

# Food Connects! Delivering Sandwiches and Resources to Combat Addiction

Jackie Long  
Founder & Executive Director  
Callie's Backyard Foundation

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# Callie's Backyard Foundation – History

- Founded in 2009
- Initial focus was creation of Sex Trafficking Task Force
- Broadened mission in 2015 to address the problems of sex trafficking, addiction, and youth homelessness among Colorado youth ages 18-27 years old.



# Addiction: Observations from the Street

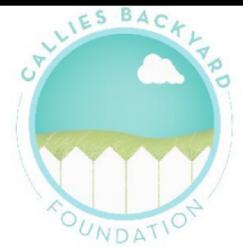
- Corraling of the youth – Commons Park and Cuernavaca Park – Developers encourage law enforcement to get them out of sight, no accountability for developers to help solve the issue
- Addiction perpetuates the cycle of homelessness and sex trafficking
- Marijuana isn't free – kids spend their money on drugs, the higher potency for cheaper the better
- Kids aren't connecting to the limited resources that exist
- 40 beds available when there are 3,000 kids in need
- Kids can't pass drug tests to get employment, even though employment is a key to getting kids off the street
- Even if they get employment, they can't afford housing



# Yes Marijuana is a “Gateway” ... Especially for Youth on the Streets

- Targets a vulnerable population. These kids are already dealing with major life issues & most likely to engage in “high risk” behaviors.
- Studies show decreased risk perception of recreational marijuana
- THC levels much higher than 10 years ago, can more easily translate to abuse.
- THC substances used by kids on the street are not recreational marijuana (“jail house gum”, “dabbing”, waxes)
- Dealer/“Runner” pressure – kids under 21 can’t buy legally, access dealers who are pushing other substances.





# 6 Huge Effects of Drugs in CO:

- Death
- Homelessness
- Lack of Employment
- Unaffordable housing
- Camping, cleanliness & disease
- Colleges – not reporting (only when “Criminal Charges Involved”)



# Marijuana Potency: Not Your Parent's Pot

- THC levels of marijuana have increased dramatically. Potency averaged about 3.8% THC in the early 1990s, according to the [National Institute on Drug Abuse](#).
- Colorado.gov reports that marijuana concentrates have increased to an average of 68.6% THC and concentrates more than doubled their market share in the state from 2014 to 2017.
- This market represents a \$1.5 BILLION dollar a year industry in Colorado alone



# Kids with Nowhere to Go



**Denver is a beautiful city, but things in our backyard aren't so pretty up close...**



# CO Addiction Statistics

- Opioid deaths in Colorado are on the rise. 530 people died from opioid related overdoses in 2016.
  - From 2012 to 2016, the number of heroin-related deaths increased from 91 to 234, and deaths related to synthetic opioids rose from 52 to 72.
- We know these deaths are underreported. Unless there is an investigation it does not have to be reported to the public when someone dies on the street or in college.
- Opioid prescriptions and related deaths are decreasing, but opioid related deaths are not. This may indicate that as prescription drugs become more restricted, people are seeking street drugs.
- Colorado is the only state that is a top consumer of marijuana, cocaine, non-medical opioids, and alcohol.





# How Did we Reach Youth? Food Connects!

- In 2016, purchased a van to deliver sandwiches and **Resource Cards** to homeless youth – Callie's Backyard Sandwich Van
- Allowed us to go where the youth were. Kids that are high cannot get to a brick & mortar location
- Partnership with Mission POSHible charity consignment, Michelle Livingston



**\$500** donation will buy **300** sandwiches for youth!





Resources

Callie's Backyard Foundation  
[www.CalliesBackyard.org](http://www.CalliesBackyard.org)

#### Food/Meals

Dry Bones Denver: Thurs dinner, 19th and Wewatta, 6:30pm

For additional meal times contact  
[www.drybonesdenver.org](http://www.drybonesdenver.org)

Sox Place: 2017 Lawrence St. (Noon - 4pm Tues-Fri, 11am - 2pm Sat). Hot meal, personal hygiene items, internet access  
(303) 296-3412

Urban Peak: 2100 Stout St. (M-W-F 9am-12pm), (303) 974-2928

Volunteers of America: 2877 Lawrence St. Meal times - 8am & 11:30am, dinner at 5pm M-Thurs. 12pm Fri, & 1pm Sun. Call for accuracy of meal times. Hygiene items, clothing, (303) 295-2165

Father Woody's: 1107 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, (7-10:30am, 11am-1pm M-F), (303) 607-0855

#### Overnight Shelter

Urban Peak: 1630 S. Acoma, Denver (age 15 - 20)  
(303) 974-2908

Attention Homes: 3080 Broadway, Boulder  
(303) 447-1207

#### Showers

Urban Peak: 2100 Stout St., (303) 974-2928

Father Woody's: 1107 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave, Denver

