

YAR

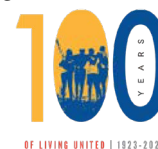
YOUTH AS RESOURCES ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



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 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



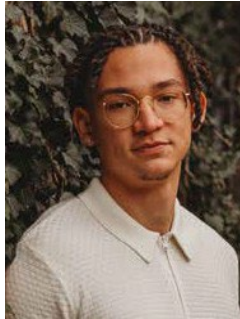
Alexis Davis
Youth Board Member



Rachel Erich
Secretary



Hera First
Vice President



Isaac Gray
Treasurer



Owen Goergen
Youth Board Member



Jacob Krumrie
Youth Board Member



Nina Lall
Youth Board Member



Ella Sager
President

Vacant
Youth Board Member



Alison Voss
Parliamentarian



AmyRae Weaver
Adult Board Member

Vacant
Adult Board Member

SERVICE PROJECTS FUNDED

In 2023-2024, Youth As Resources funded 7 service projects for a total disbursement of \$3,500 in grant funds. All grant funds for Youth As Resources projects come from United Way of Kenosha County contributions. Projects funded in 2023-2024 are as follows:

Shalom-To-Home—\$500—OPEN WINGS LEARNING COMMUNITY

Packaged suggested household items in kits for the Shalom Center. These kits are intended for families or individuals who have received assistance through the Shalom Center for temporary housing or services and are transitioning to their new homes.

Wisconsin Humane Society Kenosha Wish List—\$500—OPEN WINGS LEARNING COMMUNITY

Collaborate with the Humane Society and gather suggested high-need animal care items and office supplies. This effort is to support public safety and prevent animal cruelty.

Outreach Center Memorial Walk—\$500—ECLA OUTREACH CENTER

As part of an Eagle Scout project, the Boy Scouts will build a paved path and a remembrance monument for the ELCA Outreach Center. The path will make the gazebo area handicapped accessible and the clients who have passed away will have a place to be remembered.

Westosha Central Fashion Design Program—\$500—WESTOSHA CENTRAL CHARITY FASHION SHOW

Westosha Central High School youth are hosting a charity fashion show to raise funds to donate to the Alzheimer's Association.

Kenosha Public Library Little Free Pantries—\$500—KENOSHA PUBLIC LIBRARIES

As part of an Eagle Scout Project, Boy Scout Troop 544 will be building, installing and stocking four Little Free Library-style food and hygiene pantries. These pantries will be strategically placed at each of the Kenosha Public Library locations. These pantries are intended to address food insecurity and provide resources for those in need in Kenosha.

Prairie Lane Giving Garden—\$500—PRAIRIE LANE ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

Third grade students have researched the plant material, intend to seek advice from a community gardener, will manage the garden and oversee it through produce time this summer. They will meet at the garden on regular basis, and will deliver any produce to the soup kitchen at the Shalom Center.

Shalom Center *important needs*—\$500—OPEN WINGS LEARNING COMMUNITY

This project will consist of researching and purchasing the "urgent and immediate" needs items that the Shalom Center is currently seeking. The groups will deliver everything to the Shalom Center and volunteer that day to help with building boxes/kits and with kitchen cleaning.



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 = 5 of 8			
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.	3	1	1
I am aware of local issues that affect Kenosha County.	2	3	0
My actions can make a difference in the community.	1*	2	1
I have a useful role in the community.	2*	2	0
I feel a strong connection to Kenosha County.	3	2	0
I am a resource in Kenosha County.	1	3	1

N = 5 of 8			
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.	1*	3	0
I can objectively evaluate project proposals.	1*	3	0
I can serve as an effective board member.	3*	0	1
I can speak confidently before a group.	3*	0	1
I can see issues from multiple perspectives.	2	2	1
I can follow a process to make decisions.	2	2	1

*Only no change or positive change was reported for both tables.

"I have developed leadership skills and youth presenters develop them as well."

"I think the YAR board has had interesting and spirited discussions + the committees have consistently accomplished things each month."

"The youth on the board learn important skills, such as communication, speaking, organization, and most importantly leadership. We will all use these skills in the future for college or job interviews."

"The most important thing I have learned was speaking because before joining YAR I was really quiet and shy. Joining this board helped me overcome my fear of speaking in front of other people."

"I think the YAR board works both cooperatively and consistently to make sure grant money is distributed, and the setting seems conducive to encouraging the teens to take on greater work."

The most important thing I gained from YAR is "leadership skills and a greater sense of community."

PROGRAM STATISTICS

GRANT PERIOD	# OF GRANTS DURING YEAR	FUNDS DISTRIBUTED	YOUTH PARTICIPANTS
2023-2024	7	\$3,500	81
2005-2024	223	\$81,210	8,556

BOARD SERVICE PROJECT

The Youth As Resources Board volunteered their time at the annual United Way Jubilee. Board members help host and run logistics at this event intended to highlight the caring power of the Kenosha community.



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

Extension Kenosha County | 19600 75th Street, Suite 2, Bristol, WI 53104
 (262) 857-1945 | uwextension@kenoshacounty.org
kenosha.extension.wisc.edu/youth-development/youth-as-resources



An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and Americans with Disabilities (ADA) requirements.