



PLANT THERAPY

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Plant Therapy donates \$10,000 to the Optimist Youth House in the Magic Valley

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Last week, Plant Therapy president Chris Jones donated \$10,000 to the Optimist Youth House, a home for “aged-out” foster care teens.

“Aging out” occurs when a minor in the foster care system turns 18, making them legal adults in the eyes of the law, and rendering them ineligible for help under the Child Protection Act. Currently, the Magic Valley has no place for these displaced teens, who continue to need support and guidance from our community in order to become successful, thriving adults.

“These kids still need our help.” Chris Jones stated. “This is a very high-risk population that often goes completely overlooked. Turning 18 does not mean these teens stop needing guidance, love, and support from those around them. We here at Plant Therapy are blessed to have the opportunity to contribute to such an important cause, right here in our own community.”

Optimist Youth House focuses on teaching these displaced teens independence and self-reliance, building skills they need to become functioning adults and contributing members of society. This includes providing safe, stable housing, training in important life skills, mentoring, continuing education, and help finding employment.

JEM Friends, a local organization with the vision that each child aging out of foster care will have opportunities to flourish in a society that understands their adversity, and supports them in becoming loving adults.

“I didn’t realize how much of a need there was in the Twin Falls and Boise area for this service. I think Plant Therapy’s support of this effort is truly admirable,” says Matt Bryant, Plant Therapy’s General Manager. “These organizations — Optimist Club, JEM Friends, and

specifically the Youth House — align well with our mission to help families and individuals lead healthy and happy lives.”

Ideally located only a few blocks from Magic Valley High School, the Optimist Youth house is perfect for the needs of the "aged-out" foster care teens. There are three floors, each with over 1,200 sq feet and with dedicated access. This allows the house to be split into two floors, one for young women, and one for young men, plus an additional common area. Each floor will be home to approximately 10 teens, for a total of up to 20 residents. Each teen is paired with a roommate to foster feelings of family, community, and pride in their home.

To date, 24 young men and women have aged out of foster care in the Magic Valley since January 1, 2015. Many of these teens have lived most of their childhood in a foster or group home. These young adults rarely have a driver's license, employment experience, or simple skills such as doing laundry or cooking. Optimist House and JEM friends are working tirelessly to change the trajectory of their lives.

For more information on JEM Friends and how you can get involved, please visit <http://www.jemfriends.org/>. To get involved with the Twin Falls Optimist Club, please visit <https://twinfallsoptimistclub.com/index.html>.

About Plant Therapy

Founded in 2011, Plant Therapy is a leading supplier of essential oils and accessories. Based in Twin Falls, Idaho, we provide the absolute highest-quality essential oils and are committed to educating our customers on their uses, safety and efficacy. Our products include organic essential oils, carrier oils, blends, KidSafe Synergies and pre-diluted roll-ons as well as accessories such as diffusers, books and natural body care. Find more information on our website: <http://www.planttherapy.com>.