

YAC Attack

A philanthropic youth group for the Capital Region Community Foundation

Growing a generation of givers: Teens connect with their community

Today's high school students have seemingly endless ways to get involved in activities and causes. There are school clubs, religious groups, extra-curricular sports. But has the teen in your life ever wondered about a youth group for philanthropy?

The Capital Region Community Foundation's Youth Action Committee (YAC) is made up of teens from schools throughout Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties. Each year, the YAC kids act as an advisory


committee and grant money through the Community Foundation to fund and promote programs that support youth in the tri-county area. The YAC kids, ages 13 to 18, represent more than a dozen schools in our region.

The main purpose of YAC is to decide, as grantmakers, where the Youth Fund dollars will be put to best use. In 2009, the YAC granted \$51,201 to nonprofit organizations in Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties for programs ranging from

teen pregnancy prevention and college prep to the science of game design and leadership programs.

The YAC also awarded more than \$4,400 in mini grants to two dozen elementary school classrooms for environmental projects such as rain gardens, recycling programs, animal sanctuaries and water resource studies.

Inside, you'll learn about the many ways YAC teens are giving back to our region.



The Youth Action Committee is an advisory committee of the Capital Region Community Foundation, made up of high school students from Ingham, Eaton and Clinton counties. The YAC supports youth programs through grantmaking and community service in the region.

YACers lend a hand around town

Every other month, the YAC participates in community service projects such as working at food distribution centers, serving meals at a soup kitchen and assisting with landscaping projects.

"Helping with the Special Olympics and the Christmas party with the foster kids were my favorites," said Georgia Marshall, a Williamston High School senior who participated in YAC for four years.

Georgia said she really enjoyed the community service aspect of the group, and it helped prepare her for her next adventure: entering the U.S. Air Force Academy.

"YAC taught me how to work with a group of diverse people I've never met," she said. "It showed me how people with differing opinions can come together to decide on community service projects and work together as a team to do good things for other people."

'Making Strides' walk

This year the YAC volunteered at the American Cancer Society's "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk.

This event was not only fun, but it was also very inspirational. Seeing so many cancer survivors surrounded by friends and family must have sent a huge message of hope to those battling the disease. It was so exciting to be a part of such a wonderful event! Our job was to help set up the food and water tent. We laid out boxes full of granola bars, fruit and water. We kept the food and water stocked while cheering on the participants. Although it was a chilly morning, everybody was in good spirits, making the event very enjoyable. We were so thankful to be able to contribute to such a worthy event!

— Connie Root, Haslett High School



Georgia Marshall, Williamston High School senior
"YAC showed me how people with differing opinions can come together to decide on community service projects and work together as a team to do good things for other people."

Bringing Christmas cheer to foster children

About 20 YAC members volunteered to help Child & Family Services host a Christmas party for about 100 foster children and their families at the Boys & Girls Club of Lansing. We helped with the set-up and were in charge of the games and activities.

After about an hour or so of preparing before the kids and their families got there, we were able to get everything ready just in time. The children came from the tri-county area and each and every one of them came through the door smiling.

We had fun preparing this event for the kids. Just knowing how



happy each child was for those couple of hours made me feel very good and I'm glad we all got the chance to provide some Christmas

cheer for the children and their foster families.

— Josh Fata, Eaton Rapids High School

Seeing Lansing's needs up close at the Salvation Army

As soon as we walked into the Salvation Army building, we knew we were in a place where hard work gets done. The Salvation Army takes the business of helping people very seriously. One important player in the process of helping people in need is Molly Chambers, director of social services at the Capital Area Salvation Army. She introduced us to all the other social workers who strive to help people in need throughout the Lansing area, and she gave us a tour of the entire building.

We began the tour with the mobile response truck which is used to react to disasters around the Lansing area. For example, when the Williamston tornado hit, this response truck was there to pass out water and provide food for people who lost power and heat. The truck also traveled to Louisiana when Hurricane Katrina hit to pass out bottled water.

Next on the tour we visited a room filled with non-perishable food items which had already been sorted and counted to be given out to families in need. The tour continued to a



large gymnasium which the Salvation Army uses to host dinners for the needy, and then into the main food storage room which held tons of cans and other non-perishables. Molly explained to us they are always looking for donations because any money, food or toiletries help them in helping the less fortunate.

Our tour concluded when Molly showed us the chapel which holds a service each Sunday.

Our visit to the Salvation Army building was an eye-opener and reminded me how well some of us have it, while others struggle finding basics every day. I'm glad to know there are people like Molly Chambers and everyone else we met at the Salvation Army, because they work hard each day to give to others. They are some of the most unselfish people you will meet, and I'm glad we could see how hard they work for the benefit of others.

