



# Kenosha County YOUTH AS RESOURCES

## 2011 - 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

### What is Kenosha County Youth As Resources?

Kenosha County Youth As Resources (YAR) is a grant-giving program which funds youth-designed, youth-led community service projects in Kenosha County. Youth, with guidance from adults, determine the project they believe will address a need in their community. Youth groups may apply to Kenosha County Youth As Resources (YAR) for small grants of up to \$500 which may be used to purchase supplies for the project, but may not be used to pay for volunteer time. The YAR Board reads all applications and invites youth groups to present their proposals directly to the board.

### Service Projects Funded by Kenosha County Youth As Resources:

#### Fire Station Sign

\$450.00

Boy Scouts of America



Boy Scouts worked with Pleasant Prairie Firefighters to design and construct a sign for Fire Station 2 in the Village of Pleasant Prairie. In addition to designing and constructing the sign, the group also landscaped around the sign once it was installed.

#### Somers School Sign

\$330.00

Boy Scouts of America



Boy Scouts from Troop 525 landscaped the Somers Elementary School sign on the corner of Highway E and Highway EA in the Town of Somers. In addition to landscaping, the group also worked with adults to run electric power to the sign for easy viewing at night.

#### Bookends for Bradford

\$150.00

Bradford High School



In an effort to help with the renovation of the library at Bradford High School, thirty-two students received funding to purchase bookends in the school color, cardinal red. The project was designed to provide uniformity and creation of a more inviting and appealing learning environment.

#### Bookshelves for Somers

\$420.00

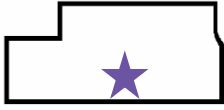
Boy Scouts of America



Boy Scouts worked with Somers Elementary staff to design and build three wooden bookshelves. The bookshelves are four-sided and can hold books in a variety of sizes.



**Tie Away the Cold**  
**\$350.00**  
**Bristol Challenge 4-H Club**



To help benefit the less fortunate in our community, youth from the Bristol Challenge 4-H Club made fleece blankets. Thirty youth cut, tied and assembled each blanket. Once completed, these youth coordinated with a variety of shelters whose employees would distribute the blankets to those in need.

**Accelerated Reading Program**  
**\$270.00**  
**Urban League**



Teens from the Urban League of Racine and Kenosha worked with adults to develop a program for younger students to improve their skills in reading and mathematics. Teen age youth served as mentors/tutors and the computer-based program was housed at the Urban League office.

**Backpacks for the Homeless**  
**\$440.00**  
**Kenosha Klovvers 4-H Club**



Members of the Kenosha Klovvers 4-H Club worked together to coordinate the Back Packs for the Homeless Project. Simply stated, homeless men and women would be given a small backpack filled with supplies and toiletries. The youth participating in this program also surveyed professionals who serve homeless individuals to ensure the supplies and toiletries would be used.

**County Fair Recycling Project**  
**\$350.00**  
**Somers Chargers 4-H Club**



In an effort to reduce the amount of garbage being added to local landfills, the Somers Chargers 4-H Club purchased recycling containers to be placed throughout the Kenosha County Fair grounds in Wilmot, WI. The containers purchased are reusable and should last for several years.

**The Good Citizen Project**  
**\$100.00**  
**Bradford High School**



Students from Bradford High School coordinated a public screening of the documentary film "The Good Citizen" at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. The film is a culmination of academic research and discourse between students, political scientists, professors, elected officials and community leaders.

**Bunny Baskets**  
**\$500.00**  
**Holy Cross Church**



Youth from the Holy Cross Church filled baskets with balls, toys, candy, gift cards, socks, puzzles and stuffed animals to be distributed to children in need. The group partnered with the Sharing Center to identify youth that could most benefit from the program. Over 130 baskets were distributed to Kenosha County youth.

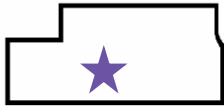


**Bradford Post Prom Party**  
**\$320.00**  
**Youth for Christ**



Youth for Christ members planned and implemented an after prom dance for Bradford high School students designed to stop harmful decisions of young people following Prom. This post prom party was held at the YMCA, where attendees danced, played games, ate food and socialized in a safe environment.

**Westosha Central Prom Party**  
**\$320.00**  
**Youth for Christ**



Youth for Christ members planned and implemented an after prom dance for Westosha Central High School students designed to stop harmful decisions of young people following Prom. Youth participants at this post prom party danced, played games, ate food and socialized in a safe environment.

**Egg in the Park**  
**\$500.00**  
**The Fellowship Church**



Youth and Adults from the Fellowship Church planned and implemented an egg hunt in Lincoln Park for neighborhood residents. In addition to the egg hunt, families played games, made crafts and most importantly had fun. Hundreds of children and their parents/guardians participated in the event.

**KD Parks Signs**  
**\$370.00**  
**Boy Scouts of America**



Boy Scouts from Troup 544 designed, built and installed a large trailhead signs at the entrance of all four hiking loops at the new KD Park. In addition to these signs, they also installed marking posts on all four hiking trails.

**Kenosha County Youth As Resources Program Statistics**

Period	Number of Grants	Funds Distributed	Youth Participants
2011-2012*	14	\$ 4,870.00	371
2005 - 2012	86	\$ 30,920.00	3,259

\* 2011-2012 Kenosha County Youth As Resources Funds provided by the United Way of Kenosha County.



