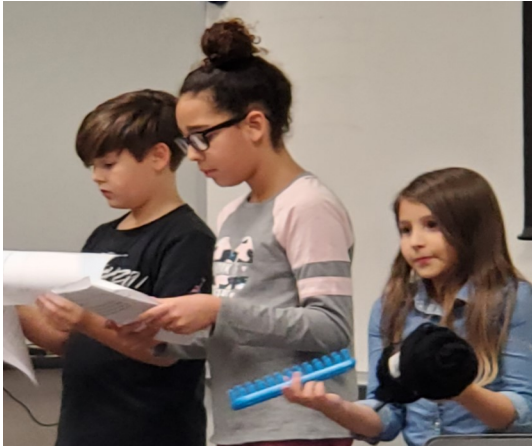


**YAR**

# YOUTH AS RESOURCES ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



## WHAT IS YOUTH AS RESOURCES?

Kenosha County Youth As Resources (YAR) is a grant-giving program which funds youth-designed and youth-led community service projects in Kenosha County. Youth As Resources was developed by Extension Kenosha County in partnership with the United Way of Kenosha County.

Youth, with guidance from adults, determine the project they believe will address a need in their community then and apply to Kenosha County Youth As Resources for grants of up to \$500. The Youth As Resources Board reads all applications and invites youth groups to present their proposals to the board.



# YOUTH AS RESOURCES BOARD



**Clara Adams**  
Youth Board Member



**Aidan Callahan**  
Youth Board Member



**Joshua Hoening**  
Treasurer



**Leah Kuester**  
President



**Dave Patel**  
Vice President



**Sofia Ricker**  
Youth Board Member



**Harmohini Sidhu**  
Youth Board Member



**Mackenzie VanDixhorn**  
Youth Board Member



**Justus Wilhoit**  
Secretary



**Erin Latham**  
Adult Board Member



**Kristen Kief**  
Parliamentarian



**Alison Voss**  
Adult Board Member

# SERVICE PROJECTS FUNDED

In 2019-2020, Youth As Resources funded 11 service projects for a total disbursement of \$4,710 in grant funds. All grant funds for Youth As Resources projects come from United Way of Kenosha County contributions. Projects funded in 2019-2020 are as follows:

## **BLESSINGS IN A BAG—\$490—BRISTOL CHALLENGE 4-H CLUB**

Produce and protein sources will be purchased to fill drawstring bags with fresh nutrients and quality nutrition to make sure school-aged children have food for the weekend and so that they can arrive to school on a Monday morning ready to learn.

## **HAPPY HATS—\$370—BOSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Fourth grade students created hats for the giving tree in downtown Kenosha. These same students also read books about poverty and homelessness to other students in their school to bring awareness to community needs. In addition to other winter wear donations, they were able to donate over 300 articles of warmth.

## **MAKING BLANKETS FOR THE SHARING CENTER—\$400—BRISTOL CHALLENGE 4-H CLUB**

Members of the Bristol Challenge 4-H Club purchased, cut, and tied fleece blankets for families at The Sharing Center to support them in their transition to independence.

## **PIKE RIVER TRAILS SIGN CONSTRUCTION—\$500—BRENNAN HAUTZINGER'S EAGLE PROJECT**

Several geographical positioning signs with decals were constructed to mark the trails at Pike River and Petrifying Springs Park.

## **PLANT KINDNESS—\$300—KENOSHA MONTESSORI SCHOOL**

Citizens in the Kenosha County community will be taking care of "Kindness Plants" for seven days and then posting kind messages or updates about the plants on the project's Facebook page. After seven days, each person gives their plant to another person and explains the project to them. The goal of this project is to spread kindness, promote nicer conversations, and to talk to someone you have not talked to before.

## **PRAIRIE LANE ELEMENTARY GIVING GARDEN—\$500—PRAIRIE LANE ELEMENTARY STUDENTS**

Students started their school garden, purchased seeds, and grew fruits and vegetables to donate to the Shalom Center Soup Kitchen.

