

NEWS FROM

# THE *Hub* OC

THIRD EDITION  
2023

ANNUAL REPORT AND ENCOURAGING NEWS

# LIFE CHANGE HAPPENS HERE



This year we launched the YCO sports program! Coach Kaili is taking the lead with Coach Josh, pictured here cheering with our amazing kids!



The Eras of Orange tour group was born out of the amazing response to this summer's YCO Talent Show and the girls have had over 6 shows around Orange County!



The HRC moved to its permanent location complete with workshop space and a mini Full Circle to clothe those in need!



The staff and H.E.A.R.T. team celebrate as we finally got Leasa and her dog, Elvis into permanent housing!



John and his son Amari found the HRC in their time of need. This year at Orange's "State of the City" address, they were honored as illustrations of how collaboration between the city and nonprofits can maximize impact.



YCO started a chess club and the kids are loving it!

*Our*  
**BLESSING TO**  
*You*

*We* believe when you feed the hungry, clothe those in need, and help those in trouble, then your light will shine out from the darkness around you shall be as bright as day. And God will make you like a lush garden or an ever flowing spring.

*Isaiah 58:10-11*

**JOIN IN ON  
THE BLESSING**



# YCO LAUNCHES SPORTS PROGRAM

The Youth Center of Orange (YCO) has introduced a game-changing Sports Program in partnership with Palmyra Elementary and Orange Unified's ELOP. Within weeks of its launch, the program hit full capacity, catering to 80 students weekly throughout the school year. This initiative not only imparts sports skills but also instills essential character traits vital for holistic student success. Palmyra's Principal Bletterman lauds the program for fostering teamwork, conflict resolution, and sportsmanship among students. Coaches Kaili, Josh, and Mr. Edgar serve as exemplary role models, creating a nurturing environment for growth and learning.

Expanding their community outreach, the YCO collaborates with the City of Orange Police Department to introduce a Police Activity League (PAL), fostering positive relationships between officers and the community. Chief Dan Adams, from the Orange PD, expressed support for these initiatives during his visit to Palmyra Elementary, recognizing the profound impact they have on youth engagement and community connections. The YCO remains committed to being a driving force for youth development in Orange, seeking innovative pathways to positively influence children's lives through sports programs. These initiatives signify a promising future, highlighting the transformative power of sports in shaping healthier and more connected communities.



## YCO KIDS ARE TRULY TALENTED!



This year's talent show was our best yet, with over 80 participants featuring amazing artists, dazzling performers, and many displays of how incredible our kids are! Big thanks to our partners Bloomhaus, Orange Homegrown, Child Creativity Lab, and The Orange Arts Council just to name a few!



Following their talent show success, a group of YCO girls embarked on a tour across Orange County, performing 'This is Me.' Their shows spread positivity and energy, while sharing an important message. These young leaders inspired not only young girls but everyone who watched. Their passion fostered encouragement and empowerment in each community they shared their gift with, leaving a lasting impression and so much joy!

## LIVES CHANGE WHEN THE HRC AND YCO WORK TOGETHER!

A family from Azusa had been living out of their car for a month trying to make a new start in Orange County. When they found the Hub Resource Center, they discovered not just essential services, but a network of support that would change their lives.

The HRC, recognizing the family's needs, reached out to the Youth Centers of Orange to explore avenues for the children's education and well-being. The family, facing the challenges of relocation and communication barriers as the parents were deaf, found renewed drive when the YCO team stepped in to help get their kids the care they needed.

Though the semester had already begun, the two sons, aged 9 and 10, and daughter, 14, hadn't yet been enrolled in school. With communication through pen and paper, the YCO staff guided the parents through the enrollment process, even going the extra mile by visiting the schools to ensure the kids had everything they needed – from backpacks and school

supplies to uniforms. Through our strong relationships with the schools, the entire process was able to be handled in a single day.

YCO Site Coordinator Sam, not only facilitated paperwork but also engaged with the boys, bonding over shared interests like video games, making the children feel welcome and provided the parents with the peace of mind that their kids were in caring hands.

The boys enrolled in school and began attending the YCO after-school program, creating a stable environment for them. The parents now had crucial time and space to focus on securing housing, job training, and other essential tasks, confident that their children were safe and flourishing in the supportive community of Orange.

This family's journey reflects the power of compassion and collaboration, proving that even in the toughest of times, a united community can provide the foundation for a brighter future.

**2023** stats

|   |   |   |                               |
|---|---|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>210</b><br>kids served during<br>the school year | <b>85</b><br>kids served during<br>the summer program | <b>3,773</b><br>hours of afterschool<br>programming | <b>19,500</b><br>meals served |
|---|---|---|-------------------------------|

# SUPPORTIVE WORK CHANGES LIVES

Although Amin came to us as someone needing community service hours, we instantly saw his potential and natural ability to provide dignified-forward care to our patrons. In serving with him we learned he was trying to work on himself but just kept hitting obstacles. He expressed how much he loved serving at the HRC because he felt respected by the other volunteers and staff, which was lacking in every other area of his life.

