

YAC DATABOOK

PUBLISHED IN 2023

Reporting on 2022-23



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WELCOME

Our 2023 Youth Grantmakers Summer Leadership Conference theme was *Rooted: Growth & Connection*. This theme was a reminder to remember where you were and where you are now to connect with philanthropic peers on our journeys. We encouraged all to dig into what keeps their community rooted and grow those roots and connections. Our youth philanthropists who power Youth Action Committees/Councils (YACs) across the state have leaned into strengthening their roles as leaders of today and for the future.

The Michigan Community Foundations Youth Project (MCFYP) Committee hosted YACs in person for the full conference for the first time since 2019 at this year's youth leadership conference. It was a space for engaging, transparent, hopeful and inspiring conversations led by youth for youth. Many of the key trends and insights mentioned in this databook were reflected in the discussions.

You'll see that this year's YAC Databook has significantly shifted from years past in content and format. Bi-annually we will present this condensed version of the report that still consists of much-needed grantmaking data, in addition to innovations and opportunities for support. This databook lifts up the impactful work of YACs and YAC advisors in 2022-2023. With approximately 70% of Michigan YACs represented within this survey, this year's insights provide a comprehensive picture of community foundation youth philanthropy in our state. Thank you for your time and commitment in completing the 2023 YAC Databook survey! We appreciate the transparency that responding foundations provided. We hope that communities across the state and beyond will continue to find deep value in the information shared here.

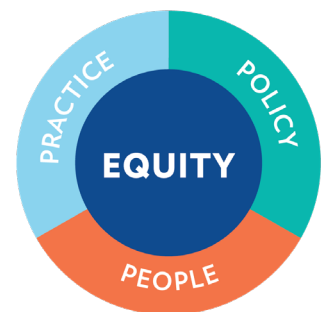
Your CMF team is excited to look to the future with you and our youth leaders, especially as we come together to support one another in facing the challenges YACs experience. We are committed to supporting Michigan's youth leaders today and through the decades ahead.

On behalf of our entire Michigan community of philanthropy, we remain incredibly grateful for the enduring leadership of our YACs and our network of dedicated YAC advisors who continue to support them.

With gratitude,



Olivia Henry Harris
Senior Program Coordinator
CMF



For over 30 years, Michigan youth have been engaging in community giving through Michigan community foundations and developing leadership skills for social good, all thanks to an original challenge grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

YAC DATA SUMMARY

Assets, Gifts and Grants4

Grantmaking6

INNOVATIONS

New Approaches7

CURRENT CHALLENGES

Opportunities for Support.....11

METHODOLOGY AND DATA

The data used within this report was self-reported through an online survey utilizing the Alchemer platform. In total, 61 YACs participated, representing approximately 70% of the 86 YACs in Michigan.

Each YAC advisor was provided a private log-in and password for their specific community foundation YAC. The survey could be saved and completed over multiple days. Data was collected June-August 2023. The self-reporting nature of this information inherently provides limitations to this data, including potential data entry errors and lack of available information.

Respondents were asked to submit data based on their latest year end, which in most cases was December 31, 2022. Other common year-end dates were June 30, 2022, September 30, 2022, and March 31, 2023.

This document is housed on the Council of Michigan Foundations website (michiganfoundations.org). Should adjustments to datasets emerge, they may be reflected in subsequent downloads of this PDF.



Students connect with YAC peers around the state while attending the 2023 Michigan Youth Grantmakers Summer Leadership Conference.

