



Kenosha County YOUTH AS RESOURCES

2005-2006 ANNUAL REPORT

What is Youth As Resources?

Youth As Resources is an organization dedicated to promoting and facilitating youth-led activism in Kenosha County. The Youth As Resources Board of Directors is made up of youth and adults from Kenosha County who meet once a month to raise money, discuss community issues, provide grants to youth-led community service groups, and plan community improvement initiatives. Youth board members develop leadership and professional skills while receiving guidance from experienced adults.

The cornerstone of the YAR program is the idea that youth can make meaningful—not just symbolic—contributions to their communities, and that these contributions provide important opportunities for youth to grow professionally and personally.

Fall Service Projects Funded By Kenosha County YAR:

Outdoor Education Area
\$ 500.00
Bullen Middle School



When members of the Bullen Leadership Team (Bullen Middle School) realized that an unused piece of property on their school grounds would make an ideal location for an outdoor science laboratory, they decided to act on their creativity! Rather than leave things in the hands of parents and teachers, they organized an effort to transform the area from a weedy mess into an outdoor education area. The Bullen Leadership Team cleaned up the area, wrote a science lesson and activities for their fellow students, and re-introduced a variety of native plant species to the site.

Home is Where Your Heart Is
\$ 100.00
Roosevelt Elementary School



A 5th grade class from Roosevelt Elementary got to learn what it is like to be an immigrant in America, and shared their insights with other people in the city of Kenosha. The youth staged a play, wrote the scenes, cast the roles, designed props, and performed their play at two local elementary schools and a senior site. In addition to entertaining and educating their peers, the participants learned a great deal about immigration and will have opportunities to speak with seniors about their impressions and understanding of the immigrant experience.



Fall Service Projects Funded By Kenosha County YAR Continued:

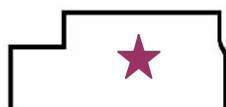
Christmas in Kenosha
\$ 100.00
Bristol Challenge 4-H



The winter months can be a lonely time for many people but it can be especially difficult for Kenosha's homebound elderly and disabled residents. This holiday season, the Bristol Challenge 4-H club learned about the problems associated with being homebound. They also provided a pick-me up for local homebound participants in the Meals On Wheels program by giving care packages to at least 70 homebound individuals this winter.

Spring Service Projects Funded By Kenosha County YAR:

Basic Book Shelf
\$ 400.00
Holy Rosary Youth Group



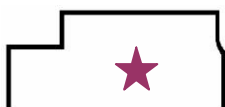
Initiated by the Holy Rosary Youth Group, this project was aimed at supporting local literacy efforts by partnering with five community literacy centers. With support from Youth As Resources, the Holy Rosary Youth Group purchased as many as 200 bilingual children's books from FirstBook Marketplace for distribution to low-income bilingual students in Kenosha County. In addition, the group also gathered a considerable collection of English-language books that they donated to local literacy sites. These sites include the Kenosha Literacy Council, Women's and Children's Horizons, the Shalom Center, Cops and Kids Reading Program, and the Spanish Center.

Camping for a Shelter
\$ 300.00
Urban Outreach Center



The Goodfella's, a youth group at the Urban Outreach Center (UOC), wanted to do something to help bring attention to the issue of homelessness. They decided on this subject because many Goodfella's members interact with homeless children and adults at the UOC daily. The Goodfella's built a shack city and camped outside overnight to raise awareness of the need for a homeless shelter in the county.

Bullying Prevention
Community Awareness
\$ 500.00
Bullen Middle School



Preventing Bullying is a hot topic at Bullen Middle School. The 84 person Student Bullying Prevention Committee organized this project with support from Youth As Resources to educate their classmates as well as students at other schools about how to prevent bullying in their community.

The students involved with this project attended workshops with a professional trainer to learn how to teach other students about bullying prevention. The students then took their skills on the road, leading skits and training activities at other schools. This program is aimed at expanding the kids' understandings of bullying (which includes all forms of harassment) and helping them develop confidence through strong public speaking and interpersonal skills.



Spring Service Projects Funded By Kenosha County YAR Continued:

**Making Connections between
Girls and Women**
\$ 500.00
Stocker Elementary School



A girl's self-esteem building group at Stocker Elementary school created a video promoting the importance of developing positive relationships between young people and senior citizens as well as targeting young girls for the development of positive self-esteem and leadership skills. Each girl was partnered with one senior woman at a local eldercare center. Each girl learned about the history of their senior partner and the importance of connecting the intergenerational gap.

4-H Foster Care Bags
\$ 300.00
Bristol Strivers 4-H Club



Bristol Strivers 4-H Club aimed at improving the circumstances of local K-12 foster care children, particularly during the transition to long-term family care. The club put together essential needs bags targeted towards different ages. These bags ensure that when the kids are transferred they already have something that belongs to them and can help them get through their first night. The Bristol Strivers 4-H clubs goal was to improve the lives of local foster care children and make them better prepared to succeed in their new environments.



Kenosha County YAR Board of Directors

The Kenosha County YAR program is governed by a board made up of youth and adults who share responsibility for its management with the YAR coordinator. The targeted number of board members is 32, 16 of those being youth, 8 young-adults and 8 adults. The board meets once a month. The meetings are held at the County Board Chambers.

The board is responsible for awarding grants to local youth groups four times a year (twice in the fall and twice in the spring). The youth-led service grants assist the organizations with community service and service learning initiatives. Youth must design the service projects themselves and must demonstrate that their projects are both educational and of benefit to a community in Kenosha County.

The Kenosha County YAR Board of Directors also feels that it is important to give back to their community. Twice a year the Program Committee plans annual service projects. Both these projects help bring the members of the board together while serving a social need in Kenosha County.

YAR Executive Board Service Projects



Columbus Neighborhood Cleanup & Scavenger Hunt

The Youth As Resources Board of Directors organized a neighborhood cleanup and scavenger hunt for the members of the Frank Elementary After School Program in the Columbus Neighborhood of Kenosha.

For the activity, YAR board members split the elementary students into 3 teams, each cleaning a portion of the Columbus neighborhood as part of a scavenger hunt. Together, the kids collected 21 pounds of recyclable materials, 42 pounds of trash, and a fender from a car! At the end of the event, each team made a mural depicting a clean Columbus neighborhood and received prizes, including an environmentally themed coloring book, crayons, an award certificate, and a toy.

Hats for the Homeless Project

YAR board members initiated this project to provide hats to approximately 80 homeless and underprivileged individuals during December of 2005. YAR board members sewed the hats themselves and delivered them to the Urban Outreach Center in Kenosha to be distributed to people in need.



For more information please contact:

Megan M. Kroes
YAR Program Coordinator

262-857-1940
YAR@co.Kenosha.Wi.US