— Max Nyquist, Okemos High School



Friendship ... Fun ... Philanthropy

Throughout the year, YAC teens get involved in our community in a variety of ways. Here, some of the teens share their experiences volunteering, learning and bonding around mid-Michigan:



Heart of a Spartan

On May 2, hundreds gathered at Spartan Stadium to participate in the Heart of a Spartan walk/run in support of the Spartan Scholarship Challenge Endowment Fund. The races ended with a run through the tunnel out to the 50-yard line of Spartan Stadium.

The YAC volunteers were each given a T-shirt and stationed at the end of the course where the snacks were going to be served. We were in charge of unloading boxes of muffins and keeping the table stocked. This fun-filled day at Spartan Stadium had a great turnout and plenty of muffins to go around. I am really looking forward to volunteering next year, or even running in the race.

— Anna Fuller, East Lansing High School



Philanthropy & Service Camp

This year's Youth Philanthropy & Service Camp had the theme "Live2Give." We started with service projects helping out all sorts of local businesses, from gardens and farmers markets to zoos and wilderness trails. The hard work paid off, leaving the city looking better than it had before.

We listened to speakers from all over the U.S., inspiring youth to better their communities. We could sign up for sessions to find out about service learning, how to run an effective meeting, diversity and personality types, hunger and homelessness, youth leadership and more. Camp was a great experience I'd recommend to others.

— Raquel Harris, Sexton High School



Community Foundation Annual Breakfast

Each year the Community Foundation hosts a breakfast to recognize outstanding work and leadership in mid-Michigan. YACers volunteered to help direct guests through registration.

The breakfast honored longtime community volunteer Carol Horowitz and Jackson National Life, a national insurance company based in Okemos that allows each of its employees to take a paid day off from work each year to volunteer in our community. Sam Singh shared interesting stories about his 16-month trip around the world, volunteering in 25 countries on seven continents.

After these speeches, I aspire to one day help people in a third-world country, then come back to my community to share what I learned.

— Wendy Litwiller, St. Johns High School



Mid-Michigan Food Bank

The Mid-Michigan Food Bank is like something I have never seen before. When you first walk in, all you see are rows and rows of just about everything — peanut butter, cereal, soup, dish soap and even an electric wheelchair. There was also a gigantic freezer where donated meat is stored. On the day we were there, a CATA fundraiser was going on, and it was our job to unload the buses. During the time we spent volunteering, it was clear everyone was very grateful for the donations. I'm glad I got a chance to help out the community.

— Tara Mahon, Haslett High School

GRANTS

2009-10 Youth Action Committee Grants

Information Technology Empowerment Center (ITEC)

Science of Game Design
\$2,000

Boys and Girls Club of Lansing

Going Broke Before We Start: College Prep
\$2,500

Dispute Resolution Center of Central Michigan

Restorative Justice Art and Drama Initiative
\$450

Eastside Community Action Center

Teen Life and Mentoring Program
\$1,000

Eaton County Michigan State University Extension

Summer Adventure Series
\$600

Eaton Intermediate School District

Tri-County's Got Talent Show
\$1,000

Eaton Rapids High School

ERHS Interact
\$2,500

Give-a-Kid-Projects

Give-a-Kid Projects
\$1,000

Junior Achievement of Mid Michigan, Inc.

2010 Youth Activity Grant
\$2,000

Lansing Community College H.S. Diploma Completion Initiative

HSDCI Youth Leadership
\$2,500



Lansing Symphony Association, Inc.

The Lansing Symphony "Side-by-Side" concert as part of the Halloween Spooktacular Family Concert
\$2,500

Michigan Capital Celiac/DH Group

Michigan Capital Celiac Camp
\$1,500

Mid-Michigan Youth Symphony

Purchase of music stands, percussion equipment and music folders.
\$1,550

NorthWest Initiative

NWI Summer Youth Enrichment Program
\$2,500

Peckham, Inc.

Ready to Achieve Mentoring Program (RAMP)
\$1,500

Pregnancy Services of Greater Lansing

Sexually Mature Aware Responsible Teens (SMART)
\$2,500

Reach Studio Art Center

Teen Studio: "Art and Soles of Lansing"
\$2,500

Sparrow Foundation

Fit Kids Initiative
\$2,000

St. Stephen's Community Church, Community Learning Center

St. Stephen's CLC Youth Enhancement Project
\$1,500

Sunny Crest Youth Ranch Inc.

Launching a Sustainable Agriculture Program
\$1,300

TEEN PARENTS Greater Lansing Area Youth for Christ

Teen Parents
\$1,850

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

Children's Water Festival
\$500

VFW National Home for Children

Life Skills Program a.k.a Cool Beans
\$1,200

Wharton Center for Performing Arts/MSU

Young Playwrights Festival
\$1,600

Women's Center of Greater Lansing, Inc.

Girls to Women Discourse
\$1,500

Yes Center Inc.

