

2025-2026 MID YEAR UPDATE



OUR MISSION

At Hands4Hope - Youth Making A Difference, our mission is to inspire and empower youth in leadership and service. We do this by giving youth a platform to make their voices heard on issues affecting our community and providing them the opportunity to take action in their own way.



HIGHLIGHTS

At the midpoint of the 2025-26 program year, Hands4Hope - Youth Making A Difference has seen steadfast youth participation in all areas of program activity. Many on-campus clubs are full, and some have participation increases up to 15 percent. After-school committees implemented successful service-learning projects while gaining valuable skills along the way. Hands4Hope participants helped serve 7,903 meals, representing a 43 percent increase compared to last year, and expanded access to nutritious meals for community members in need.

I love sharing my smile and seeing other people smile, whether its pouring them a cup of coffee or helping them pick out items in the grocery section. Seeing them smile even the tiniest bit truly makes my day.

*Ashna Vaikunthan,
Hands4Hope Youth Outreach Participant*

ENCOURAGING & EMPOWERING

This year, Hands4Hope empowered 40 youth to lead with purpose, compassion, and confidence. Through hands-on service-learning leadership development camp, youth learned how to address real community needs while building skills that will last a lifetime. Participants reported they strengthened their leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving abilities, gained a deeper understanding of civic responsibility, and discovered the power of youth-driven change.



"I learned how to communicate more confidently and step up as a leader, even when I was nervous." - Hands4Hope Leadership Participant

EDUCATION & COMMUNITY

JUNE THROUGH DECEMBER 2025

EDUCATION PROGRAM



5,698

Service hours completed by youth participants, including outreach opportunities



40

Youth who attended leadership camp



20

Youth who attended the financial literacy and interview skills workshop



200

People served through Hands4Hope Emergency Food Pantry



18,328 (\$66,800 value)

School supplies, including 700 backpacks, collected and distributed to 665 students and additional partner agencies



5,924 (\$48,750 value)

Items collected & distributed through the Winter Boutique to 367 individuals, and 4 additional partner agencies

OUTREACH PROGRAM



820

Volunteer opportunities filled



45

No-sew blankets created and given to economically disadvantaged families



189

Mentoring sessions completed through autism therapy agency partnership, delivering 149 hours of peer-led support



243

Unduplicated outreach program participants (148 youth & 95 adults)



300

Crafts, cards, desserts, and gift bags distributed to veterans, economically disadvantaged seniors, and women



7,903

Meals served (43% increase over last year)

GROWTH THROUGH COMMUNITY

Placerville

Placerville area on-campus clubs include 93 youth, with 22 serving in leadership roles; both of these numbers reflecting increases over previous years. For the fifth year in a row, Placerville Clubs welcomed youth from all Hands4Hope program areas to participate in the Hangtown Christmas Parade, uniting 27 Hands4Hope youth in a shared celebration, building community, collaboration, and civic pride. Two monthly outreach opportunities continue with an additional five annual opportunities, including Hands4Hope's most engaged outreach offering, Green Valley Community Church's Common Ground program. Youth served more than 230 hours there since June 1, demonstrating sustained commitment to addressing food insecurity.



El Dorado Hills / Shingle Springs Area

Most El Dorado Hills on-campus clubs are full with waiting lists, and include 133 participants and 19 leaders. To raise funds to support their current service-learning projects, Oak Ridge Empower and Inspire joined forces and partnered with the El Dorado Hills Town Center to host the costume contest during their Spooktacular event on Halloween. Shingle Springs area clubs include 49 participants and 13 leaders.



South Lake Tahoe Coming Soon!

Hands4Hope programs are coming to South Lake Tahoe in Spring 2026! Visit hands4hopeyouth.org/SLT for more information.