



High Mountain Youth Project NEWSLETTER

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LINCOLN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

www.highmountainyouth.org

November 2017

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Continued on page 2

High Mountain Youth Project Drop-in Center Site



An email was sent out by High Mountain Youth Project on October 20th to share exciting news that a lease had been signed for a space at the Jira Plaza, 700 Mechem Drive in Ruidoso. Although a date to open the Drop-in center at Jira Plaza has not yet been announced, Board members, Advisory Committee members and volunteers are working diligently to make the space as comfortable and "home-like" as possible and install a modest kitchen.

The commercially-zoned building is approximately 2 ½ miles from the Ruidoso High School campus and is in close proximity to grocery stores and ENMU (Eastern New Mexico University), Ruidoso. With nearly 2400 square feet, High Mountain Youth Project will finally have the space needed to set up an office where all of the organization's files and records can be kept.

The space has a "great room" that will provide plenty of room for the teens to gather to watch television, enjoy other indoor activities, or share a meal, while the loft area will provide a quieter space to do homework or rest. A storage room near the kitchen will provide a place for individual lockers where the teens can store personal items. There will be a washer and dryer to do laundry and (in the near future), a small kitchen to prepare snacks and an evening meal. Although the space has only one full and one half bathroom (while two full bathrooms would have suited the needs of the organization better), it was decided that HMYP had waited long enough to open their Drop-in center and start helping teens who are experiencing homelessness.

Continued on page 2

**Ritter Company, In memory of
Bill Pope**

River Crossing Ministries

**Robin Riley, In memory of
Bill Pope**

**St. Anne's Guild/Holy Mount
Episcopal Church**

Sam Williams

**Sara and Robert Armstrong
In memory of Bill Pope**

Sue and Clovis Williams

Vivian Isaacs

High Mountain Youth Project offers our condolences to Toni Pope with the passing of her husband Bill. We are very appreciative of Toni and Bill's support of High Mountain Youth Project in the past as well as Toni's request that donations be made to HMYP in Bill's memory.

Informational Meeting Scheduled for Volunteers

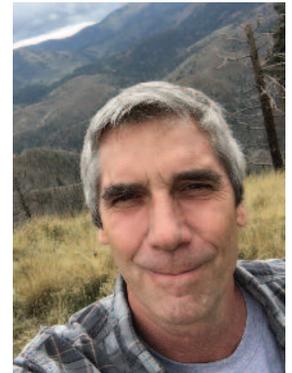
There will be an informational, "Team Building" meeting held at Jira Plaza, 700 Mechem Drive, Suite 14, (Across from Albertson's Grocery), on Monday, November 6th, from 4 – 6 pm. Volunteers are asked to attend if possible.

If any of the HMYP volunteers have the results of their background check in their possession, they are asked to bring the paperwork to the November 6th meeting. HMYP needs to update their records to be able to contact volunteers to help at the Drop-in center. If volunteers are not available to attend the informational meeting but are still interested in helping at the Drop-in center, please contact Rita Combs by email at: rita@combsdesign.com.

Meanwhile, there are several things that need to be done and many items still needed to get the facility ready to open. An email will be sent to supporters to list some of the things needed. High Mountain Youth Project is very thankful for all who have donated time, energy, and/or funds in the past - High Mountain Youth project could not have gotten to this point without the help of their many generous supporters!

High Mountain Youth Project Program Manager Named

High Mountain Youth Project is pleased to announce that Mr. Ted Allen has been hired as the part-time Program Manager for its Drop-in center. Ted has been committed to providing positive youth and community development activities in New Mexico for nearly thirty years. He has studied extensively in the



fields of human services, psychology and education and has participated in a multitude of professional training courses in similar disciplines.

Currently, and for the last six and a half years, Ted has been a Youth Worker and Grant Administrator for the Assurance Home in Roswell, NM. The Assurance Home is a private, non-profit facility that provides a safe, stable and loving home environment for abused, neglected, runaway, and homeless youth aged 12 – 18. Male and female residents live at the home on a small campus on either a short-term shelter or long-term group home status. His responsibilities include direct supervision of residents in activities of daily living, including personal and social communication skills, hygiene, daily chores and responsibilities, school readiness, work readiness and overall coaching for resident success.

While working at the Assurance Home in Roswell, Ted has also been the Lincoln County Juvenile Justice Board Coordinator for Lincoln County, NM since 2014. He is responsible for overseeing and coordinating six programs for at-risk and juvenile justice involved youth in Lincoln County, including Girls Circle, Boys Council, Citation Program, Restorative Justice, Trauma Assessment and Intensive Community Monitoring. The Juvenile Justice Board promotes positive youth development, healthy communication, pathway planning and service leadership activities for youth in our area.

High Mountain Youth Project wants to thank all of the individuals who submitted an application for the part-time Program Manager position.

Behind the Scenes:

On October 4th, High Mountain Youth Project was the recipient of the Lincoln County Art Grant (LCAG) in the amount of \$800. The grant will be used to purchase art supplies for students to use at the HMYP Drop-in center. Volunteer artists will be invited to the center to help students explore their creativity.

Behind the Scenes (cont.):

Thank you to the Advisory Committee members and board members who volunteered their time on October 7th to hand out information about High Mountain Youth Project at Wingfield Park after the Aspenfest parade.

Advisory Committee member, Dr. Roy Benavides and board member, Rita Combs, spoke to the Lincoln County Leadership Class on Thursday, October 12th. Dr. Benavides, pictured at right, prepares to show the High Mountain Youth Project power point presentation.



A special thank you to the (motley) "Demo Crew" who arrived at Jira Plaza on Saturday morning, Oct. 28th to remove a stage from the great room of the new Drop-in center. Pictured, left to right, are Rebecca Ford, Jeffrey Ford, Jim Hass, Will Green, Rory Combs, Jim Holt and Roy Benavides.



High Mountain Youth Project President, Laurie Benavides and Advisory Committee member, Vivian Isaacs were presented with a \$2000.00 check from the Lincoln County Medical Center Foundation on November 3rd. The donation represented proceeds from the September 29th "Run for the Mountain" event. HMYP is grateful for the LCMC Foundation donation, and also for raising community awareness of student homelessness in Lincoln County.

We envision a loving and caring community where all youth are protected, empowered, loved, respected and treated with dignity.

Our mission is to involve the communities of Lincoln County, New Mexico, in providing a comprehensive safety net for high school students experiencing homelessness.

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. For additional information about our organization, email us at the address above, or visit our website at: 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 normally held the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Ruidoso Public Library. The November Advisory Committee meeting will be held on November 29th due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Please check our website: www.HighMountainYouth.org to verify date and time of the next Advisory Committee meeting.

Questions regarding upcoming meetings may be directed to our email: info@HighMountainYouth.org.



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