Personal Growth and Development Workshop
\$600

Council of Michigan Foundations

Transportation costs for community service projects at summer conference
\$2,000



2009-10 Mini Grants for the Environment

YAC members are helping the generation coming after them through the Mini Grants for the Environment Program. This program allows elementary classes to write their own grant requests for environmental projects of up to \$250 per classroom. In 2009-10, the YAC selected the following projects for funding:

Cornell Elementary School

Nature's Garden

Eureka Elementary School

Michigan Native Plant Garden

Heartwood School

Creating a Sensory Garden

Henry North Elementary School

School Orchard

The North Garden

Leonard Elementary

Animals In Danger

Save The Bluebirds

Murphy Elementary School

Bird Watching

Rain Garden

North Aurelius Elementary School

Potter Park Zoo Monarch

Butterfly Waystation

Oakview South Elementary School

MSU & Oakview Plant

Project

Pinecrest Elementary School

Michigan River Stepping Stones

Pleasant View Elementary School

Save the Earth Mural

Post Oak Elementary School

Court Yard Bat Houses

Feed & Learn About Birds

KEC (Keep Earth Clean)

Planting Flowers

Red Cedar Elementary School

Red Cedar Shady Inn

Reo Elementary School

Recycle, Recycle, Recycle

Resurrection Elementary School

Annis Water Resources

Study

Woodcreek Magnet School

Coral Reef Project

Recycle Bin Project

Woodcreek Animal

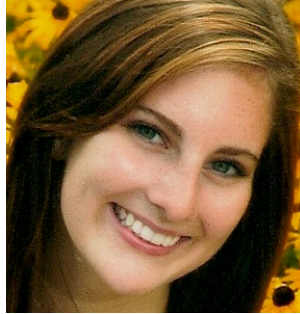
Sanctuary



CONGRATULATIONS



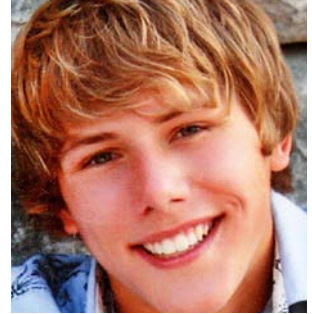
Drew Archer
Grand Ledge High School



Chelsea Bollman
Williamston High School



Valerie Forrest
Lansing Eastern High School



Zachary Hopping
Okemos High School



Paul Jorgensen
DeWitt High School



Chelsea Lancaster
DeWitt High School



Wendy Litwiller
St. Johns High School



Erin Lucien
DeWitt High School



Georgia Marshall
Williamston High School



Autumn Root
Haslett High School



Arianne Umfleet
Lansing Christian High School

Best wishes to our graduating seniors!



Capital Region

community foundation

The Center for Charitable Giving

6035 Executive Drive, Suite 104
Lansing, MI 48911

Phone: (517) 272-2870 • Fax: (517) 272-2870

E-mail: ppasch@crfoundation.org

www.crcfoundation.org



**Connect with us for the
latest foundation news:**



Follow us on Twitter:
[@givelansing](https://twitter.com/givelansing)



Find us on Facebook:
[www.facebook.com/
givelansing](http://www.facebook.com/givelansing)

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LANSING, MI
PERMIT NO. 466

Youth Action Committee

2009-2010 STUDENT MEMBERS

Drew Archer, *Grand Ledge High School*
Chelsea Bollman, *Williamston High School*
Clare Brennan, *Lansing Catholic High School*
Maddie Brogan, *Lansing Catholic High School*
Josh Fata, *Eaton Rapids High School*
Brianna Forrest, *Holt High School*
Valerie Forrest, *Lansing Eastern High School*
Anna Fuller, *East Lansing High School*
Katelin Griffin, *Olivet High School*
Patrina Glover, *Everett High School*
Raquel Harris, *Sexton High School*
Jacob Harvey, *Lansing Catholic High School*
Elizabeth Hillman, *Lansing Catholic High School*
Alexandra Hopping, *Okemos High School*
Zachary Hopping, *Okemos High School*
Paul Jorgensen, *DeWitt High School*
Adrian King, *Everett High School*
Victoria King, *Everett High School*
Kaitlin Lapka, *East Lansing High School*

Chelsea Lancaster, *DeWitt High School*
Wendy Litwiller, *St. Johns High School*
Brian Lucian, *DeWitt High School*
Erin Lucian, *DeWitt High School*
Tara Mahon, *Haslett High School*
Georgia Marshall, *Williamston High School*
Jessica McKay, *Williamston High School*
Joe Murray, *Grand Ledge High School*
Max Nyquist, *Okemos High School*
Emily Potter, *Mason High School*
Autumn Root, *Haslett High School*
Connie Root, *Haslett High School*
Alex Sowle, *Williamston High School*
Arianne Umfleet, *Lansing Christian High School*
Pa Vang, *Lansing Eastern High School*

ADVISORS

Pauline Pasch
Scott Dane
Brandon Seng