



Kenosha County YOUTH AS RESOURCES

2007-2008 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:

Central High School Ping Pong Club
\$ 400.00
Central High School



The Central High School Ping Pong Club is a student-organized afterschool club that is not funded by the school. Students wanted an positive alternate activity for afterschool hours that all students could participate in. All the equipment that the club had was donated to the school, and some was in a state of disrepair. Since they can't conduct a fundraiser because they aren't a school sponsored club, they had to have money or equipment donated directly to their group. The members took it upon themselves to find funds to buy new equipment to continue the club's fun and positive activities.

African Pen Pals
\$ 200.00
Explorer's 6th Grade Team
Lincoln Middle School



Students in the Explorer's 6th grade team at Lincoln Middle School exchanged letters with students in Africa to promote cultural awareness. The letters contained information about family activities, heritage, ethnic foods, school life, religion, environment and other areas of kid's daily lives. The goal was to make the learning experience more "real" by connecting students one-on-one. The students at Lincoln were looking into sending school supplies to the students in Africa, too.

Fancy Bags
\$ 100.00
Roosevelt Elementary School



Students at Roosevelt School decorated brown paper bags for the Shalom Center, the Boys and Girls Club and the Salvation Army. The students learned how much the bags cost the food pantries to purchase, so they applied for a YAR grant to buy bags. Before the bags arrived to the pantries, the students covered them with art, language arts, or math projects transforming them into activity sheets for kids in the families receiving food from these locations. The Roosevelt students worked on the bags after school and learned about how food pantries work and how they can help the community.



**Care Bags for
Chemotherapy Patients**
\$ 500.00
Roosevelt Elementary
School



A group of students at Roosevelt Elementary School decided to make care bags for individuals going through chemotherapy after a classmate was diagnosed with cancer and had to undergo treatment. The students filled the bags with magazines, snacks, crossword puzzles, and other activities to help the time pass. Students also made cards for each bag so that patients who received the bags knew the students cared and were thinking of them during their treatment.

**Mayor's Youth
Employment in the Arts
(YEA)**
\$ 440.00
City of Kenosha



For several years the YEA program has been helping to make Kenosha a more beautiful place. The program employs youth in the community to work with business professionals and professional artists to create works of art in public spaces around Kenosha County. Youth involved learn leadership skills, work skills, improve artistic ability and build social networks all while helping to give something truly unique to the community. The youth create all the designs for the artwork and learn from adult mentors how to complete the projects. The project will begin this summer. Past projects include mosaic murals and painted trash cans in public parks.

**Cheetah House Knitting
Project**
\$ 500.00
Bullen Middle School



Students in the Cheetah House starting knitting hats for the homeless. The goal is to help 300 people. Since the beginning of the project during the fall months of 2007, the students have expanded their creations from strictly hats to mittens, scarves and slippers, as well. Every student in the house has a loom and hook to work with, which allows the class to produce a large number of items in a relatively short period of time. They are well on their way to reaching their goal.

**Troupe Tremper Dance
Team**
\$ 390.00
Tremper High School



Troupe Tremper is a student-led dance team that offers underserved students a positive alternate activity to participate in afterschool. Students choreograph hip-hop style dances, with guidance from a faculty advisor, and plan to perform at various schools and community events. The club requires good behavior of it's students and a grade average of a C to participate. The group prides itself on having a variety of students join that were not previously friends, and thus promoting diversity and a sense of community.

Circles of Hope
\$ 110.00
Lance Middle School



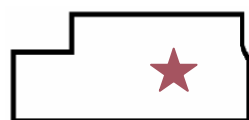
Students at Lance Middle School put together a project in which patients going through cancer treatment could string their own necklace to symbolize a circle of hope. The bags contained beads of various colors, representing difference types of cancer, and leather necklace strings, along with a project book explaining the meaning behind the beads. Making the necklace offers something positive to focus on during treatment and lets patients know students are thinking of them.

Diapers for the Needy
\$ 500.00
Kenosha Bible Church
Youth Group



Youth members of the Kenosha Bible Church Youth Group heard about a program called CareNet, which offers counseling and parenting classes for single parents. CareNet offers coupons for parents who complete counseling or classes to go to their “store” to get supplies for their children. The youth group members thought they could help by donating diapers and baby wipes to the store. These youth felt this was a positive way to help single parents in Kenosha County.

Recycling Plan
\$ 500.00
Bullen Middle School
Environmental Club



Student members of the Bullen Middle School Environmental Club recognized the need for a recycling plan at their school. With the increasing awareness of global warming, pollution and the need to “go green” students stepped up to make a difference. After having done extensive research about recycling, they worked with the school’s maintenance staff to budget containers, transportation carts and collection days. They plan to make regular announcements about recycling statistics and to remind students to use the recycling bins.

3-on-3 Basketball
Tournament
\$ 500.00
The Fellowship Church
Youth Group



Youth members of The Fellowship Church’s Youth Group conducted a basketball tournament over spring break to promote a sense of community and offer a fun activity for families. The event provided skills workshops, prizes, food and speakers for families. Three different age-brackets were organized, small children and adults were invited to watch the games and to help with running the tournament. Over 180 kids participated in the tournament.

2 Cool 2 Use
\$ 300.00
Teen Task Force



Members of the Teen Task Force in Kenosha County organized a campaign to create awareness about destructive decision that are sometimes made on Prom Night. The youth involved made flyers, posters, announcements and other connections with high school students across Kenosha County to promote safe decision making on Prom Night.

Lakefront Meditation
Labyrinth
\$ 410.00
Girl Scout Troop #7193



Members Girl Scout Troop #7193 are working on receiving their Gold Award, the highest award in girl scouting and is the culmination of all the things girls have learned throughout their experiences with Girl Scouts of America. The project is something that fulfills a need within a girl's community (whether local or global), creates change, and hopefully, is something that becomes ongoing. The girls in troop #7193 have decided to build a meditation labyrinth in Wolfenbuttel Park on the Kenosha Lakefront for the entire community to enjoy. The project will begin in 2010.



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 in 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 members also feel that it is important from them to give back to their community through their own service projects. Twice a year the board plans a service projects to bring the members of the board together to serve a social need in Kenosha County.

YAR Executive Board Service-Projects



2007-2008 marked the third year that YAR board members have made fleece hats to donate to the Shalom Center! This year the board was able to make nearly 100 hats and several scarves to keep the homeless of Kenosha County warm this winter.

In addition to the hats and scarves made at the December meeting, board member Becky Woodke and her mother knit over 20 scarves to donate to the Shalom Center, too!! (left, Megan Carney and Gage Shine sew fleece hats for the homeless.)

The Youth As Resources board members met in April to celebrate spring in a fun and creative way by painting terracotta pots and planting ivy cuttings in them with residents at Brookside Care Center.

This project allowed the board members to spend some time with individuals who helped shape Kenosha County and to share in a fun activity that was beneficial to the environment and fun for all those who participated. (right, Lauren Boatwright poses with the residents and their "art work" and plants.)



For more information please contact:

Laura Gregorski
Youth As Resources Program Coordinator
Phone: (262) 857-1940
E-Mail: YAR@co.kenosha.wi.us
Fax: (262) 857-1998

