



News For The Future
A publication of Build Futures
www.buildfutures.org

Feature Story

Success Stories: Saving a Life Takes a Community

Lauren, 21, has been homeless on the streets of Orange County for most of her life. Her mother died when she was 16. Throughout her life, her family has been homeless as well.



Lauren has had to face life on the streets all alone, struggling to deal with the pain of losing her mother.

Fortunately, one of our homeless youth clients told Lauren about **Build Futures** and let her use her phone to call us. We met with her that day and were able to immediately find her housing due to a **WD Foundation Rapid Re-housing** grant. Lauren was connected with a supportive adult and now has hope for a future free from homelessness and poverty. She finally has someone who cares and is there for her throughout the difficulties of life.

Subsequently, **Build Futures** provided her with a bike which was possible due to a grant from **Sunwest Bank** for **Bikes Build Futures**. Soon after, she was able to get a phone and bus pass paid for by Build Futures with a donation from the **Kiwanis of Huntington Beach** which allowed her to apply to get a CA ID and social security card. Lauren worked on her resume with computers provided by **PIMCO** using Internet paid for with an **Ingram Micro** grant. She worked with our nonprofit partner, **Career Wise**, to craft a suitable resume to start applying for jobs as soon as her documentation arrived.

Lauren cannot get a job until she receives her ID and social security card, which can take as long as two months, so she needs a place to live and support for her basic needs until she receives her first paycheck.

Build Futures pays for stable housing and basic needs for Lauren until she is able to secure employment and pay her rent. For homeless youth, **Build Futures** bridges the gap between life on the streets and a life as an independent, contributing member of society. Without our help, these youth would not have the support, guidance, or financial resources to make the leap from a life of hopelessness to a life filled with hope. Similarly, we could not do what we do without your help and the continued financial support from the community.

We thank you in advance for your generous, life-saving contributions that enable us, and you, to change lives everyday.

 [Friend us on Facebook](#)



Holiday Wish List

List of our most needed items, our youth client list is over 200 and growing.

[See it Now!](#)

GET INVOLVED:



» DONATE

Just visit our website:
www.buildfutures.org

Or make checks to:
Build Futures
19036 Stonehurst Lane
Huntington Beach, CA
92648

» VOLUNTEER

To get involved with the youth, become a mentor, or offer a service email:
Kathy@BuildFutures.org

Or sign-up online at:



Holiday Wish List

- ~~Video Games~~
- ~~Snow Board~~
- ~~iTunes Gift Card~~
- Food
- Shelter
- Transportation

*Give More Than a Gift
Give a Future!*

Wish List of our most needed items:
Our youth client list is over 200 and needs help more than ever.

View Now >

In The News

November: National Runaway & Homeless Youth Awareness Month

November is National Runaway & Homeless Youth Awareness Month, declared by the House and Senate in 2007, and serves as an outlet to increase public awareness of an ongoing issue occurring in every city across the United States. In Orange County alone, there are 28,000 homeless youth in our public schools.



There are many reasons why these youth become homeless. For some, it is to escape the horrific situations they are living in. They have run away from sexual, physical, or emotional abuse. For others, it is because they come from homeless families or have been rejected by their parents. No matter the reason, in their effort to escape a difficult situation, they have turned to the streets where there is only more danger.

Homeless kids are the most likely target of human traffickers, pornographers and gangs. These vulnerable kids are forced to endure unimaginable horrors, just to survive. Build Futures takes these kids off the street right away to keep them safe and help them become self-sufficient.

Build Futures meets the needs of the most underserved homeless population and addresses the gap in services in Orange County for transitional youth ages 18-24. Our services include connecting youth to a trusted one-on-one mentor, housing, employment, education, medical and mental healthcare, legal assistance and life skills support.

During the month of November and beyond, Build Futures strives to be a source for raising awareness of the prevalence of runaway and homeless youth throughout Orange County and the lack of support and services available to them. We hope that you will take some time to learn about the solutions and role you can play in preventing and ending youth homelessness in our community.

To help move these kids off the street, we are asking our caring and philanthropic community members for their continued donations. Your generous support will directly impact the lives of homeless kids in our community. To date, Build Futures has never turned away a youth seeking help in Orange County who wanted to turn their life around and with your continued support we never will. We have helped well over 200 youth in many different ways the last three years.

Our homeless youth - kids like Lauren - rely on and so appreciate your support. Please take a moment now to make a donation online at <http://www.buildfutures.org> and share our request with friends. Your thoughtful donations are tax deductible.

On behalf of BUILD FUTURES and our all volunteer staff, we thank you for your generosity, as we could not accomplish our mission without the support of our amazing donors and supporters.

Volunteer Spotlight :

Katrina Brooks

Katrina Brooks fondly recalls meeting **Build Futures** Executive Director, Kathy Tillotson over two years ago.



“I remember our initial meeting where she explained her vision for the organization. I could see the passion and perseverance in her and that was something I couldn’t say no to.”

Having just recently relocated to Orange County, Katrina was blown away by the statistics of homelessness. It was even more heartbreaking to see the number of homeless youth.

As someone who ran the corporate citizenship and community outreach program for a large corporation for 7 years, Katrina knew wholeheartedly the impact a non-profit could make on the community. She has interfaced and supported countless non-profits and has seen first hand how they operate. She understands the tenacity that it takes to raise funds and awareness for a cause and was confident that **Build Futures** was headed in the right direction. Katrina knew she wanted to be apart of such a promising organization and understood that her strengths could really be utilized in a team such as **Build Futures**.

Over the last two years, Katrina has seen the organization grow remarkably. She has contributed her time and effort in creating the organization’s quarterly newsletter. She has also used other informational pieces to garner community attention. She helped develop a strategic business plan for its social enterprise, **Bikes Build Futures**, and served as a board member during its first year of operation as a 501(c)3.

Katrina says that she would like to have more time to dedicate to the organization but hopes that in the meantime, the small contributions she can make will assist them in fulfilling the needs of the children. We appreciate the intense dedication she has shown thus far and we look forward to the ways she will continue to brighten the lives of homeless youth.

Build Futures offers hope to youth in crisis.

Build Futures is a non-profit 501c3 organization whose mission is to help homeless, runaway, and at-

risk youth ages 18 to 24 achieve their maximum potential and lead fulfilling lives within our community.

For more information, visit www.buildfutures.org

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