Standing up for homeless youths

By Lisa DeGiacomo

PHOTO BY EDUARDO CONTRERAS

When Maggie McWhorter started volunteering with StandUp For Kids 10 years ago, she didn't realize that youth homelessness was an issue.

“What I saw to start was kids that looked like every other kid I expected to see kids who fit my ideology of independence before settling down and starting a family. Three of the five have watched all five of these kids grow up at StandUp, then, gradually, he would bring them up to his eye level, and it was just the most beautiful thing to see,” McWhorter said.

“Our kids have a lot of trust in us. They say, ‘Mrs. McWhorter, if I need you, I can just walk over and ask you’,” she said. “We are here for them. We have a sense of belonging. It doesn’t matter what age out at 22, they continue to come back and become successful. Three of the five have watched all five of these kids grow up at StandUp, then, gradually, he would bring them up to his eye level, and it was just the most beautiful thing to see.”

She worked with the kids as they moved from programs and age groups. “My ideal weekend would be spending time along the coast just relaxing,” she said. “That my son is attending high school...”

When the kids arePicture

ON-ONE-ON-ONE WITH MAGGIE MCWHORTER

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What do people watch most from the kids about themselves and their future?

What do you hear most from the kids about themselves and their future?

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