YAC DATA SUMMARY BY ASSET SIZE

Responses: 61

YAC Name	Assets	Grants Made	Gifts Received
Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan	\$3,368,568	\$20,000	\$1,610
Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation	\$3,296,411	\$100,950	\$675
Kalamazoo Community Foundation	\$2,750,026	\$50,000	\$0
Grand Haven Area Community Foundation	\$2,645,615	\$100,000	\$1,032
Community Foundation of the Holland/Zeeland Area	\$2,372,048	\$68,502	\$0
Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation	\$2,167,535	\$103,037	\$21,750
Hillsdale County Community Foundation	\$2,149,683	\$67,048	\$5,848
Allegan County Community Foundation	\$2,120,972	\$56,000	\$0
Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation	\$2,094,616	\$91,000	\$400
Midland Area Community Foundation	\$1,972,635	\$135,847	\$50
Grand Rapids Community Foundation	\$1,661,245	\$50,000	\$52,545
Community Foundation of St. Clair County	\$1,553,974	\$62,590	\$55,897.43
Bay Area Community Foundation	\$1,553,898	\$79,798	\$895
Lenawee Community Foundation	\$1,520,929	\$83,821	\$228
Fremont Area Community Foundation	\$1,410,205	\$63,000	\$0
Capital Region Community Foundation	\$1,374,156	\$52,100	\$480
Saginaw Community Foundation	\$1,366,179	\$0	\$500
Tuscola County Community Foundation	\$1,235,023	\$60,001	\$500
Barry Community Foundation	\$1,183,506	\$25,164	\$3,003
Greenville Area Community Foundation	\$1,153,273	\$50,418	\$1,600
Berrien Community Foundation	\$1,112,356	\$31,482	\$1,680
Charlevoix County Community Foundation	\$1,085,117	\$54,039	\$2,053
Jackson Community Foundation	\$1,079,684	\$27,993	\$40,550
Battle Creek Community Foundation	\$1,050,566	\$54,869	\$0
Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan	\$1,031,776	\$39,208	\$6,750
Sturgis Area Community Foundation	\$930,662	\$35,749	\$0
Branch County Community Foundation	\$859,078	\$11,228	\$598
Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation	\$737,219	\$22,586	\$2,629
Michigan Gateway Community Foundation	\$733,007	\$22,215	\$2,020

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YAC DATA SUMMARY BY ASSET SIZE (CONTINUED)

Responses: 61

YAC Name	Assets	Grants Made	Gifts Received
M&M Area Community Foundation	\$719,366	\$31,351	\$1,400
Community Foundation for Oceana County	\$588,965	\$33,847	\$253
Lapeer County Community Foundation	\$539,674	\$4,938	\$3,970
Coopersville Community Foundation	\$474,509	\$12,840	\$2,442
Mackinac Island Community Foundation	\$468,823	\$17,480	\$100
Community Foundation of Marquette County	\$464,565	\$20,500	\$30
Sanilac County Community Foundation	\$376,952	\$17,446	\$0
Chippewa County Community Foundation	\$365,109	\$24,000	\$220
Roscommon County Community Foundation	\$340,310	\$9,725	\$10,030
North Central Michigan Community Foundation	\$326,579	\$14,000	\$1,340
Albion Community Foundation	\$318,742	\$18,160	\$450
Homer Area Community Foundation	\$281,682	\$13,250	\$628
Iosco County Community Foundation	\$235,167	\$6,500	\$514
Gladwin County Community Foundation	\$207,513	\$13,679	\$557
Ionia County Community Foundation	\$169,729	\$7,200	\$0
Bedford Community Foundation	\$160,866	\$6,839	\$0
Marshall Community Foundation	\$141,120	\$48,872	\$500
Negaunee Area Community Fund	\$129,317	\$6,500	\$0
Athens Area Community Foundation	\$119,299	\$1,750	\$0
Greater Ishpeming Area Community Fund	\$109,781	\$4,160	\$3,133
Straits Area Community Foundation	\$104,005	\$4,992	\$1,850
Otsego Community Foundation	\$87,617	\$6,410	\$2,396
Manistee County Community Foundation	\$83,764	\$2,000	\$22,779
Clare County Community Foundation	\$78,134	\$2,000	\$50
Community Foundation of Greater Flint	\$74,555	\$30,448	\$0
Wyoming Community Foundation	\$70,147	\$0	\$0
Hudsonville-Jenison Community Foundation	\$47,932	\$0	\$0
Sparta Youth Advisory Committee	\$45,526	\$1,900	\$0
Fenton Community Fund	\$33,193	\$0	\$0

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YAC DATA SUMMARY BY ASSET SIZE (CONTINUED)

Responses: 61

YAC Name	Assets	Grants Made	Gifts Received
Clio Area Community Fund	\$19,549	\$0	\$0
Canton Community Foundation, Inc.	\$14,850	\$1,524	Not Reported
Grand Blanc Community Fund	\$13,831	\$0	\$0
2023 Survey Totals	\$54,781,131	\$1,980,956	\$255,935
2022 Survey Totals	\$59,946,355	\$2,089,737	\$159,140

\$43.8 million

Total grant dollars given by YACs since 1989 (among those who responded this year)

Responses: 61

11

Average number of grants made during the year, per YAC

Responses: 60

8 of the 60 respondents advanced 20 or more grants, with 70 grants as the high among all respondents.