# Kenosha County Youth As Resources Board Members

2011 – 2012



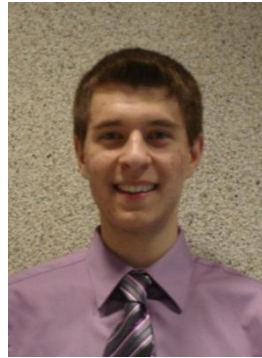
Keely Dugan

Youth Board Member



Sarah Dugan

Youth Board Member



Brian Feraric

Treasurer



Nate McKeon

Vice President



Eric Ottmann

President



Emma Patton

Youth Board Member



Nicolas Torres

Youth Board Member



Olivia Westhoff

Secretary



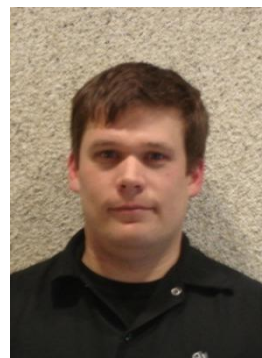
Alison Derfield

Adult Board Member



Max Green

Adult Board Member



Spence Voss

Adult Board Member



Megan Zirbel

Adult Board Member



## EVALUATION AND IMPACT

Near the end of their term, all Youth As Resources Board members are given the opportunity to complete a retrospective evaluation. Quantitative information about civic engagement and leadership skill development are highlighted in the tables below. Qualitative information is also shared through direct quotes from youth in response to three specific questions.

N = 8 of 8 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT	% of Youth Reporting No Change	% of Youth Reporting 1 Unit of Change	% of Youth Reporting 2 or > Units of Change
I am knowledgeable about Kenosha County	12.5%	50.0%	37.5%
I am aware of local issues that affect Kenosha County	0.0%	62.5%	37.5%
My actions can make a difference in the community	12.5%	75.0%	12.5%
I have a useful role in the community	0.0%	62.5%	37.5%
I feel a strong connection to Kenosha County	12.5%	25.0%	62.5%
I am a resource	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%

N = 8 of 8 LEADERSHIP SKILLS	% of Youth Reporting No Change	% of Youth Reporting 1 Unit of Change	% of Youth Reporting 2 or > Units of Change
I can participate in group discussions with adults	37.5%	50.0%	12.5%
I can objectively evaluate project proposals	0.0%	62.5%	37.5%
I can serve as an effective board member	12.5%	75.0%	12.5%
I can speak confidently before a group	25.0%	50.0%	25.0%
I can see issues from multiple perspectives	25.0%	62.5%	12.5%
I can follow a process to make decisions	37.5%	50.0%	12.5%

### QUESTION #1

**One goal of the Kenosha County Youth As Resources program is to create an environment that is conducive to the positive development of youth voice and youth engagement. Do you feel the YAR program accomplished this goal? Why?**

*"I do believe YAR has created an environment that has a strong youth voice and engagement because I can say with the utmost certainty that each member and those who have received grants can take away such a wonderful experience and better our community." – Emma Patton*



*"I do feel that YAR was very successful in accomplishing this goal. It's hard to find a program in which both youth and adult members work as a cohesive group, especially when that group is led by the youth. I believe that YAR demonstrates a program that both encourages youth involvement and also acts as a transition for the youth into actual community involvement." – Brian Feraric*

*"YAR accomplishes this goal by allowing youth to explore and solve social problems which arise in the community." – Sarah Dugan*



## QUESTION #2

Another goal of the Kenosha County Youth As Resources program is that the program would provide youth with skills, knowledge and experiences to prepare them for future leadership opportunities. Do you feel the YAR program accomplished this goal? Why?

*“Yes, because I learned a lot of decision making and leadership skills.”*

– Nick Torres



*“The goal of leadership was accomplished excellently. I was elected to be President of YAR and it was my first year on YAR board. I had to really take the role as President head-on. In the beginning it took some getting used to, but in the end I’ve learned a lot about leadership.”* – Eric Ottmann

*“The YAR program has prepared me for future leadership by giving me the opportunity to be the secretary of the board for five years. I have gained organization, communication, and interpersonal skills. I now have an advanced knowledge of the needs of the Kenosha County community and how to address these needs. I am now confident in my leadership skills any my ability to make a difference.”* – Olivia Westhoff

*“The YAR program has given me tremendous confidence in my own abilities to step up as a leader in the future. The program has instilled in me the tools necessary for success and the knowledge and experience I’ve gained from my time spent on the YAR Board will remain with me for my entire life.”* – Nate McKeon

*“I do believe that YAR did an exceptional job of providing the youth with skills, knowledge and experiences to prepare them for future leadership opportunities. I was able to see my fellow youth grow in many of these areas and become adequate leaders. I, myself, who walked into this program with background experience in some of these areas, have seen growth in my own leadership capabilities. I was very pleased with this program overall.”* – Brian Feraric

## QUESTION #3

What has been the most important thing you have gained from participation in the Kenosha County Youth As Resources program?

*“I have try discovered the meaning of “I am a resource”. I know what it’s like to be a part of something that makes an impact on Kenosha County community as a whole. I have proved to others and myself that youth can go above and beyond what they are called to do without needing anything in return.”* – Olivia Westhoff



*“The most important thing I have gained is the confidence to speak up and be heard.”* – Emma Patton

*“The most important thing that I have gained from participation in Kenosha County Youth as Resources is a new understanding of the needs in my community. I hope that even after my time with YAR, I will continue to find ways to satisfy the needs of Kenosha County and improve the lives of those in it.”* – Brian Feraric

*“Better communication skills and a great sense of community.”* – Keely Dugan

*“I’ve gained a sense of importance to the community from my participation in the Kenosha County Youth As Resources program. The program really fosters an environment that makes you feel like an integral and valuable member of the community.”* – Nate McKeon