## **SHALOM CENTER PAVILION—\$500—JOSHUA LOEWEN'S EAGLE PROJECT**

A 20' x 14' pavilion for the residents of the Shalom Center will be built. The pavilion will consist of five double trusses along with 2x6 tongue and groove decking.

## **TEEN VISION AND SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT—\$490—BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF KENOSHA**

The book "Lightning Bug Lights" by Jason Paul was purchased and provided to each family. Because of COVID-19, they were unable to read it directly to their students, but community leader, Felicia Dalton, recorded herself and shared it through their social media page.

## **THE PINK PROJECT—\$500—INDIAN TRAILS WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT CLUB**

Feminine hygiene products will be made available to Indian Trails High School students to ensure these basic and necessary items are available.

## **WMS Zones Ambassadors—\$160—WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS**

Washington Middle School Zones Ambassadors assisted student in weekly self-regulation lessons during advisory time. The grant funds were used to purchase posters for each classroom and offices that show "The Size of the Problem" and to purchase sensory tools for classrooms and the sensory room.

## **YOUNG AUTHORS PROJECT—\$500—VICTORIOUS WOMEN MAGAZINE**

The goal of this project is to address the summer reading gap and create a safe outlet for youth to express themselves through literacy and the arts.

# IMPACT OF YOUTH BOARD EXPERIENCE

Near the end of their term, all Youth As Resources board members were given the opportunity to complete a retrospective evaluation. The results below, which probed for changes in the civic engagement and leadership skills of the youth, are based on a five-point Likert scale, which ranged from strongly disagree to strongly agree. Quantitative information about civic engagement and leadership skill development are highlighted below. Qualitative information is also shared through direct quotes from youth in response to three questions.

N = 8 of 9			
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT	# of Youth Reporting No Change	# of Youth Reporting 1 Unit of Positive Change	# of Youth Reporting 2 or > Units of Positive Change
I am knowledgeable about Kenosha County.	0	7	1
I am aware of local issues that affect Kenosha County.	2	4	2
My actions can make a difference in the community.	2	5	1
I have a useful role in the community.	1	6	1
I feel a strong connection to Kenosha County.	0	8	0
I am a resource in Kenosha County.	0	6	2

N = 8 of 9			
LEADERSHIP SKILLS	# of Youth Reporting No Change	# of Youth Reporting 1 Unit of Positive Change	# of Youth Reporting 2 or > Units of Positive Change
I can participate in group discussions with adults.	2	5	1
I can objectively evaluate project proposals.	1	4	3
I can serve as an effective board member.	0	4	4
I can speak confidently before a group.	1	5	2
I can see issues from multiple perspectives.	3	4	1
I can follow a process to make decisions.	2	5	1

*"YAR opens the eyes of the members to see what needs help in this community and gives them the opportunity to change it for the better."*

***"Throughout my time with YAR, I have been encouraged to use my voice and be active in my community. It has pushed me to become more confident and self-aware."***

*"Because of YAR, I've gained a lot of skills in communicating which I've always struggled with. It also shows you how to work on a team, but still balance a leadership position, which is important in the workforce."*

***"We have gained independence through providing funding and have learned how to assess projects to ensure that we think through all sides for project success and implementation."***

*"With a professional group like YAR, I learned how to talk in a professional manner, and not just casual. This will help me in the future through college and my career."*

***"The most important thing I gained from YAR is the ability to have a voice in my community and impact those who need help. Before YAR, I never really got the chance to affect Kenosha County, but now I feel like I have a say in what happens in my community."***

# PROGRAM STATISTICS

GRANT PERIOD	# OF GRANTS DURING YEAR	FUNDS DISTRIBUTED	YOUTH PARTICIPANTS
2019-2020	11	\$4,710	334
2005-2020	190	\$68,560	8,160

## BOARD SERVICE PROJECT

The Youth As Resources Board volunteered their time at the annual ELCA Urban Outreach Center holiday event. Board members spent time with families while guiding them to activity stations, painted faces, wrapped gifts, and sang carols.



**For more information about Kenosha County Youth As Resources, contact:**

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[kenosha.extension.wisc.edu/youth-development/youth-as-resources](https://kenosha.extension.wisc.edu/youth-development/youth-as-resources)



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