



High Mountain Youth Project NEWSLETTER

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LINCOLN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

www.highmountainyouth.org

May 2018

A Special "Thank You" to all of Our Generous Donors!

*In case you missed the notice in
our February newsletter, our
Donors will no longer be listed in
our newsletter to protect their
identity.*

2nd Annual Great High Mountain Bed Race

Plans are being finalized for the 2nd Annual Great High Mountain Bed Race and Green Chile Cook-off, that will take place on Saturday, June 2nd. Although the bed race is just around the corner, there's still time to sign up your team and enter a bed in this exciting and competitive event!

Once again, Luther Light agreed to hold two "bed building" workshops at the horse stalls behind the Ruidoso Animal Clinic, 160

Sudderth Drive. The first workshop was held on May 5th, a second workshop is scheduled for Sunday, May 20th, from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. To reserve a space at the May 20th workshop, RSVP by email to: highmountainbedrace@gmail.com. For additional information, to sign up to enter a bed or purchase tickets for food and games online go to www.highmountainyouth.org.



Heber "Freshboyz" Ramos' bed and team (pictured above) won the timed event with a time of 5:11.09 minutes at last year's Bed Race.

Schedule of events:

A "Parade of Beds" will form on Eagle Drive and Sudderth Drive in mid-town, Ruidoso on Saturday morning, June 2nd. The parade of decorated beds (with teams in costume) will begin at 10:00 a.m., and head west on Sudderth to Grindstone Canyon Road. The Bed Race will begin at 10:30 a.m. starting at Grindstone Canyon Road and Sudderth, heading east and turning right on Center Street. The race ends single-file at Carson's Playground parking lot at Wingfield Park. The half-mile course along Sudderth and up Center Drive is harder than it looks, and as Event Chairperson, Pam Tomlin was quoted as saying (last year): "it's all down hill.....until it's NOT!" Last year, thirteen beds rolled up Sudderth Drive for the parade spectacle that preceded the 1st Annual Great High Mountain Bed Race. Ms. Tomlin hopes to increase the number of entries this year! The Green Chile Cook-Off and Games for all ages will take place at Wingfield Park from 11:00 – 1:00 when winners for the Bed Race will be announced. So far, ten restaurants have signed up for the Green Chile Cook-Off – each "contestant" will set up a tent and provide 250 samples. Police Chief Hooker, Fire Chief Thetford, and Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Becky Brooks will serve as this year's judges. There will also be a "People's Choice Award" based on votes from individuals tasting the samples.

Although it is because of all of the volunteers who not only make this event possible, but also make it SPECTACULAR, we cannot give each of them credit by name due to space allowance in our newsletter. However, HMYP does want to take this opportunity to thank each and every person who is helping in some small (or large) way. And a special thank you goes to HMYP Board member and Event Chairperson, Pam Tomlin who has spent many, many hours on this event again this year, and to the Pavelkas, who are owner-operators of Pavelka's Sleep & Comfort in Ruidoso, and who are providing new, twin-sized mattresses to every bona fide race entrant; the Pavelkas will also be serving as Grand Marshals for the Bed Race Parade.

This year's activities at Wingfield Park will be expanded to include a Silent Auction Tent, Pine Top Car Club exhibition of vintage cars and ten "Bouncy Houses" for all the energetic youngsters who join the festivities. This year there will be more food tents with a variety of foods to please everyone's taste buds. The "Green Chile Cook-Off" will return with local restaurants vying for coveted recognition as the winner of the Cook-Off.

The High Mountain Youth Project hopes that the "Great High Mountain Bed Race and Green Chile Cook-Off" will become its signature event to raise funds for operating its Evening Drop-in Center (that

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opened in February) and for its future overnight shelter for teens experiencing homelessness. Sponsors for the Bed Race teams and donations for the Drop-in Center are greatly appreciated! Visit: www.highmountainyouth.org to learn more about how you can help.

High Mountain Youth Project Open House

An Open House was held on March 4th to showcase the newly opened Evening Drop-in Center located at Jira Plaza #14, 700 Mechem Drive, Ruidoso. Board members and volunteers gave tours of the facility to between 70 – 80 guests during the open house. The public as well as friends and supporters of the High Mountain Youth Project were given a tour of the facility together with information on how the different areas of the Center are used. Anyone who was unable to tour the facility during the March open house is invited to contact any board member if they are still interested in touring the Center.

Evening Drop-in Center Update:

The High Mountain Youth Project Drop-in Center opened its doors on February 8th, 2018; to date, twelve individual students have been served at the Center. The center is open daily from 4 - 9 p.m. and students who come by the Center look forward to snacks, an evening meal, a place to do laundry or shower and a quiet place to study or relax with trained, caring adults.

