



KENOSHA COUNTY YOUTH AS RESOURCES 2013 – 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

What is *Kenosha County Youth As Resources*?

Kenosha County Youth As Resources (YAR) is a grant-giving program which funds youth-designed, youth-led community service projects in Kenosha County. Youth, with guidance from adults, determine the project they believe will address a need in their community. Youth groups may apply to Kenosha County Youth As Resources for grants of up to \$500, which may be used to purchase supplies for their project, but may not be used to pay for volunteer time. The YAR Board reads all applications and invites youth groups to present their proposals directly to the board.

In 2013-14, YAR funded 15 projects disseminating \$5,770. All funds for YAR projects are derived from United Way contributions.

2013 – 2014 YAR Projects

Mahone Prairie **\$500.00**

Mahone 6th Grade River House
Science

To improve the water quality and wildlife habitat of the pond at the Mahone Prairie, youth from the Mahone Middle School designed and implemented a plan to remove the grass lawn in the prairie area and to replace it with native plants from the region. With help from the local community, the youth leading the project were able to initiate the process of weeding out all invasive species needed to re-naturalize the habitat around the pond.

In an effort to bring joy to others, youth from the Midwest Therapeutic Riding Program planned and hosted a Christmas party for children with special needs and their families. Families who have children with special needs often lack opportunities to attend a social family event. The event provided families the opportunity to participate in several fun activities such as making frosty doorstep craft, Christmas cookies, and homemade ice cream.

Christmas Project for Children with Special Needs **\$500.00**

Midwest Therapeutic Riding
Program



2013 – 2014 YAR Projects

Re-Threads Clothing Exchange Expansion

\$400.00

Wilmot High School

Many students lack the clothing necessary to stay warm during cold Wisconsin winters. In an effort to provide students with newer and warmer clothing for winter, youth from Wilmot Union High School worked together to expand their free clothing closet named Re-Threads Clothing Exchange. The program was moved to a larger facility to improve access for all students. Clothing was collected and distributed to students through a clothing exchange.

With this project, the members of the Bristol Challenge 4-H Cub set out to help the less fortunate families of Kenosha County by making and donating blankets for the winter, to those in need. Club members got together and worked on fleece tied blankets. One group of youth worked on cutting one inch strips, while another group, including adults and youth, helped with the process of tying the strips.

Tie Away the Cold

\$260.00

Bristol Challenge 4-H Club

Tye Blankets

\$250.00

Holy Cross Church

To help benefit the less fortunate in our community, youth from the Holy Cross Church made fleece blankets and collected coats and jackets. Youth cut, tied and assembled each blanket. Once completed, these youth coordinated with a variety of shelters whose employees distributed the blankets to those in need. Many people in Kenosha lack the items to stay warm during the winter. This project gave a little bit of warmth to people in need.

The Lakeview Chapter of Skills USA's service-learning project "Backpack Buddies for Education" aimed to help students in need from Kenosha County to get prepared for back to school. The youth group collected, purchased, and distributed 200 backpacks filled with school supplies to students whose families could not afford buying back to school supplies due to financial limitations. By distributing backpacks stuffed with these most needed supplies, the Lakeview Chapter of Skills USA youth group was able to make a significant contribution to the academic success of more than 200 students in Kenosha County.

Backpack Buddies for Education

\$500.00

Skills USA, Lakeview Chapter

United Way VITA Program Busy Bags

\$450.00

Mahone MP3

In an effort to teach Kenosha's youths some basic financial literacy, as well as to keep them busy while their parents got their taxes done by the VITA program, MP3 put together numerous bags of educational items. They distributed these bags to the children at the Kenosha Job Center's booth. This project benefited the citizens of Kenosha by allowing them to complete their taxes peacefully while their children were both entertained and educated.

2013 – 2014 YAR Projects

In order to enhance the educational offerings of the Pringle Nature Center, youth from Boy Scout Troop 583 worked together to build a stage at the Pringle Nature Center in Bristol Woods County Park. This Center can now use this stage to conduct educational, interpretive, and social events. This project has created a space in the Center where visitors can learn about nature while immersing themselves in the area's natural beauty.

Eagle Project Stage

\$500.00

Pringle Nature Center

Toys for Tots

\$400.00

Kenosha Christian Life School
Junior Honor Society

With the purpose of creating a joyful holiday experience for some of the less fortunate children of Kenosha County, the Kenosha Christian Life School's National Junior Honor Society, in collaboration with Toys for Tots, purchased and distributed gifts to several children in need in Kenosha. The project successfully accomplished its goal of making the holidays a bit brighter for the children of Kenosha.

In an effort to assist the homeless, the Kenosha Christian Life School's National Junior Honor Society held an event where they served a home-cooked dinner, interacted with the attendees, and handed out clothing items, toiletries, and more to homeless people in Kenosha. They also provided a place where the homeless could sleep for the evening. This project served to fulfill the needs of the less fortunate citizens of Kenosha.