22 of the 60 respondents advanced between 10 and 19 grants.

24 of the 60 respondents advanced between 1 and 9 grants.

6 of the 60 respondents indicated they advanced 0 (zero) grants.

The average number of grants made during the year, per YAC, in last year's Databook was 12 grants.



Students connect with YAC peers around the state while attending the 2023 Michigan Youth Grantmakers Summer Leadership Conference.

INNOVATIONS

HIGHLIGHTS AND NEW APPROACHES OF MICHIGAN'S YACS

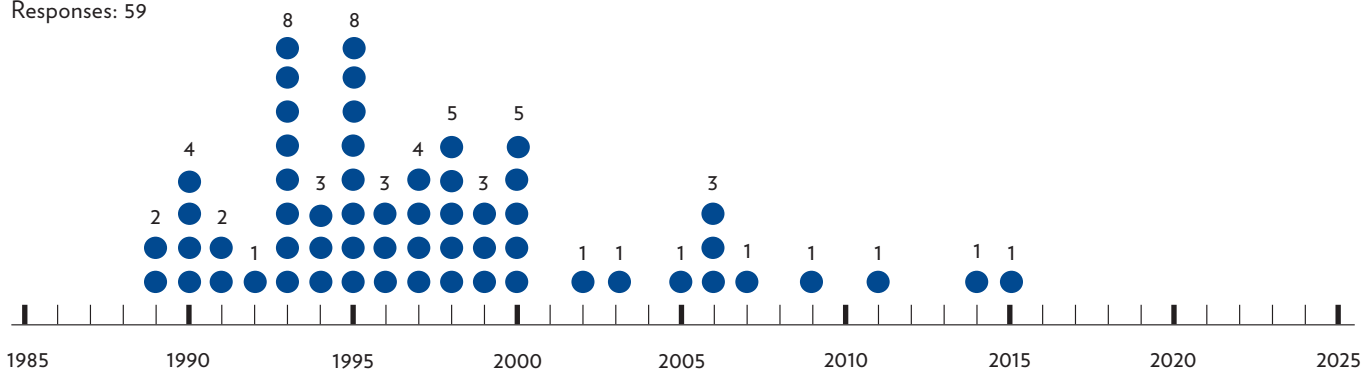
The following are statements provided by respondents to this year's survey on behalf of their YAC when invited to share highlights from their year and any innovations or new approaches their YAC is exploring.

- We **hired a YAC alumni** as the advisor.
- We **partnered with the local Area Education Service Agency (AESA)** for meeting space and transportation to remove participation barriers.
- Our YAC has a yearly commitment to the local United Way where students assist their staff with the implementation of their annual Christmas event. Students are tasked with sorting and preparing thousands of gifts that families will “shop” during the week leading up to Christmas. (Gifts are free to all families.) This project is not new, but is **a yearly favorite that makes a huge impact**.
- We had **a fall workshop led by one of our former YACers, who also served on MCFYP**. The response from the current YAC members was excellent. They worked as teams to identify issues at their respective schools, as well as solutions for those issues.
- 2022 was a growing year for our YAC. Our numbers dwindled considerably during the COVID shut down and many of our members graduated. We focused on **recruitment of new members and building a solid foundation**, including how we review grants and learning about different ways philanthropy works and lives in our community.
- Our YAC is in the process of gathering data from **a needs assessment written and developed 100% from their perspective**. Data gathered will inform grantmaking and service decisions moving forward. Also, in 2021, we conducted a strategic planning session to focus our projects and connect more strongly to our by-laws and mission. We are additionally **working to strengthen our cooperation and work with the Board of Trustees**; members attend meetings bi-monthly, and we have put together a proposal to expand that partnership further.

