directly For Clients' Needs**

Build Futures is a non-profit 501c3 organization (90-0629740) whose mission is to take homeless youth ages 18 to 24 off the street and give them housing and support to achieve self-sufficiency. Visit us at [www.BuildFutures.org](http://www.BuildFutures.org)

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Try it FREE today.

Build Futures | 19036 Stonehurst Lane | Huntington Beach | CA | 92648