

Intersections Luncheon

EXPLORING THE DESTIGMATIZATION OF ADDICTION & HOMELESSNESS

February 2024

Dear Friend,

We're so grateful for your support as a previous sponsor of Friendship Shelter's Intersections Luncheon! Plans are well underway for this year's event and we hope you'll join us once again.

This year's luncheon will be held on Wednesday, June 5 at 12:00 PM, at the beautiful and newly renovated Park Club in Costa Mesa. We're thrilled to welcome keynote speaker Tony Hoffman as we discuss the stigma that often accompanies individuals struggling with addiction and homelessness. Tony rose to acclaim after giving powerful Ted X Talk about his own experiences with drug addiction and homelessness that ultimately led him to prison, and his ultimate recovery that led him to the Olympics and the professional speaking circuit.

It's been reported that two thirds of all Americans have been touched by addiction -- either personally or through a friend or family member. Here in Orange County drug and alcohol related deaths are on the rise, specifically due to the opioid crisis. Addiction is an issue that can't be ignored, and eliminating the stigma that surrounds it will lead to more people seeking treatment and less related deaths in our community. We look forward to a fascinating discussion on how we can further this goal.

Author Johann Hari wrote that the opposite of addiction isn't sobriety, it's connection. Friendship Shelter's approach to ending homelessness is similar. Not only does their team of professionals help individuals experiencing homelessness move into permanent housing, but they create relationships built on trust to work with each tenant in their housing program indefinitely. Their goal is twofold: to end homelessness through permanent housing solutions, and to ensure that each client has the tools, resources -- and connection -- to remain safe and stable in their home for good.

The results speak for themselves. 98% of Friendship Shelter's clients retain their housing year after year. And over the last five years we've seen a 23% reduction in homelessness in south Orange County and a 60% decrease in unsheltered homelessness in Laguna Beach, where Friendship Shelter's outreach and shelter programs operate.

Thank you again for your generous support. Your commitment to finding permanent housing solutions for our most vulnerable neighbors fuels Friendship Shelter's ability to meet the changing needs of our community. We hope you'll consider a sponsorship of this year's Intersections Luncheon and are able to join us to learn more about how we can work together to tackle the most pressing issues of our time.

Sincerely,


Supervisor Lisa Bartlett


Teddie Ray


Cindy Shopoff

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SPONSORSHIP COMMITMENT FORM

YES! I/WE WILL SPONSOR THE LUNCHEON AT THE FOLLOWING LEVEL:

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YOUR RESPONSE BY APRIL 25 ENSURES INCLUSION IN THE INVITATION & PRINT MATERIALS.

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TAX ID#: 33-0219404. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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ABOUT KEYNOTE SPEAKER TONY HOFFMAN



During his senior year at Clovis High School, Tony was featured on the cover of BMXer Magazine, and was sponsored by Fox Racing, Spy Sunglasses, and Airwalk Shoes. On the surface Tony's path seemed destined for stardom. However, Tony experienced crippling anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideations. Tony's substance use began during his senior year leading to the deterioration of his mental health, and opioid addiction soon followed. Due to his misuse of Oxycontin and other drugs a life of addiction, crime, homelessness, and incarceration became his reality.

Since parolling prison in 2008, Tony has tirelessly worked towards achieving his goals and the dreams he'd set out for while incarcerated. He raced BMX professionally for several years and continued on to coach Brooke Crain to a 4th place finish at the Rio Olympic Games, accomplishing his dream of going to the Olympics. Today Tony is an author, an owner of pH Wellness drug and alcohol treatment facility, and one of the world's most requested mental health and substance use speakers.

ABOUT FRIENDSHIP SHELTER

Friendship Shelter's vision is to end homelessness, which creates healthier communities, resulting in healthier businesses, customers, employees, and local economies. For more than 35 years, Friendship Shelter has focused on studying, understanding, and transforming its approach to ending homelessness, and the results speak for themselves. 98% of their clients retain their housing year after year. And since 2019, our community has experienced a 23% reduction in homelessness in south Orange County and a 60% decrease in unsheltered homelessness in Laguna Beach, where Friendship Shelter's outreach and shelter programs operate. Friendship Shelter operates a full spectrum of services including outreach, shelter, housing navigation, financial assistance, and permanent housing with supportive services. For more information, and to connect with us, please visit our website and be sure to follow Friendship Shelter on social media.



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