

Agency Spotlight: Woodland Youth Services

The Food Bank of Yolo County is proud to support more than 70 agencies that provide vital services to residents throughout our community. In recognition of our community partners, we will shine the spotlight on one of the agencies we support each month in hopes of raising awareness about the many organizations who work diligently to meet the needs of others. During the month of April, we're pleased to devote our Agency Spotlight to Woodland Youth Services (WYS) in Woodland, CA.

Established in July of 1985, Woodland Youth Services was created in response to Yolo County's need for help for teens. When first founded, WYS served both teenage boys and girls in crisis, but now focuses their efforts on treating and caring for adolescent boys who have been misplaced from their homes due to abuse, neglect, or abandonment.

Founder and Executive Director, Brenda Pate, explained that it takes a special kind of person who has the patience to help the clients at WYS. Often angry, depressed, and confused, the boys in the program are given nurturing place to live and thrive. Brenda and the wonderful WYS staff provide counseling, help with school, and oversee visits with family members or foster parents.

A huge success of the WYS facility is how obvious it is that the teens gain confidence while living there. They are quick to show off their clean rooms or basketball skills in the backyard and greet visitors with respect. All are at various stages in the program but are each given great care through case management, mental health services, and medical or dental care. "Aunt Brenda" or "Grandma Brenda" can't help but smile when she talks about past and current clients.

When asked if the organization had any consistent support, Brenda responded, "The Food Bank." She explained that the relationship WYS has with the Food Bank has been very helpful to their program. By providing access to food at a low cost, they are able to provide nutritious, wholesome meals for the boys.

Like any other agency, Woodland Youth Services can benefit from increased support from the community. For more information about how you can volunteer or make a donation, please contact them at (530) 666-7929 or brendapate@sbcglobal.net