

# Monthly Newsletter

MARCH

youthoptionsshasta.org

2025

## Youth Quest 2025



### Youth feedback

"I would like to share that I'm glad that I had a chance to come clean, rethink, share my feelings, learn how others could be feeling, how to express your emotions at the right time, how to plan out goals and succeed with them, and I learned lots of helpful things that taught me"-A.B.

### CDBG Presentation

Jennifer Coulter, presented with a youth as part of our application for funding through CDBG. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is a flexible program that provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs. Beginning in 1974, the CDBG program is one of the longest continuously run programs at HUD.

Sacramento- Youth Options Shasta partnered with Girls Inc. at Youth Quest, an annual event promoting youth advocacy in tobacco control. Participants met State Assemblywoman Heather Hardwick, sharing efforts for a tobacco-free California. The event featured advocacy training, a Capitol march, and legislative visits to discuss smoke-free policies. This annual event was sponsored by Shasta County Public Health and available to members of The Tobacco Education Coalition.

### Public Safety at Schools Summit

School and district administrators gathered for Public Safety Day, featuring expert-led sessions on bullying, trafficking, campus searches, restorative justice, child abduction, and school policies. Youth Options Shasta was invited to speak about Restorative Justice and educate the Educators regarding our programming.



# Youth Options Shasta Shines

Redding- Youth Options Shasta's very own Jas Shaw was featured in Enjoy Magazines March 2025 edition featuring "Leading Ladies". We are so proud of her shining and leading the way for powerful women in Shasta County. Check her out: <https://enjoymagazine.com/read-online/>

## Peer Court Juror wins State



REDDING, Calif. — Stella Hightower, a senior at Shasta High School in Redding, Calif., has emerged as a leading figure in the state's snowboarding scene after clinching first place in her division at the California Nevada Interscholastic Ski and Snowboard Federation. The competition occurred at the California and Nevada State Snowboarding Championships held at Sierra at Tahoe last week. Hightower, 17, is known for her aggressive riding style and fearless attitude, making her a dominant force throughout the season. Her recent victory has earned her a spot at the USASA National Championships in Colorado this April.

JAS SHAW

<b>OCCUPATION</b> Fire Prevention Specialist and Public Information Office for CAL FIRE Shasta Trinity Unit	<b>FAMILY</b> An amazing 25-year-old daughter who changed my life forever	<b>YEARS IN THE NORTH STATE</b> <div style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">20</div>	<b>FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT IN THE NORTH STATE AND WHY?</b> Trinity River—I love riding my Harley there, especially to The Straw House on the Trinity River. The scenic ride and peaceful riverside atmosphere make it the perfect spot to relax and enjoy lunch surrounded by nature.
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**How long have you lived in the North State?** I moved to the North State in 2005, relocating from Los Angeles County to a neighborhood near Whiskeytown Lake. The change was quite significant – going from the hustle and bustle of the city to the peaceful, scenic surroundings of the North State – but over time, I've really grown to appreciate the beauty and tranquility here. It's a place I now truly love.

**What's a memorable moment from your career?** Before joining CAL FIRE in 2018, I worked in public information during the Carr Fire, assisting community members at the Shasta County Fairgrounds base camp. Many were scared and upset, and as a burn survivor who lost everything in a fire, I understood their pain. In 2007, my 8-year-old daughter and I survived a devastating structure fire, allowing me to genuinely say, "I've been there." Now, with CAL FIRE's Fire Prevention Bureau, I continue using my experience to support others, share hope, and be part of a mission that truly matters.

**What's a fun fact about you that most people don't know?** I was a competitive figure skater when I was in elementary school.

**What's one thing on your bucket list that you haven't done yet?** To ice skate on a frozen pond.

18 | [www.enjoymagazine.com](http://www.enjoymagazine.com) MARCH 2025

## The giving corner



Redding, CA – Youth Options Shasta has received a generous \$2,500 grant from The Shasta Firefighters Burn and Benevolent Fund supporting Y.F.P.I.. The Shasta Firefighters Burn and Benevolent Fund provides crucial aid to first responders and their families in times of need. Together, we make a difference.

## Recent Board Appointment

On March 10, 2025, Jim Berry was sworn-in as a new member of the Shasta County Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board. The Mental Health, Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board (MHADAB) provides oversight and monitoring of local mental health and substance use disorder programs, advocates for affected community members, and advises the Board of Supervisors and HHSA leadership.