

— August 2025 —

# Monthly Newsletter

Youth Options Shasta



## PEER COURT RECRUITMENT EVENT

### Rising Leaders: Peer Court Kicks Off the School Year



On August 27th, Youth Options Shasta welcomed students and families to our downtown office for the annual Peer Court Recruitment Event. It was an evening filled with energy, connection, and excitement for the year ahead.

Youth in grades 8–12 learned how they can serve as jurors, clerks, bailiffs, and advocates in our restorative justice program. With pizza, raffle prizes, and a chance to bring a friend for extra entries, the event created both a fun and meaningful space to connect.

We were honored to be joined by Judge Wood and Sarah Murphy from the District Attorney's Office, who shared their support and encouragement for youth stepping into these roles. Families also saw firsthand how Peer Court helps students build leadership, accountability, and teamwork skills in a real courtroom setting.

This event marked the relaunch of Peer Court for the 2025–26 school year, and we're excited to see the impact our new volunteers will make!

## EXPANDING ACCESS:

### Peer Court in Redding, Anderson & Shasta Lake

In years past, Peer Court was held exclusively in Redding at the Superior Courthouse. Beginning this year, sessions will be hosted in the City Council Chambers of Redding, Anderson, and Shasta Lake.

This expansion opens new doors for students and families across Shasta County to participate, bringing Peer Court closer to home and strengthening community connection.



## YOUTH ACTION COUNCIL:

### New Members Leading the Way

In August, we launched a new Youth Action Council (YAC).

These student leaders will support Peer Court conferences, mentor peers, and share input on how YOS can best serve youth.

YAC members who have been accepted into the Peer Advocate Leaders Internship also receive a stipend in recognition of their leadership commitment and the valuable time they give to our mission.

## PROGRAM SNAPSHOT:

### Continued Learning in August

**Safety First:** Our harm reduction education program continued this month, giving teens tools to make healthier choices and navigate real-life challenges with confidence.

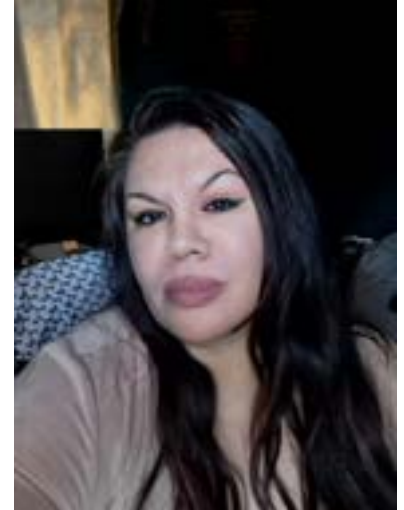
**Aggression Replacement Training (ART):** We paused classes in August to prepare for fall cohorts, launching Sept. 9 (guys) and Sept. 11 (girls). Updates coming next month!

# Welcome Our New Case Managers:

Felicia Ramirez & Blayke Curtis

This August, we welcomed two new Case Managers to the Youth Options Shasta team!

**Felicia Ramirez** holds a B.A. in Psychology and is bilingual, with years of experience supporting at-risk and foster youth in schools, probation, and community programs. She brings a wealth of expertise and a passion for restorative work that strengthens communities. Outside of work, Felicia enjoys the outdoors, making music, traveling, and spending time with her family.



**Blayke Curtis** first discovered his passion for restorative justice as a student at Eagle Rock School in Colorado. Today, he combines that experience with creative outlets like gardening, music, and outdoor education to help youth build healthy, purpose-driven lives. In his free time, he practices historic European martial arts and explores Northern California with his wife.



We're thrilled to have Felicia and Blayke on the team, supporting our youth!

**IMPACT  
MOMENTS**



"We are grateful for this program and all the support."

— YOS Parent

"Thank you to all the staff who took the time to understand where I came from."

— Student



## Financial News:

### Community Support in Action

This month, we are especially grateful to the Shasta Dam Kiwanis for their generous \$1,000 donation to Youth Options Shasta. Our Executive Director, Jennifer Coulter was honored to attend their recent meeting, share program updates, and receive their support in person.

This gift directly supports our mission of creating positive opportunities for youth in Shasta County – building leadership, encouraging healthy choices, and inspiring brighter futures.



We are thankful for community partners like the Kiwanis who invest in young people and the health of our community. Together, we are making a lasting impact.

## NEXT MONTH'S FOCUS: RESTORATIVE ROOTS

In September, we're turning our attention to the foundation of our work: restorative practices that nurture accountability, healing, and connection. Just as strong roots sustain a tree, restorative justice provides the grounding that helps youth grow into resilient leaders.

This fall, Peer Court officially relaunches with expanded sessions in Redding, Anderson, and Shasta Lake City, giving more students the chance to participate in restorative justice. Our new Youth Action Council also begins their leadership journey, helping guide YOS programs and amplify youth voices across the county.

We'll share stories that highlight how restorative approaches impact students, families, and the wider community. From classrooms to courtrooms, we believe these practices can transform not just individual lives, but the culture of our community.

As we step into this new season, we invite you to join us – to stay rooted in restoration, grounded in hope, and committed to growing stronger together.



### Connect with us online!



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