The organization still needs volunteers to help out at the Evening Drop-in Center. Current volunteers continue to do an outstanding job at the Center by donating their time and energy to supervise and tutor students and prepare evening meals. With summer months upon us, additional volunteers are needed while many of our volunteers vacation or travel. Anyone interested in volunteering to work directly with the students as a “Youth Worker”, driver or tutor, needs to pass an FBI Background check; for more information on this requirement, please send an email to: rita@combsdesign.com and identify how you would like to volunteer. Volunteers are also needed to shop for food, snacks and facility needs as well as prepare and drop off evening meals – this type of volunteer work does NOT require a background check.

Americorp NCCC Youth Volunteer at Evening Drop-in Center

Americorp National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) is a national service for young adults aged 18 – 24 who want to give back to their communities while earning credit toward college or vocational education. Twenty-two NCCC youth arrived at Ft. Stanton in Mid-April to build trails at the historical site as well as participate in other community service projects within Lincoln County. They began volunteering at the HMYP Evening Drop-in Center as youth workers for extra credit within their program. Pictured at right, one of the NCCC youth is giving a guitar lesson to HMYP students.



“A Home for Teens” Quilt Returns to HMYP

A quilt donated to HMYP by “A Quilting Stitchuation’s” Stash Sisters was raffled off last year at the 1st Annual “Great High Mountain Bed Race”. The quilt raffle helped raise funds to support the High Mountain Youth Project Drop-in Center that opened a few months later. The winning raffle ticket, purchased by Mr. David Northington, was drawn at last year’s festivities after the 1st Annual Great High Mountain Bed Race. Pat and David Northington recently offered to donate the quilt to High Mountain Youth Project to hang at the Drop-in Center. The quilt serves as a visual reminder that all youth deserve a safe, healthy and comfortable home in which to live.



Pat and David Northington and granddaughter Kayleigh Rhodes (on the right) present “A Home for Teens” quilt to HMYP Board President, Laurie Benavides.

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HMYP Welcomes Deanna Oberheu to Board of Directors

At the March 6th Board of Directors' meeting, Deanna Oberheu was approved to fill the position of Treasurer on the Board of Directors for High Mountain Youth Project. Deanna is currently a science teacher at Ruidoso High School after relocating to Ruidoso approximately two years ago with husband Todd and sons Grant and Ty. The board appreciates the manner in which Deanna has already stepped up to fill this position.

Behind the Scenes:

Training for volunteers has been on-going during the past months since the Evening Drop-in Center opened, including training for new Youth Workers, "Boundaries and Ethics" training for current volunteers and "Food Handlers" training for volunteers who prepare or donate snacks and evening meals. Additional training has been scheduled for new and current volunteers and staff members.



Beth Rabourn, pictured above at right, speaks to a group of volunteers who donate food and/or prepare meals

Children and Youth Summit:

The South Central Mountain Children and Youth Summit brings together children, youth, families, civic organizations and government agencies to create an intergenerational network of support for children, youth and families. The summit focuses on the needs of people in Lincoln and Otero Counties. This year's summit will be held on August 7, 2018 at the Inn of the Mountain Gods. The Summit is free and a free lunch will be provided.

Last year, individuals and groups from Lincoln County, Otero County, and Mescalero attended the summit; they represented youth, families, Non-Profit civic organizations, churches, and government agencies. The participants identified five areas of highest need in our community:

- Strengthening families,
- Preventing and treating substance abuse,
- Improving educational outcomes and opportunities,
- Mitigating the effects of poverty, and
- Improving access to services.

For additional information, please contact Pauline Staski at: pauline.staski@gmail.com

VOLKSSPORT Planned for August 18th at Ft. Stanton

Plans are underway for a "Volksmarch" to be held on August 18th at Fort Stanton. The American Volkssport Association (AVA) is dedicated to promoting regular physical fitness activity for Americans as an essential component of overall good health. Walking – also called "volksmarching" – is the most popular of all the volkssporting activities. There will be two walking trails offered, approximately 10KM (6.2 miles) and 5KM (3.1 miles). The event is an AVA sanctioned walk and fundraiser for High Mountain Youth Project. The cost to participate is \$20 per person. Everyone is encouraged to participate and sign up can take place the morning of the event at Fort Stanton. Volunteers are needed for various duties at the walk – contact Pam Tomlin at: pamtomlinmhc@yahoo.com to volunteer. Look for additional information in our August newsletter.

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 the address above, or visit HMYP's 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 the website.

The High Mountain Youth Project Advisory Committee meetings are normally held the fourth Wednesday of each month. 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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