Hope for the Homeless

\$300.00

Kenosha Christian Life School
Junior Honor Society

Ingram Park Handicap Accessible Fishing Deck

\$500.00

Boy Scout Troop 505

In an effort to provide the Handicapped community with the ability to experience a favorite pastime – fishing - members of Boy Scout Troop 505, built a handicap accessible fishing dock at Ingram Park in the city of Kenosha. The scouts, with the help of adults, bought all of the materials, built the dock, and made sure that it was compliant, not only with the Village of Pleasant Prairie codes, but also with the American Disability Act (ADA). This project serves to eliminate the restrictions placed on handicapped citizens by allowing them to partake in something that is fun for everyone.

To raise awareness of childhood cancer and provide for a safe and fun event, the Bradford Student Government Association put on a talent show. This organization's goal was to sell 300 tickets to spread awareness to a large group of Kenosha citizens. Bradford Student Government members ran the entire project from beginning to end. Some of their tasks included obtaining the permits needed and putting on auditions.

BSGA Talent Show

\$100.00

Bradford High School Student
Government Association

2013 – 2014 YAR PROJECTS

In an effort to create an outlet for a healthier, more active community, youth constructed a shade pavilion along the newly developed Prairie Farms Bike Trail in Pleasant Prairie. The youth were involved in the purchasing of all building materials and the construction, with some adult supervision to run the heavy machinery/tools. Many people in the surrounding communities will benefit from this project and the new trail.

Prairie Farms Bike Trail Shade Pavilion

\$300.00

Village of Pleasant Prairie

Girl Scout Bronze Award

\$310.00

Girl Scouts

To improve the eating habits and to provide healthy, fresh, homegrown fruit and vegetables to the many people that frequent the Shalom Center, the scouts in Girl Scout Troop 9137, built and assembled an outdoor garden. They planted an assortment of fruits and vegetables for the use of the Shalom Center. The Shalom Center now uses the homegrown food in their Soup Kitchen and hands out excess to the families in the community.

In an effort to create a special event that could bring joy to students with special needs, the students at Indian Trail High School, coordinated and hosted a “Prom” for these students. All the students in the CDS and STEP programs were invited to come, which included youth from all over the KUSD school district. All attending students were given crowns to celebrate their uniqueness during this special night.

CDS Prom

\$500.00

Indian Trail High School

Kenosha County Youth As Resources Program Statistics

Period	Number of Grants	Funds Distributed	Youth Participants
2013 - 2014	15	\$ 5,770	478
2005 - 2013	110	\$ 40,123	3881

Kenosha County Youth As Resources Board of Directors Service Projects

The Kenosha County Youth As Resources board members also feel that it is important to give back to Kenosha County through their own service projects. Twice a year the board conducts service projects focused on a specific need in Kenosha County.

Kenosha County Youth As Resources (YAR) Board partnered with the Midwest Therapeutic Riding Program (MTRP) for a service project on Sunday, December 8, 2013. YAR board members volunteered at MTRP’s Annual Christmas Party, which hosts an opportunity for riders along with their family & friends to attend an event designed specifically for children with special needs.



This event is very special to the families who attend, as it is tailored to fit the needs to the children. Kenosha County YAR board members helped MTRP make this event successful by assisting the guests in creating different craft projects. The YAR Board was able to provide a safe & fun environment for the families that attended.



In April YAR Board members assisted with spring clean-up of the planting beds at the Brookside Care Center.

THE LEONARD AND PATRICIA JOHNSON AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Leonard and Patricia Johnson dedicated their lives to service. Among his many roles, Leonard was a teacher, Kenosha County Board Member and Chairman, and founding member of the Kenosha County Youth As Resources Advisory Board. Patricia also served in many roles including providing leadership to several boards in Kenosha County including the Kenosha County Youth As Resources Endowment Committee.



The Leonard and Patricia Johnson Award for Community Service was created to recognize youth or a youth group that has made an outstanding contribution to Kenosha County through participation in the Kenosha County Youth As Resources program. The award focuses on these three key criteria: Leadership, Citizenship and Community Service.

The 2013 – 14 award winning project is the CDS Prom sponsored by youth from Indian Trail High School.

Kenosha County Youth As Resources Endowment Fund

The YAR Endowment Fund was created in 2008 in honor of Leonard Johnson, former Chairman of the Kenosha County Board of Supervisors and longtime County Board member who supported numerous UW-Extension youth programs. The Endowment Fund is designed to ensure the long-range sustainability of the Kenosha County Youth As Resources program as only the earnings of the fund will be used to support local youth-led service projects.

To contribute to the YAR Endowment - <http://www.kenoshafoundation.org/donate.html>

For more information about Kenosha County Youth As Resources contact:

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Kenosha County YAR is a program of Kenosha County UW-Extension in partnership with the United Way of Kenosha County. Youth As Resources does not discriminate against anyone for reasons of race, color, gender/sex, gender identity, creed, disability, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital or parental status, arrest or conviction.

Kenosha County Youth As Resources Board Members -- 2013 – 2014



Megan Aelich
Treasurer



Katie Carlson
Youth Board Member



Brandon Deacon
Secretary



Keely Dugan
President



Trevor Foster
Youth Board Member



Serena Jaros
Youth Board Member



Madeline Kilby
Youth Board Member



Spencer Wilker
Youth Board Member



Erin Decker
Adult Board Member



Alison Derifield
Adult Board Member



Bryan Feraric
Coordinator

