

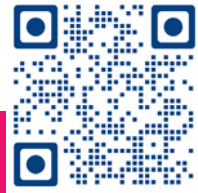
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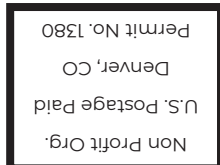
THE DENVER POST  
*Season to* **SHARE**

## Thank you to the 25th Annual Save Our Youth Golf Tournament sponsors!



Scan the QR code to hear our new Spotify playlists of encouraging songs for our Matches!

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Save Our Youth  
3443 W. 23rd Ave.  
Denver, CO 80211



January 2024

# The Good News

A Quarterly Newsletter for Friends of Save Our Youth

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3443 West 23rd Ave.  
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[www.saveouryouth.org](http://www.saveouryouth.org)

**We connect young people to hope through long-term mentoring relationships.**

“Happy New Year!”—The subjective phrase that can either stir up feelings of excitement for what lies ahead, or thoughts of self-doubt because “happy” isn’t exactly the word that you’d choose to describe how you feel about entering a new year. I don’t know about you, but 2023 was an extremely tough season for me, if not one of the toughest I’ve experienced. Amid the joys that came along with joining Save Our Youth as a mentor and staff member (Marketing and Events Coordinator), on top of becoming pregnant with my first child (who should be born any day now!), there were more lows than I can count. My father passed away suddenly in October and I was diagnosed with Hyperemesis Gravidarum (a debilitating and sometimes life-threatening pregnancy sickness), and more unforeseen events that I won’t bore you with the details of.

Simply getting out of bed seemed like the tallest mountain to climb and talking to my mentee about holding onto hope, while I often felt hopeless myself, made me feel like I was lying through my teeth. I know that God is the source of my hope, and He alone restores me...But there were days—days when no matter how hard I looked, I just couldn’t find the light at the end of the tunnel. However, I can confidently say that God brought me to Save Our Youth at the perfect time because even though it has been extremely hard to function through the lens of my current sickness, this organization stands as a constant reminder to me that even when it doesn’t feel like it, there is always hope.

I come from a background working in the Los Angeles music industry, and providing hope was the last thing on anyone’s mind. Here at Save Our Youth, not only is this community working to share the good news of hope with youth, but they are encouraging us as staff members to do the hard work of understanding what hope means on a practical and applicational level. How can we share it with the kids if we don’t know what it is ourselves? As a result, we’re currently reading the book *Hope Rising* together as a staff, and it poses that the definition of hope is “The belief that your future can be brighter and better than your past, and that you actually have a role to play in making it better.”

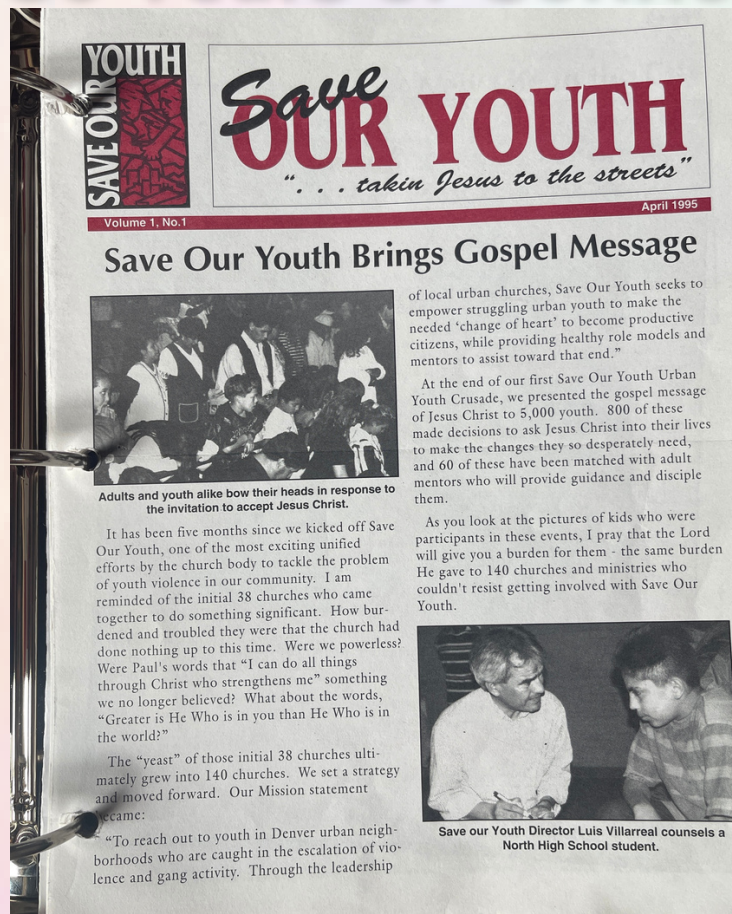
The first part sounds great, but the part that got me was the idea that we actually have a role to play in making it better. It’s easy to say, “I have hope” but it takes work to say, “I am choosing hope every single day even when I can’t see it.” That’s the tough part that we are not only working to share with our mentors and mentees, but to grasp on a personal level.

As Save Our Youth enters its 30th anniversary year in 2024, we’ve settled on “illuminate” as our anniversary theme because no matter how dark it gets, hope is always present; it just takes work to uncover, or rather, shine a light on what is not easily visible. However you may be feeling about entering 2024, it is my prayer that we may collectively *choose* and *share* more stories of hope in the year to come!

Alyssa Bryant  
Marketing & Events Coordinator



# 30 Years of Connecting Youth to Hope



Here's a snippet from the very **first** edition of the "Save Our Youth" Newsletter! Although times have changed, we are still focused on sharing the Gospel with as many youths as possible. For us, it's impossible to talk about hope without talking about the One who gives it!

As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of Save Our Youth in 2024, we'll be sharing some blasts from the past, as well as vision for the future! Stay tuned.

# Mentee Waitlists

Denver  
80223



**Hello, I'm  
GSC**

Girl. Age: 14

**A little about me:**

I want a mentor because I want to have someone to talk to about my anxiety and not feel so alone in it.

For fun, I like to paint and dance.

As we continue to learn about how we can better serve our youth, one of the things we are aiming to focus on in 2024 is not only caring for the individuals within our program, but the kids who are currently on the waitlist for a mentor. Each of them has shared with us some of the reasons why they want a mentor, and it's important for us to share their heart with potential matches. If you're interested in passing out some of these info cards at your local church or community to help us find mentors to pair with one of the 64 kids on our waitlist, please reach out to [maria@saveouryouth.org](mailto:maria@saveouryouth.org).

# Welcome to Candy Cane Lane!

We had a great time celebrating Christmas with our matches at our December 9th "Candy Cane Lane" party! Many volunteers came together to make the event special for the kids and we're so grateful to Altitude Church for lending us their space; Colorado Community Church for providing the worship music/message; Stormtech for providing our mentees with winter jackets; and so many more incredible vendors for their support.



# SAVE THE DATE FOR ILLUMINATE

As we approach "ILLUMINATE," our 30th Anniversary Celebration on October 12th, 2024 at DaVita Headquarters in Downtown Denver, our prayer is that we may not only help to increase hope within the lives of the youth we serve, but that everyone who comes into contact with our program may experience the power of choosing the hope that the Lord gives.

"Living a hope-centered life is not simple or easy. It takes work. It takes honesty too. Each of us grew up with trauma and abuse...But we are moving beyond the shame and blame we could swim in every day, and choosing hope. Once you choose hope, then we must keep choosing it every day." - Hope Rising, Casey Gwinn

