

2014 marks the 47th year of service for Youth Focus Inc.

In these years, over 720 educational, cultural and community enrichment programs serving more than 150,000 youth have been produced. Close to 1 million dollars in scholarships have been awarded. Alumni have gone on to become doctors, lawyers, teachers, engineers, college professors, nurses, performers, business entrepreneurs, public servants, community workers and a myriad of other honorable professions.

All Youth Focus programs are administered at **minimum cost**, and in some cases, at no cost to the participants. Through our various programs and competitions, we help youth build **self-esteem and confidence**, encourage them to seek a **positive direction in life**, and assist them in acquiring knowledge and **developing positive life skills**.

Programs

Youth Recognition Programs

Santa Clara County's "Salute to Youth/Youth Hall of Fame" Program honors young people of merit for outstanding accomplishment in the areas of Sports, Community Service, Religion, Vocational Arts, Visual Arts, Science, Volunteerism, Agriculture, Heroism, Leadership, and other meaningful categories. The program awards some \$6,500 in educational scholarships as well as special awards including the "James J. Guido Spirit of Youth" Award, the "Suzette Galloway Most Inspirational" Award and the Lonnie Toensfeldt Community Service Award.

Youth Mentor's Hall of Fame is held in conjunction with the "Salute to Youth Night" Awards Program. Its purpose is to honor unsung heroes who provide services or voluntary skills and energies in areas that contribute to the welfare and vitality of the youth of our community.

Personal Development Programs with Scholarship Rewards

Youth Focus annually sponsors two personal development programs on the State level. **The Youth Accolades Scholarship Competitions** are dynamic educational programs. Participants gain a greater insight and understanding of the true meaning of community service and the value of serving others.

The California State Youth Accolades Scholarship Competition

- **California's Young Man and Young Woman of Achievement** represent the California State Fair, the California Fair Industry and the youth of California. The program awards some \$10,000.00 in educational scholarships and is sponsored in cooperation with the California State Fair.
- **The California State Junior and Teen Accolades Scholarship Program** is a dynamic educational & community service program. Participants can develop their leadership skills enabling them to better serve their community. The program awards some \$1,400.00 in educational scholarships.

Youth Talent Competitions

"Everyone Wins and Nobody Loses!" This is the continuing theme of the Youth Talent Competitions staged annually for performers' ages 4-26. Each participant receives an award. This gives them a reason and purpose to continue their studies, and an incentive to continue to perfect their talents. It also allows them to showcase their abilities to friends, parents and the community at large. More than 5,000 young people participate each year.

- **The Western Regional California State Talent & Performing Arts Competition** is the state's largest, oldest and most prestigious youth talent competition hosting 3,000 young people performing in hundreds of acts. This program offers some \$3,000.00 in talent scholarships.
- **California State Spring Talent Fest** showcases vocal and instrumental performances. Some 300 young people are presented awards in recognition of their hard work and excellence.
- **The Greater Bay Area Talent Competition** is the county's largest and most prestigious youth talent competition providing hundreds of trophy awards to over 300 youth.
- **The Santa Clara County and Alameda County Fairs' Talent Competitions** are held each summer. They are another wonderful opportunity for young people to showcase their talents in the arts, with numerous awards presented in recognition of excellence.
- **T.A.D.D.** (Theater Arts and Dance Division) is a unique performing arts educational program for youth, ages 9-24. This program provides opportunities for young people to gain valuable experience performing before live audiences at local community events. It also fills a significant void created by the severe cutbacks in funding performing arts programs in the California school system.

Testimonies from some of our YF Alumni:

"Youth Focus welcomed me with open arms and changed my life forever! They taught me leadership skills that enabled me to achieve my goals. It opened my eyes to a different world of giving and community service filled with love and appreciation. Youth Focus was certainly instrumental in placing me on the path that I have chosen today -- to be a pediatrician to help kids." **Dr. Sonya Wang, Pediatrician**

"I would not be where I am today without Youth Focus. Had I been left to experience life's difficult decisions, lessons, and responsibilities on my own, I probably would not have done a very good job. But with the love, support, and guidance of such a wonderful program, I was able to become a very mature, responsible, and professional person." **Brandon Alameda, Recording Artist and Producer**

"Being a conductor involves very specialized skills. Also being a music director, which is the artistic head of a symphony, involves many people and political skills. I constantly have to work with boards of directors, community members, orchestra members, and the media. My experiences with the myriad of people, media, and dignitaries at the fairs I visited with Youth Focus unquestionably helped prepare me for the work I do now." **Dr. Kyle Pickett, Conductor Topeka, Kansas Symphony**

"Youth Focus taught me to believe in myself, because that's my biggest source of strength. Nothing can happen without it. Youth Focus is a place of love and friendship, a safe place to learn, grow, and ultimately achieve success in whatever goals we set for ourselves."

Kristen Scott (Burke), Business Owner, Artisan Candies and Magickal Entertainment

"I entered the Youth Focus family in 1984 as a junior in high school, determined to make a difference! Until then, I didn't realize the value of volunteer service and scholastic achievement, because they weren't highlighted or prioritized by other organizations. Thank goodness for Youth Focus...for reinforcing what I knew was important, and for connecting me with other like-minded young people. Thirty years later, I am still involved and grateful for the work that helps foster youth leadership... in our schools, colleges, communities and beyond."

Dr. Lisa Gonzales Schoennauer, Superintendent, Portola Valley School District

"Involvement in the Youth Hall of Fame captured my heart and motivated me to participate in other Youth Focus ambassador programs. Through these programs, I gained leadership and communication skills, self-esteem, and a better appreciation for the human spirit, and most importantly, friends for life. The scholarships enabled me to finance my undergraduate and graduate studies and helped shape me into a skilled and confident member of my community. I am a better person in part because of Youth Focus." **Dr. Jun Young, Principal, Zum Communications**

Youth Focus Inc. is a nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of California and recognized by the State of California and the Internal Revenue Service as a tax exempt 501 (c)-3 organization.

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YOUTH FOCUS INC.

DEDICATED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF YOUTH

Providing educational and specialized training scholarships to young people of merit in the Bay Area and throughout the state of California, through the conduct of its youth programming since 1969



Serves over 150,000 young people in our community

Sponsors TWELVE annual programs

Awards over \$25,000 in educational scholarships every year

Over \$1 Million in educational scholarships over 46 years

*Recognition Awards • Scholarships
Educational Programming
Performing Arts Competitions*