“In an effort to promote our mission and gain exposure for our organization, the YAC implemented a new program that is offered to all 5th grade classrooms in our community. (It has not been utilized by every classroom yet, but it is a work in progress.) As part of a larger effort to share the different nonprofits in our community and encourage philanthropic behaviors, our YAC gives a presentation to 5th grade students that introduces them to philanthropy, discusses organizations in the local communities and some of the programs that they offer, and ways that they have worked together with the community foundation. YACers then engage in conversation (typically through Q&A with the younger students) regarding ways that they have been involved in the community or ideas they have for giving back that focus on time, talents and treasures. For participating, the classrooms receive a monetary donation that they can present to any local nonprofit of their choice. This helps to spread our dollars further and invest in the organizations that are important to the youth in our communities.”

Number of YACs by Year They Started Making Grants

Responses: 59



INNOVATIONS

HIGHLIGHTS AND NEW APPROACHES (CONTINUED)

- YAC members **granted funds to a new initiative called Artist in Excellence** with our local Art and Culture Department.
- The YAC used **video sharing to connect with the board** and show the success of our site visits/community service projects. We also had **rack cards printed showing results from the needs assessment to share at schools**.
- Along with grantmaking activities **we focused on learning philanthropy**, including: (1) the business of running a foundation, (2) what funds are and how they work, (3) donor relations and marketing, (4) storytelling, (5) careers in philanthropy, (6) job shadowing foundation staff, and (7) intentional community investments.
- This year we really looked to support mental health projects per **the overwhelming response on our Youth Needs Assessment in all nine of our counties, making Mental Health, Stress, Depression and Anxiety the highest rated issue in all 19 schools where we have YACs**. In one community, their YAC joined up with the Coalition of H.O.P.E. and the Seize the Awkward Campaign to do a mental health awareness teen event and prevention walk. In another community, a great group of YACers did several initiatives to promote healthy mental health in their school and their community. They put up affirmations in the school for people to pull a tab with a positive affirmation on it, displayed posters throughout the school with positive self-care messaging, created a weekly slide show through the main office listing different community events promoting positive mental health, and hosted a table with coping skills, provided chocolate for a serotonin boost and water enhancers on a testing day to help kids cope with test anxiety. They also did two different walks, one for suicide prevention and another for mental health awareness. Each of our other YACs also made a point to either grant to or create special projects in their schools to promote mental health awareness and feature resources in their communities that help the cause.
- We're looking at our **recruitment strategies** and have onboarded a **new YAC Advisor**.
- Our YAC/Youth Grant Committee did more in-person recruitment this past year, particularly at our focus schools where we want to see more student representation. **We gave presentations at the Latinx Youth Conference, a school's career fair, and coordinated with teachers to present and facilitate engaging activities during class time. We also translated our Needs Assessment in Spanish to reach our ESL students.** This is the first time that has been done for our YAC. Out of the 785 responses we received, 17 were in Spanish. Through this effort we learned that our Latinx/Hispanic-identifying students were worried or stressed over immigration status.

"This year we focused on reimagining our YAC based off of three pillars: Community Awareness, Partnerships and Grantmaking. In doing a deeper dive into our youth priorities, the YAC partnered with various YAC grantees to host a dodgeball event called "Dodge the Stress." The grantees held discussions and workshops on YAC priority topics such as violence, substance abuse and mental health. Then, the participating youth released their stress in the game of dodgeball. Our YAC also participated in an endowment campaign hosted by the community foundation called "35 Hours of Giving" in which the group was able to reach out to friends, family and former YAC students to support our endowment. We were very excited to hear from a former YACer who participated in the community foundation's first class of YAC students, and now wants to become more engaged to support the group!"



Students connect with YAC peers around the state while attending the 2023 Michigan Youth Grantmakers Summer Leadership Conference.

INNOVATIONS

HIGHLIGHTS AND NEW APPROACHES (CONTINUED)