St. Francis: 2323 Curtis St., Denver (age 21 and up)  
(303) 297-1576

#### Bus Tokens

Urban Peak: 2100 Stout St, 8am – 11am M-F  
(303) 974-2928

St. Francis: Sign up opportunity for tokens. Medical or employment related. 8am – 3pm M-Th, (303) 297-1576

#### Human/Sex Trafficking – Tips and Assistance

CoNEHT: (866) 455-5075

Streets Hope: (303) 433-2712

#### Medical Care

Stout Street Clinic: 2100 Broadway, 7am – 4pm M,T, Th, F, 11am – 7pm W, (303) 293-2220

Denver Health: 777 Bannock St., corner of Speer Blvd.  
(303) 436-6000

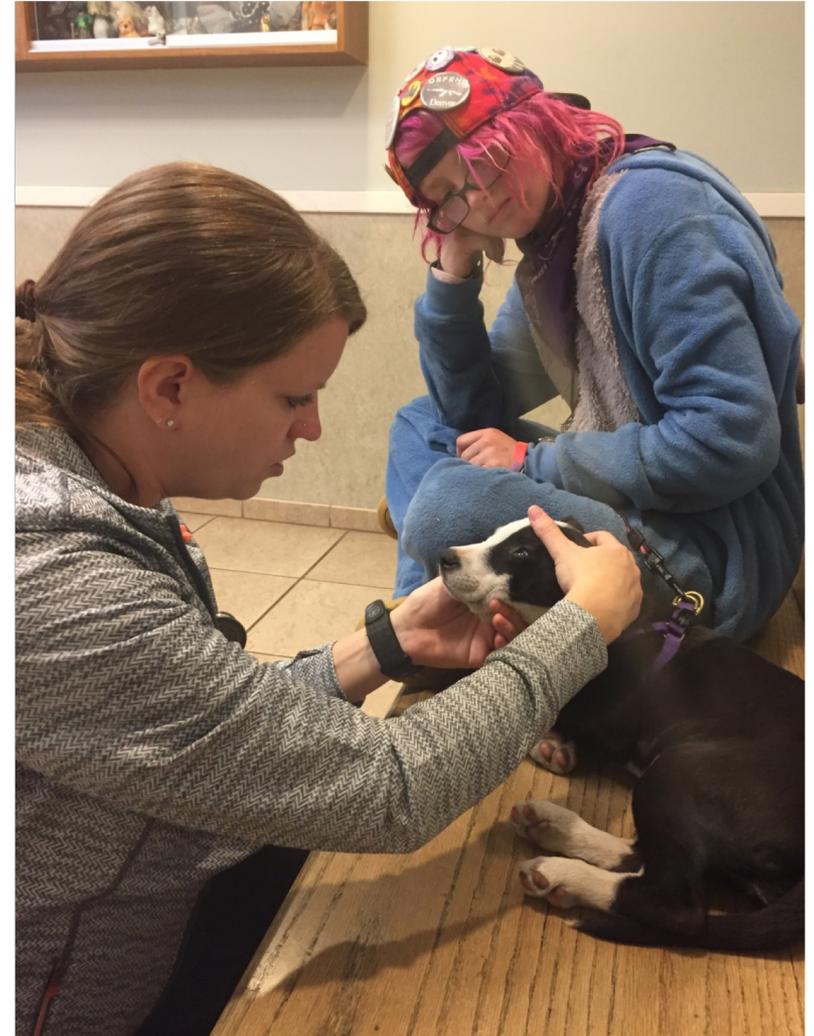
Emergencies Please Dial 911

# Food Connects!

- Delivered highly vetted Resource Cards along with each sandwich
- Food fosters a personal connection
- Pet resources especially successful in reaching out to youth



# Delivering Sandwiches, Connecting Youth to Resources



# Partnership with the DPD & FBI

- In 2017, partnered with DPD Officer Shanna Michael to do street outreach to victims of sex trafficking with the Callie's Backyard van (motel room to motel room)
- Program was so successful that DPD now utilizes sandwich/food outreach in their daily program



# Success Stories

- Isaac
- Joseph
- Shower placements
- 4 - Rehab packages
- DPD relationship - thrilled to have resource cards, using for every precinct
- Connecting volunteers to homeless youth: awareness hits home



# What's Next?

- Continue the work of Callie's Backyard to address sex trafficking, youth homelessness, and addiction
- Engage parents, community and law enforcement and educate about the success of food based outreach
- Support legislation that caps THC levels (ex: Amsterdam caps at 15%)
- **I took Action. So can you!**
  - This program can work anywhere! Encourage parents, community members, law enforcement, and government officials to coordinate outreach through food.



# Thanks to our Staff



**Nina Martinez, Director**



**Michelle Livingston, Assistant Director  
Owner, Mission POSHible**



# Thank You!

