

YEP Update Dec. 2014

At the beginning of this year, in June, we welcomed our new-comers and explained to them what YEP is; we paired into groups of one new member and one old member. These teams worked together to follow-up with last year's grant recipients and came back to the group with: proof of the impact made with the granted money, how successful or unsuccessful the completed project/program was, and how close it was to their original project proposal. These follow-ups have been discussed at YEP meetings, as each granted project finishes.

We also got the opportunity to speak with someone from the Regional Planning Commission about our thoughts on how Bloomington could be improved. We also filled out their Surveys and helped spread the word about Bring It On Bloomington.

One of the many ideas sparked at the YAC / LEAGUE Michigan Community Foundation's Conference (to which several YEP members attended) was the need for an endowment fund. We have just formed a committee in charge of fund-raising for such a fund. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 by May, in order to "match" the donation from a Generous Donor given each year to YEP for distribution. To start this off, we challenged YEPers to ask for a donation to the endowment fund, by friends and family members, in their honor in place of some holiday presents. We have great hope that after seeing the youth themselves start off this initiative, the community will follow suit. If all goes according to plan, we will open donations on January first, 2015.

I have been a part of YEP for a year and a half now, and have been truly moved by the experience. I am working on a Girl Scout Gold Award based off of "Open Space" at the Michigan Conference. I have a new-found respect for voting. I have met important people at luncheons, and learned what business-casual means. I am considering a future writing grants, and I am aware of the kindness in our community. I would like to personally thank IPCF and our Generous Donor on behalf of all of us for the experience we have gained, and the doors that have been opened for us.

Isabel C. Dawson