- Over the past year, our YAC engaged with **new outreach and recruitment strategies that centered youth of color**. As a result, we brought in eight new YAC members for the 2022-2023 school year, 100% of whom identify as Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC). This added critical new perspectives to our YAC and enriched all of our conversations, while centering the voices of youth of color in our community.
- We developed a **SPARK Tank Proactive Grant for 3rd graders** in the county.
- In honor of National Mental Health Awareness Month in May of 2022, our YAC decided to host a few mental health awareness workshops as their service project. In collaboration with the staff and Youth Leadership Board at Resilience, team members from the Boys and Girls Club and team members from Escape Ministries, the workshops involved numerous middle school aged participants. The topics included: the power of connection and teamwork, destigmatizing mental health and promoting healthy relationships/friendships. In December 2022, the Rotaract Club - in collaboration with Lifeline Ministries and the community foundation YAC - was able to support a family of 11 during the holiday season. Together, over \$2,000 was raised in addition to the multitude of gifts donated. After meeting the family and getting to know them, these community partners understood the need for the family to not only receive support during the holidays, but also to help connect them to other community partners who would assist them in the process toward long-term stability and permanent housing. We kept in contact with the family and confirmed that they did find long-term, stable housing. **These two service project examples showcase the new approach that our YAC students have intentionally taken to collaborate more with community partners and leverage community resources to create a wider impact.** The second service project activity demonstrates the emphasis on long-term sustainability that we have been helping our YAC live into. Many individuals, businesses, etc. often times adopt a family over the holidays, but they don't often continue to walk alongside the family after the holidays to make sure they are finding long-term solutions for their needs and not just immediate assistance that too often runs out quickly before any real change can happen.
- We held a **joint orientation training with the two YACs in our affiliate counties**. We also invited a YAC alum who is majoring in public and nonprofit administration to **speak to YACers about her career goals and experiences in the nonprofit sector**.
- The **YAC members created a newsletter** to send to community partners, family members, educators and YAC alumni.
- We collected **personal hygiene products for "bags" for students** within various schools.
- The community foundation **Y.O.U.T.H. were pleased to provide high school counselors with mental health self-care kits** that included: a journal and #youmatter pen, a motivational card, magnets with emergency mental health contact numbers, a Rubik's cube, tissues and a stress ball. These kits were designed to remind students of small, tangible activities they can do to help reduce their stress and anxiety.
- During this past year **our YAC restructured the youth leadership** to include more defined leadership roles. This has given the YAC members a stronger voice in what our YAC accomplishes.
- **Our YAC conducted our first Needs Assessment Survey in at least eight years**. We gleaned helpful information and have been able to share the results with local school officials.

"This year marked the culmination of the Oxford Grantmaking Response by the YAC, established as a unique initiative in response to the Oxford school shooting. After a compelling letter penned by the YAC chair and vice chair to their peers, standing in solidarity with the students of Oxford, the Board was moved to allocate an additional \$100,000 in addition to their regular annual grantmaking. This action served as an immediate call-to-action and was executed within weeks. The YAC organized the Request for Proposals (RFP) into two distinct rounds of grantmaking. These were targeted directly toward school districts and youth development organizations. The guidelines laid out by the YAC emphasized youth-led solutions to address school safety, mental health issues and other impacts of the ongoing pandemic. The YAC also conducted a unique outreach program. In this initiative, members of the YAC personally connected with school districts and other youth leaders across the region, fostering a sense of community and shared purpose in addressing these critical issues."

INNOVATIONS

HIGHLIGHTS AND NEW APPROACHES (CONTINUED)

