



# High Mountain Youth Project NEWSLETTER

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LINCOLN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

[www.highmountainyouth.org](http://www.highmountainyouth.org)

August 2017

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## The Great High Mountain Bed Race

In every respect, the first annual Great High Mountain Bed Race exceeded everyone's expectations! As an idea that was "pitched" just a few short months ago as a possible fundraising idea, the Great High Mountain Bed Race came to fruition on June 3rd, largely because of the dedication and skills of Event Planner and Organizing Chairperson, Pam Tomlin. High Mountain Youth Project Board of Directors wants to thank EVERYONE who helped make the First Annual, Great High Mountain Bed Race a reality. A huge thank you to those who donated money, "donations in kind", time, energy, effort and creativity. An equally sincere thank you goes out to the community at large for supporting this event!



Mark your calendars now for the Second Annual, Great High Mountain Bed Race on June 2, 2018! Bed Race festivities began with a Parade escorted by Ruidoso police through several blocks of Sudderth Drive in midtown (Ruidoso). Honorary Grand Marshal Shaun Hubbard had to be there "in spirit" due to his Ruidoso Downs Race Track responsibilities. The parade featured the thirteen competing beds, decorated in a theme or according to their sponsor. Teams were also encouraged to dress in costume, which added to the delight of the crowd. More than 500 people cheered their support to the bed racing teams prior to the start of the race. Each team consisted of six people with the team captain riding on the bed, four "pushers", and one

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## **Bed Race (cont.)**

alternate. Although the route for the race was less than a mile, the final push up Center Street was challenging. As Bed Race organizer Pam Tomlin said prior to the race, "It's all downhill.....until it's NOT!" Heber "Freshboyz" Ramos' bed and team (pictured at right) won the timed event with a time of 5:11.09 minutes. For a complete listing of teams, placing and times, visit HMYP's website at [www.highmountainyouth.org](http://www.highmountainyouth.org).



Activities at Wingfield Park after the bed race included a green chile brunch cook-off with entries from seven local restaurants entering the competition. Judges for the cook-off were (pictured left to right): Acting Fire Chief, Cody Thetford, Village Parks and Recreation Director, Rodney Griego and Ruidoso Police Chief, Darren Hooker. The Official results for the 2017 Green Chile Brunch Cookoff: 1st Place: Nyicha Sanchez (the Crazy Cake Lady), 2nd Place, Rio Grande Grill; 3rd Place Mario's Market and People's Choice, Cattle Baron. For a complete list of participating restaurants, visit HMYP's website at the address provided above.

Entertainment at the park included live music, games and a "Celebrity Mummy Wrap". Volunteers provided more than a dozen booths with food, face painting and various games of sport and skill suitable for all ages.

A raffle ticket drawing was held for a beautiful, handmade quilt, "A Home for Teens", that was donated by Jackie Lynn Hunter of "A Quilting Stitchuation" and local quilters.

And of course everyone enjoyed tasting the green chile brunch samples provided by our local restaurants!



*Pictured standing left to right: Nancy Kranz, Jackie Lynn Hunter, Dr. Gina Langley, Rita Combs and Vicki Arnold. Kneeling, Left to right, Laurie Benavides and JoAnn Griffin.*

## **HMYP Couple Receives "Volunteers of the Year" Award**

Rita and Rory Combs were very surprised to receive the 2016-2017, Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce "Volunteers of the Year" award for their work in support of the High Mountain Youth Project. The award was presented to the Combs' at a banquet held on June 23rd at the Inn of the Mountain Gods. Upon receiving the award, Rita stated, "This just feels wrong. There isn't one person on our board, or on our advisory committee who isn't just as dedicated to this project as we are".

Rita has served as Vice President on the HMYP Executive Board since December of 2015, while Rory has served on the advisory committee for the past two years. Rory has designed flyers, ads, rack cards and handouts for the organization and recently designed the logo, the street banner and much of the advertising for The Great High Mountain Bed Race. Together the couple served as co-chairs on the site committee for two years and they are responsible for producing and sending out the quarterly newsletter for HMYP since it began in February 2016.

