

# Monthly Newsletter

FEBRUARY

youthoptionsshasta.org

2025

## WHAT TIME IS IT?

# Peer Court Recruitment time!



REDDING, CA – Over 40 youth arrived around 5 PM, excited to connect and learn more about Peer Court. They mingled while enjoying pizza and snacks, and some played Jenga. To break the ice, we kicked off with a bingo-style game that encouraged them to interact and learn something about one another. Participants had to find someone who matched the descriptions in each bingo box for a chance to win a \$20 Dutch Bros gift card. The game was a hit, with many kids exclaiming, "This is so fun!"

Skyler introduced Peer Court, explaining its purpose and impact, and returning volunteers shared their experiences. Anyiah had a special opportunity to speak—she had gone through Peer Court as a respondent and later served on the jury. She shared how much she valued the experience and expressed her enthusiasm for continuing as a volunteer.

Following the presentation, attendees rotated through four interactive stations designed to give them hands-on insight into Peer Court. The event wrapped up around 7 PM, leaving a lasting impression. The energy in the room was positive, the youth were engaged and curious, and our volunteers were instrumental in making the evening a great success.

## Youth feedback

"Oh hello! I wasn't sure if this was your personal number or not because I got it off a website, this is Joscelin L., I don't know if you remember me because I took your anger management\drug and alcohol class about a year or two ago and just wanted to check in and tell you thank you, and that I'm 😊 for the classes I had with you and you really played a big role in helping me get over my substance abuse issues, that's all"



# Shasta County Unites for Youth Substance Use Prevention at Summit!

Redding, CA – February 10, 2025 – Community leaders, youth advocates, and stakeholders gathered at the Redding Teen Center on Monday for a powerful discussion on youth substance use prevention. The Community Opioid Response and Education (CORE) in partnership with the Youth Substance Use Youth Prevention Committee, brought together voices from across the region to strategize on how to effectively utilize upcoming opioid settlement funds for youth prevention efforts.

With a strong turnout both in person and via Zoom, the event fostered collaborative discussions on identifying gaps and barriers in prevention services. Attendees, including representatives from Youth Options Shasta, Raising Shasta, and other youth-serving organizations, emphasized the need for peer-led initiatives, restorative approaches, and expanded community support systems to combat substance use among local youth.

"The opioid crisis doesn't discriminate, and we must ensure that these funds are used in ways that truly support and uplift our youth," said Jennifer Coulter, Executive Director at Youth Options Shasta. "This is a chance to create lasting change."

Participants left the summit with a renewed commitment to developing impactful prevention strategies, ensuring that the available resources create real opportunities for Shasta County youth. Plans for continued discussions and next steps are already underway.



## Elevate Grant Feedback

Redding, CA – Youth Options Shasta recently received feedback on its Elevate Youth California grant application. With 392 applicants and 95 funded, competition was tough. Though not selected, we received positive feedback and plan to reapply.

Reviewers praised our organizational structure, experienced board, strong substance use prevention history, and clear funding plans. Our budget raised no concerns. Suggestions included adding details on peer-led activities and refining the project timeline.

A key takeaway was the staff's acknowledgment of word limits in the application. Looking ahead, the next RFP opens June 2025, with funding announcements expected by January 2026. We appreciate the Elevate Youth California team's insights and remain committed to strengthening our programs and application for future opportunities.

---

## The giving corner



Paramount, CA – Youth Options Shasta has received a generous \$750 grant from the ISEC Foundation in honor of Freya, Margot, and Dahlia, supporting the organization's ongoing efforts to prevent youth violence and provide restorative interventions for local youth.