- **To celebrate our 25 years we created a calendar of giving. We granted \$500 each month to local agencies serving our community and purchased items they needed.** In February, we purchased hair care products for people of color for our local schools, domestic violence and homeless shelters. In March, we purchased feminine hygiene products for local food pantries, shelters and soup kitchens. We also purchased underwear and sweatshirts for the Urban Exchange closet that serves children in need. We also purchased sheets, bedding and towels for our domestic violence shelter. We worked to create an endowment for the Imagination Library, as well. We worked to raise \$100,000 for a \$1 for \$1 match; in the end we raised \$75,000 for the match. We also have been working on getting a law passed to support the Imagination Library in the whole state. The library is currently in the Governor's budget!
- Last year **we really worked on differentiating community service projects and volunteering.** Our main focus was to come up with new community service projects and ways to be more engaged with helping the community. We did more community service projects this year than years past. We are trying to focus on what is actually needed, instead of what we want to do that may be more fun or easier.
- Our students **purchased Christmas gifts for families in need.**
- This past year, **our YAC hosted an educational event called College Knowledge.** The thought process was that one of the biggest stressors of their age group is about the future. The event catered to middle and high schoolers and allowed them to learn from guest speakers, have conversations on options for their futures and ask questions.
- We engaged in more **proactive grantmaking** and **filmed a mental health video** that was shown at the local movie theater and on social media.
- **The YAC attended the CMF Youth Grantmakers Summer Leadership Conference** for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic! The YAC will also have a new staff member assume the advisor role. The YAC will be **conducting a new Needs Assessment** in the upcoming school year. Youth mental health is a consistent top priority, but coming up with solutions is a challenge to overcome when attempting to address these needs. In an effort to generate better information and data, **the YAC experimented leading focus groups with local middle schoolers** to uncover possible solutions to youth mental health issues.
- We increased our community service component by **assisting with the community's mobile food pantry.**
- **YAC celebrated 2023 National Skilled Nursing Care Week (May 14-20) with our local retirement community facility.** Members made over 60 bags filled with necessities for residents who stay permanently at the nursing home. Members spent time handing out bags, chatting with residents and sharing what YAC does in our community. The YAC also showed appreciation to the staff by handing out baked goods to recognize the kindness they give to our senior community every day.
- Our activities included participating in **fundraising for the homelessness prevention fund through a successful raffle, participating in community service projects and presenting grant award checks to recipients.** Our board representative also attended all scheduled board meetings this year.

"In March of this year, **the YAC participated in a cross-generational service project in which they collaborated with veterans, volunteers from the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and several scout troops.** From these groups of all ages, about 60 volunteers worked together to assemble 125 "sunshine bags" (care package tote bags) to be delivered to residents at the assisted living facilities in each of county's three communities. About a week later, the YAC met some of the other volunteers at each assisted living facility and hand-delivered a sunshine bag to each resident. The residents were absolutely delighted to have visitors who wanted to chat with them and give them a gift. This service project accomplished its goal of bringing community members of all ages together and connecting lives across generations."

CURRENT CHALLENGES

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUPPORT

On the left below are common themes heard from respondents to this year's survey on behalf of their YAC when invited to share their challenges and areas where support may be needed; on the right are direct quotes from respondents.

Student Engagement

- Recruiting Across All School Districts in the County
- Recruiting a Diverse Group of Youth Leaders
- Supporting Students Balancing Multiple Activities, Over-Commitment
- Improving Retention and Student Focus
- Assisting Students with Transportation
- Supporting Students' Mental Health and Well-Being
- Deepening Students' Commitment and Meaningful Engagement
- Juggling School Districts' Varying Schedules and Distance
- Establishing a Sense of Community Among YACers

Advisor Engagement

- YAC Advisor Retention
- Supporting New YAC Advisors
- Making Time to Support YAC + Other Responsibilities

Youth Needs Assessment Development

- Developing and Sending a New Assessment
- Using Assessment Data to Deepen Impact

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (and Justice)

- Hosting DEI(J) Conversations
- Getting Involved with (or Starting) DEI Programs

Grantmaking

- Learning More About Proactive Grantmaking
- Integrating Proactive Grantmaking into "Regular" Grantmaking
- Evaluating Past Grants

Other

- Fund Development/Fundraising
- Engaging with Alumni
- Student Leadership Skill Development
- Connecting with Area Peers (Neighboring YACs)
- Defining Roles of the Executive Team

"Our biggest challenge was keeping students engaged throughout the school year with so many other distractions such as school sports and club activities. There always seemed to be conflicts with meeting times or transportation so not everyone can be present at the same time, even when meeting virtually. After attending the Youth Conference this past June, I have received many great ideas and hope to have a more successful attendance rate going forward."

"Given the expanding scale of our program, we would greatly appreciate any best practices or resources on encouraging YAC members to take the lead in fund development. This is particularly crucial as the YAC program and its grantmaking activities are supported by the endowed Youth Leadership Fund. By empowering our members in this manner, we aim to ensure the ongoing sustainability and success of our growing program."

"As we look to the future, the YAC is currently in the process of pinpointing tools and methodologies to effectively re-engage with our YAC alumni network. The aim is to organize programs that rekindle connections with alumni, providing a platform for networking and mentorship opportunities for current YAC members."

"Our YAC is really interested in defining roles of our executive team as well as how to create more engagement amongst themselves. During a YAC training from CMF they touched on being engaged and involved and that really struck a chord."



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