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In March of this year, Rita and Rory purchased the Skyvue house to lease to High Mountain Youth Project as a drop-in Center. After being named "Volunteers of the Year", Rita also shared, "I'd feel a lot more worthy of this award if we had the house open and we were serving kids." HMYP's Site Committee continues to search for a location to open an evening drop-in center since the Village Council upheld Planning and Zoning Commission's decision to deny a "Conditional Use" permit which would have allowed the drop-in center to open at the Skyvue property. HMYP occasionally holds meetings and work sessions at the home.

## "Necessary Items" Donated by Ruidoso Middle School

During the 2016-17 school year, three very special 8th Grade Students came together with a very thoughtful and caring idea. As part of a New Mexico State University program, Engaging Latino Communities in Education (ENLACE), middle school students were tasked with finding a problem in their community, and then finding a solution. The problem they identified was "abuse driven homelessness"; their solution was to collect needed items (such as toiletries), and donate them to worthy organizations. The girls then made posters to engage all Ruidoso Middle School students in donating shampoos, lotions, toilet paper, soap, etc. In just a few months, over 600 items were collected. At the end of the school year, with just a little help from teachers like Rosanna Lomeli, they were able to contact organizations that could put the items to good use; half of the items were donated to "The NEST" (a shelter for victims of domestic violence) and half of the items were donated to High Mountain Youth Project for their future drop-in center and overnight shelter.

With this much "heart" at such a young age, these ladies will certainly do well in high school and in life! Pictured from left to right are Ashley Cardenas, Maria Gallegos and Bianca Garcia.



## Behind the Scenes (Briefs)

HMYP thanks **Brenda and Gary Restivo**, for donating a beautiful sectional sofa for HMYP's future drop-in center. The sofa is being stored until the organization has a permanent location.



**Volunteers Victor Rodriguez Jr., Luis Gonzales and Victor Rodriguez Sr.** (photo at left), took time from their busy schedules to transport the sofa to the Skyvue house until it finds a permanent home.

**The High Mountain Youth Project was recently awarded \$3000 from the New Mexico Children's Foundation** for its collaborative project to provide an evening drop-in center to keep students experiencing homelessness safe and in school through a grant.

HMYP appreciates that for the second year, **Foxworth-Galbraith** has donated proceeds from their annual **Golf Tournament** to High Mountain Youth Project.

Check out HMYP's new branded donation page at [www.highmountainyouth.org](http://www.highmountainyouth.org). Clicking on the "Donation" link will take you to HMYP's giving page where you can select the campaign you wish to support and make an online donation using our safe and secure system.

### PROGRAM MANAGER NEEDED

HMYP posted the **Program Manager** job description for the Drop-in Center on HMYP's website.

If you are interested in applying, or know someone who may be interested, see the "post" at [www.highmountainyouth.org](http://www.highmountainyouth.org), or call 575-347-8010 for additional information.

### A Note from the Editor:

If you wish to "unsubscribe" to our newsletter, or if you are receiving the newsletter in printed format and wish to receive it electronically, please email your request to: [info@highmountainyouth.org](mailto:info@highmountainyouth.org). For additional information about our organization, email us at the address above, or visit our website at: [www.HighMountainYouth.org](http://www.HighMountainYouth.org).

It is with your kindness and generosity that our organization will meet its goals. You can make your tax-deductible donation by sending your check to: High Mountain Youth Project, P.O. Box 2646, Ruidoso, NM 88355, or by donating online through our website.

The High Mountain Youth Project Advisory Committee meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Ruidoso Public Library. Please check our website: [www.HighMountainYouth.org](http://www.HighMountainYouth.org) to verify day and time of the next Advisory Committee meeting. Questions regarding upcoming meetings may be directed to our email: [info@HighMountainYouth.org](mailto:info@HighMountainYouth.org).



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