



YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL



barrycountyyac



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barrycountyyac.org

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BARRY
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

2023-2024 Annual Report

What is YAC?

The Youth Advisory Council is a group of students aged 13-18, involved with and participating in youth projects in their community. "YACers" are taught the meaning of service through various community projects, such as Hosting our Annual Roofsit, volunteering at The Shack in Delton, and participating in The United Way Toy Drive.

YAC has provided over half a million dollars in grant money to youth projects all over Barry County. This year, we were thrilled to provide \$13,632.82 to students all throughout our community.

The Barry Community Foundation provides essential building blocks for later career and life roles that might occur.

2023-24 Leadership

President- Evan Liu

Vice President- Ava Zellmer

Secretary- Ryan Skidmore

Grant Committee Chair- Izzy Sherk

Social Media Char- Quinn Waddell

Thornapple Kellogg Representative- Blake Hardy

Delton Representative- Maddy Waller

Hastings Representative- Micah Johnson

Maple Valley Representative- Abigail Harvey

Sergeants-At-Arms- Petra Foster & Will Nathan

The Retreat



We went to Camp Michawana to kick off our YAC season where we had loads of fun getting to know each other and building the YAC team. We all gathered in the center where we introduced the recruits to what YAC was all about, and elected our officers for the year. We created posters for the upcoming Roofsit, and we also spent time solving a challenging puzzle game that got us up and moving.

This year, we decided to support Green Gables for our annual Roofsit. They provide a safe space for women and children in Barry County facing unsafe or abusive situations. The YAC interns thought that this charity would be deserving of the money as they provide such an essential service to families in Barry County. We were able to raise \$3021.10 for Green Gables, doing our part to provide such essential services to women in Barry County.

The Roofsit



The Shack



This year, YAC undertook a service project at The Shack in Delton, which provides thousands of pieces of clothing for members of the community. The Shack accepts hundreds of donated clothes every year and provides a place for people to shop for these items, free of charge. The YACers sorted and organized these items, using their time and manpower to provide essential support for this landmark service in the Delton community.

Every year the YACers are excited to participate in the United Way Toy Drive. They are tasked with moving thousands of toys and donated items from the UW offices into the Barry Community Enrichment Center's Leason Sharpe Hall and setting up a place for Barry County families to "shop" for gifts, clothing, and stocking stuffers for children of all ages, all provided by our generous Barry County community. This is one of the YACer's biggest community projects and is one of the most fulfilling and fun ways YAC gives back to the community.

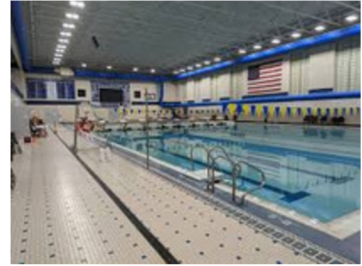
Barry County United Way Toy Drive



Community Grants

Hastings CERC Pool

The Hastings CERC asked for \$3000 to fund the building of new stairs for their pool. The CERC is highly trafficked and the old steps were run down and not safe anymore. We passed in full and funded the new steps to aid in the safety and operation of this community resource.



HHS Science Olympiad

The Science Olympiad Team at HHS was awarded \$1,075.00 for their program, and this was used to transport students to competitions all over Michigan. Students were also able to become more involved in STEM education and remained competitive throughout the season.

Thornapple Kellogg ECC Rolling Library

Thornapple Kellogg Early Childhood Center asked for \$300 to spend on their rolling library. The rolling library is a program run by the TKECC that promotes childhood literacy rates and is fundamental to help in raising ready readers. We granted it in full.



Flexible Seating

A TK Kindergarten teacher involved her students in the grantmaking process by submitting their artwork for the flexible seating they wanted to buy. After granting the \$317.97, the kindergarten students presented YAC with a signed thank-you card.



Delton Kellogg Middle School Volleyball

YAC awarded \$2,431.43 to the DKMS Volleyball team for new equipment and uniforms. These items improved safety and morale for the Panthers, and we're excited to see them used for years to come!



TKHS Student Council

\$1,100 helped the Thornapple Kellogg Student Council plan and implement their annual day of service. These award made wallets for homeless shelters, decorated brown bag lunches for children's food baskets, and transported students all over the community to do service projects for their fellow citizens.

Thornapple Kellogg BPA

Thornapple Kellogg BPA is requested \$2526.48 to fund their trip to compete at nationals. They used the money to cover the hotel fees and will be staying there to compete. We decided to grant it in full, and it was passed.



TKMS Trades

The TK Middle School CTE hosted a trades camp for its students over the summer and used YAC dollars to purchase a new table saw for \$581.94. This equipment will provide dozens of students in the coming years to learn and become more familiar with trades equipment and CTE education.

TKHS Close Up Trip

\$2,000 gave TK students opportunities to fundraise and save for their upcoming Close-Up trip to Washington DC. This gave students a chance to see government work first-hand, as well as learn about the fundraising process and how a community investment can lead to student success.