This program has really helped me with getting out of my comfort zone and has given me opportunities to get out into the community and directly impact some of the issues that I think are really important.

-Sarahi Lopez, EDHS sophomore and Hands4Hope Club Treasurer and PR Coordinator

The Placerville Youth Center is a key facility for youth engagement, development, and skill building. Designed for middle and high school youth, it provides a welcoming space where youth can gather, create and implement their service learning projects. Plans are underway to renovate an additional 2,000 square feet to provide improved space for the Emergency Food Pantry, and ASPIRE Outfitters youth boutique, plus meeting space for all the various youth support organizations and Hands4Hope club activities.

The Placerville Expansion Project was kicked off by the Heritage Singers holiday benefit concert, raising $22,000. The expansion project is a collaboration between Dr. Reginald Rice, the building owner and Leonard Grado, CEO of Grado Construction. It is expected to be completed by the end of 2023.

“I value this project improvement as creating increased access for Placerville youth in need!”
-Dr. Reginald Rice

“Today, more than ever, it’s important that our youth realize that having an attitude of service and a strong and healthy work ethic are the keys to a fulfilled life.”
-Leonard Grado of Grado Construction, Inc

Programs Organized and Run Through The Placerville Hands4Hope Youth Center

School Supply Sorting for Distribution Events: 20,000 items, including 675 backpacks were organized for distribution to students in need.

Emergency Food Pantry: Families can now shop at the Placerville Youth Center on distribution days and choose items they need most and like to eat.

ASPIRE Outfitters: Opened a shoe room filled with a wide variety of styles and sizes!
“Action!” Hands4Hope Clubs Set To Launch Service Projects

In the Placerville area, 71 youth participants and 16 youth leaders from 4 schools have planned service-learning projects and are set to implement them:

**Herbert Green Middle** voted to benefit Animal Outreach of the Mother Lode. They are planning Operation Outreach which will include a coin contest, art contest, on-campus drive thru fundraiser and an online fundraising campaign.

**Markham Middle** is planning Dollars4Dogs to benefit El Dorado County German Shepherd Rescue. Club participants are currently seeking approval to host a fundraiser on campus for students to have the ability to purchase classroom privileges. They also plan to launch an online fundraising component.

**El Dorado High** is focusing on support for the unhoused. The Club is planning Valley’s Future, which includes a Neighborhood Dash and a drive at local businesses to collect much needed items to support Green Valley Community Church’s outreach program.

**Union Mine High** chose to support The Center. In December, Club participants “adopted” a family in need through The Center and provided them 45 new items worth $625. The youth are also planning Stacks4Snacks with a goal of raising $1,000 for The Center's snack pantry. Their projects include a coin competition, an on-campus drive thru funds collection, and an online fundraising component.

2022 Hangtown Christmas Parade: Youth from four Placerville schools added holiday notes to 3,000 pieces of candy and passed them out to promote awareness of Hands4Hope - Youth Making A Difference in the Greater Placerville Area.