

The Colour of Hope at risk youth programs

What is The Colour of Hope? The Colour of Hope is a British registered charity, which supports disadvantaged youth and their children in Peru. What do we do?

The Colour of Hope runs a youth development and reintegration program for young adults who have been resident in children's homes and orphanages in Lima, Peru. A significant number of Peruvian children live in private and state-run orphanage homes. Most of them have previously been street children, abandoned by their parents at a young age, left as orphans or victims of family violence. They still bear the marks of extreme poverty, drug addiction and abuse. Once they grow up, they're forced to leave the orphanage, find work and start supporting themselves. Yet the troubles they've suffered, deficient family support and lack of financial resources make this almost impossible. Many end up right back where they started – living on the streets. And worse, a number turn to crime and substance abuse, ultimately winding up behind bars.

The Colour of Hope's mission is to support these marginalized and disadvantaged young people as they leave care, helping them to integrate into the community and to find dignified work. How does our at risk youth program work?

The Colour of Hope's at risk youth program aims to integrate these young people into society and into the working world, improving their level of income, state of health and education by:

- Providing temporary financial support for food, clothing, accommodation, toiletries and transport costs
 - Counselling young people in order to ease psychological difficulties, raise levels of self-esteem and motivation and give young parenting guidance
 - Offering capacity building activities and life-skills training, aiming to increase alcohol & drug awareness, promote community involvement, encourage responsible money management and improve relations with friends, family and partners
 - Organising recreational activities, such as sports and art & theatre workshops, in order to raise levels of confidence and strengthen friendships amongst the young people
 - Providing careers advice and vocational training, such as basic computer training and cookery classes, in order that the young people find dignified employment
 - Supplying small business training and microfinance funding for sustainable enterprises in order that those young people with little chance of finding employment may begin to generate their own income
- Want to get involved? Help at risk youth in Peru.