Homeless NOT Hopeless

“Kids at my school don't know that I'm homeless. If people would find out, they'd make fun of me... I can't tell my friends, it's like keeping a secret” - 15 year old girl

This panel discussion will provide a glimpse into the lives of homeless youth as they share their stories of resilience and the services that helped them the most. Participants will learn about a partnership model between School District 2 and Tumbleweed. For the past 35 years, Tumbleweed has provided a safe environment for youth, where bonds can be formed, traumatic pasts can be confronted, and their promising lives can be realized. It is a safe place where homeless and at-risk youth can escape the streets. No matter how difficult the circumstances of their lives may be, no matter how many bad assumptions they've made about their chances of life, no matter how well they've been taught to rein in their dreams and narrow their aspirations, they have the right, and the potential, to expect to live rich and satisfying lives. It takes some time for them to adjust to that message and trust our faith in their potential, but once they do, the transformation is remarkable.

The panel of homeless youth will discuss a range of topics including, but not limited to, practices to effectively engage homeless youth, unique issues of homeless youth, and how to identify them. This panel discussion will be moderated by Sheri Boelter, Executive Director of Tumbleweed, who states “You will be impressed by the confidence, insight, optimism and foresight these youth display”.

You will be impressed by the confidence, insight, optimism and foresight these youth display.”