Because Amin had all the skills to succeed but lacked a supportive community and people in his corner, we recommended him to Orange County Conservation Corp, an organization that employs transitional-age youth

and places them at various non-profits to garner life and work experience. They also saw how amazing Amin was and hired him to work WITH US! Now we have the pleasure of not only working side by side with Amin but also being there to support his dreams and life goals, which include a budding Etsy store.

*"I've had so many different jobs before that felt draining to be part of, where management or the company wouldn't care about myself as a person, but I've always felt appreciated at HRC from the beginning. I also truly believe in all we do at the HRC. Other companies might say they are like family, but HRC is truly like family." -Amin*



## PARTNERSHIPS REMOVING BARRIERS

The HRC's biggest partnership is with the H.E.A.R.T. (Homeless Engagement Assessment and Response Team). As Homeless Outreach Specialists from the Orange PD, when they walk on site, we get excited because we know people's lives can change for the better! Most of our interactions are with Luz Ontiveros and Richard Chavez. They have the connections and resources to help remove obstacles to progress. When we call them they always pick up and are at the ready with any solutions or resources we may need to assist someone.

One day Luz called saying they could get a couple into housing but didn't have anywhere to safely keep their two cats while looking for someone to adopt them. Our response: we'll make it work! We are committed to seeing barriers to housing drop away for people, so on that day we happily had two little kitties in our office while Luz and our staff furiously tried to find someone to take them in. We found an older woman to take in the bonded pair of kitties, and the couple was successfully housed. We love a happy ending here at the HRC.



## SUPPORT WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST



This year we've helped numerous people get jobs as part of their journey toward stability. We were so ecstatic that Brian got a job, John (a volunteer) stayed past hours to make sure that he got all the approval, uniform, and everything ready before he started his job.

Brian was honest that he wanted to drink before he started his job because he was so nervous. The HUB team made it a point to surround Brian all day so he was encouraged, believed in himself, and would refuse to drink until starting his new job. A volunteer from Biola ended up staying 2 hours past closing to speak to him and help him stay focused. And Greg from Friar Tux (pictured) made sure he was outfitted perfectly! It's so amazing seeing the community come together and support these folks!

## MEET RUBEN 2023



The HRC Staff has witnessed remarkable growth, joy, and willingness to be a part of a community within Ruben since he went from being a patron to volunteering at the HRC. His journey with us has been truly inspiring, and we couldn't be more proud of the positive changes we've seen in him.

*stats*

**250+** people sheltered or permanently housed

**10,872** showers were taken

**4,438** loads of laundry done

**41,961** meals served

# FULL CIRCLE

## 2023 stats

**34,437** items were sold

**102,500+** Items donated to the HRC and other nonprofits

**\$191,602** in total sales

## TYING IT ALL TOGETHER

When we started we couldn't imagine what Full Circle would look like almost 3 years later. It's still a fun store wooing thrifters and reminding everyone we believe "your story matters", but my how it has grown! To top it off, Full Circle funds the YCO, and is the main channel for clothing for the homeless in the City of Orange through the HRC! Today, we have quadrupled our monthly item sales from when we first opened. Our partnership with Chapman University has continued to allow us work-study students- this semester we have 24 of them serving at Full Circle and learning the cycle of generosity.

We sure love being in Old Town Orange and love our city! We had so much fun participating in city events like the spring & fall Art Walk, Treats in the Streets, Love Orange, and hosting our Chamber of Commerce. It's a joy to serve customers and even pray for them- our prayer station has collected over 4,000 requests this year!



During "Love Orange", volunteers flooded the City of Orange, including Full Circle!

# A SOURCE OF HOPE

Besides our programs, Full Circle is happy to be able to be generous when we hear of a need! Take Kurt for instance. He was living on someone's couch and had been out of work due to a long-term illness. When he got a job as a bus driver, he couldn't afford the clothes he needed for work. His friend let us know and we shopped with him to make sure he had everything he needed to get him started!

## SERVING CHANGES PEOPLE!



Yes, we indeed need volunteers to make our store run, but it's been proven, time and again, that people need Full Circle! We've had countless volunteers experience the blessing it is to serve. Many are returning weekly, saying Full Circle has changed them, even to the point of regaining purpose in life or staying off of drugs/alcohol.

One story this year is Wendie. She was recently overheard obsessively talking about Full Circle on her family vacation. She feels she now has purpose and her passion for life has been reinvigorated because she is passing good along to many people. She was trying to recruit everyone on the trip to volunteer!

We also helped a teacher who happened to be telling us the plight of her students at a low-income school. We ensured she went home with a pair of shoes for a little girl who kept saying her feet hurt from her too-small shoes. When we told her to come back if she ever had another student in need she said, "I get so overwhelmed with some of my kids and their families' stories. I want to help but don't have the money to do this out of my pocket for every child. Full Circle will be a game changer."



If you want to volunteer, go to [fullcircleorange.com/volunteer](https://fullcircleorange.com/volunteer)

