



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Wednesday, October 5, 2022

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San Antonio's Youth Action Board Founding Member Receives Statewide Award for Outstanding Community Service

SAN ANTONIO (October 5, 2022) – Kameron Rhys, founding member and the most recent President of San Antonio's [Youth Action Board \(YAB\)](#), was selected for Texas Homeless Network's (THN) Outstanding Community Service Award for 2022! Kameron was presented with the award at THN's Annual Conference on Ending Homelessness in Austin on Thursday, September 29th, 2022. Kameron and Katie Vela, Executive Director of the South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless (SARAH), acknowledged the award in an acceptance video that can be [viewed here](#).

Kameron has an incredible story and has overcome many personal challenges that he now shares with others to advocate for solutions to youth homelessness. Kameron spent time unsheltered in San Antonio before connecting with the Thrive Youth Center program at Haven for Hope.

It was during Kameron's time with Thrive that SARAH began forming a "Youth Action Board" of local youth 17-25 who had experienced homelessness. Kameron was a founding member of the YAB and took on the role of the group's president in 2019. The YAB advised and informed on a youth-specific grant with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to fund new programming and partnerships.

San Antonio was successfully awarded the \$6.88 million grant in 2019 and has utilized the dollars to fund youth-focused street outreach, transitional housing, rental assistance programs, and, most recently, the [YASS \(Young Adult Stability and Support\) Drop-in Center](#) to create a safe place for young adults to access critical resources.

Through his service with the YAB and fierce commitment to ending youth homelessness, Kameron was appointed to SARAH's Board of Directors in 2020. In addition to his advocacy and leadership roles, Kameron is a first-generation college student at the University of Texas at San Antonio. He is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Sociology with plans to obtain a master's in Sociology. He currently works for Corazon San Antonio, a local homeless service provider, as an intake coordinator for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in need of resources.

Kameron's unwavering dedication to continuous self-improvement and his passion for helping youth has been pivotal in our community's success in addressing youth and young adult homelessness. In the future, Kameron aspires to build on his leadership



Alliance to House Everyone

experience with the YAB by creating a non-profit organization focused on addressing the gaps and disparities in our current youth homelessness response system.

For further comments or interview requests, please get in touch with Billy Mahone, Senior Director of Strategic Planning & Partnerships, at 210-413-5513 or billymahone@sarahomeless.org.

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About SARAH: *The South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless (SARAH) exists to ensure everyone has a place to call home in San Antonio and Bexar County. As the region's Continuum of Care (CoC) lead agency, SARAH secures and distributes funding for direct service providers in the housing and homeless community and provides guidance to improve policies and programs. We accomplish our mission by strengthening our coordinated system of care, promoting sustainable strategies, focusing on measurable impact, and advocating for people experiencing homelessness. For more information, visit sarahomeless.org.*

South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless

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