



## THE TEEN PROJECT FACT SHEET

### **The Teen Project Purpose:**

**THE TEEN PROJECT is the vision of one woman, Lauri Burns, who dedicates her life to helping homeless teens across the country. Her passion comes from her own painful experience of transitioning out of foster care at the age of 18 and being faced with the challenges of providing for herself without a path, money, support of a family, or a place to sleep.** Just like most teens who “age out” of foster care, Lauri became homeless, pregnant and turned to drugs and prostitution to make ends meet. After finding peace and sobriety in a recovery home at the age of 23, she has raised 32 teenage foster children in her personal home, launched The Teen Project in 2007 and now provides shelter and support for hundreds of children aging out of the foster care system who are in need.

### **The Teen Project Fashion Show Benefit Orange County Chapter**

**The Teen Project receives no federal or state funding and relies entirely on donations. In 2013, Event co-chairs Deborah Keillor and Jennifer Blanchfield began the Teen Project Fashion Show Benefit to raise money for The Teen Project and their programs. The Teen Project Fashion Show Benefit has generated over \$180,000 in fundraising revenue over the last two years through its fashion show event and donations; all of which went directly to the organization’s Orange County home to provide housing, food, clothing, education and transportation to local teens who aged out of the foster care system. The 2016 event will be held at The Westin South Coast Plaza on Saturday, May 7, 2016. The event will feature key-note speaker Quinton Aaron who played Michael Oher alongside Sandra Bulluck and Tim McGraw in the *Blind Side*, a fashion show sponsored by South Coast Plaza featuring the committee teens and apparel from Saks Fifth Avenue, DKNY, Intermix, Joe’s Jeans, AG Adriano Goldschmied, Ted Baker, Nike, Scotch & Soda and more, a sit-down dinner, opportunity drawing and more.**

### **PROGRAMS:**

#### **College House**

**A 5-bedroom house in Lake Forest, CA for young women, (18-24 years old) who have “aged out” of the foster care system and are homeless or disadvantaged. The College House houses 5-6 young women at a time and provides room and board, college support, paid job internships, a savings program, an automobile obtainment program and independent living education. The young women stay for about two years, paying \$200 a month in rent that goes in to a savings account. The money is returned to them when they leave. Each of the young women have their own room in a beautiful neighborhood with a live-in house mom who provides a real family environment.**

### **The PAD Drop in Center**

**The PAD (Protection and Direction) is a center in Windward Avenue in the heart of Venice Beach and is a shelter for homeless youth who come from all over the United States. The mission of The PAD is to move youth from the streets to safe housing, education and job obtainment quickly. Each youth entering the PAD is assessed and goals are set to return to family or locate a suitable housing alternative to meet their specific needs and get them back on track. The PAD provides housing to 45-60 youth per year since arriving in Venice Beach in 2012.**

### **The Teen Project's Freehab**

The Teen Project's Freehab is the ONLY free drug treatment center that is dedicated to homeless young women in Los Angeles. It is also the only program that provides treatment and educational training on one unique site. As with all of The Teen Project programs, the kids are provided with beautiful living arrangements.

Freehab provides young women exiting foster care, sex trafficking and homelessness with everything our founder, Lauri Burns received 28 years ago (when she was homeless and prostituted) to turn her life around. Freehab is a fully licensed treatment center with a vocational school onsite, providing California's most vulnerable youth with a one-stop shop for a life transformation. The program is one-year long with 90 days of intensive treatment, 90 days of vocational training and 6-months of vocational training and job obtainment. The end goal is to transition the young women to permanent housing with a life sustaining career. The core of the training is focused on technology (web development and design) although other career paths are offered in the fields of machining, medical billing, culinary arts and many additional trades.

### **National Text Shelter Service**

**Youth can text SHELTER and their ZIP code (SHELTER 90210) to the phone number 99000 from anywhere in the nation and receive a response with a local shelter**