

YEP Update – May 2015

My name is Kylie Personette, I'm a junior at U-High, and I was a first-time member of YEP this year. I heard about YEP from another YEP member who attends my school; she suggested that I consider applying as she thought it would be a good fit for me and that I would be a good fit for the group. I have so enjoyed my time on YEP for this year and I feel proud to be part of a group that can make such a substantial impact on the community as it is run by youth.

This year, we decided that YEP should start thinking about sustainability for the future to make sure that no matter the circumstances, YEP will be able to provide for the community. In order to do this, the Friend and Fund Raising Committee, of which I am a part, decided that we were going to begin an endowment. We set a goal of \$10,000 honoring your annual donation [YEP's Generous Founding Donor] by matching them, and this \$10,000 was to be used to start the endowment fund for YEP.

To kick off fundraising, each YEP member contributed some amount of money in order to pledge our allegiance to the group and to show our serious commitment. YEP members' donations totaled over \$1,200! Since then, we have met with philanthropic contributors in our area, both large and small, where we have asked if they wish to support us. These meetings have produced another \$2,700. Along with these funds already raised, an anonymous donor has given us an opportunity for a \$3,000 match for the next \$3,000 we raise, bringing us very close to our \$10,000 goal.

In addition, we have started to recruit members for next year as we have quite a few seniors graduating and many juniors who will graduate next year. Our goal is to keep the group diverse in many aspects, as this would add to the perspectives that members can bring which makes the group stronger as a whole.

Another item on our agenda this spring was deciding how we were going to spend the \$10,000 in grant money. For your convenience, I have attached our decisions which have been verified by IPCF. Our focus, we decided, was to spend our money promoting equality rather than helping those who are already relatively fortunate. For this reason, you will see that we chose to grant money to many groups whose missions were to support underprivileged youth.

This being my first year, I wasn't completely sure what to expect for the grant decision process. After gaining access to the applications, each YEP member was expected to read through them so that at our decision meeting, we could discuss each one and prioritize. I found the decision process to be a bit difficult because each organization had a goal, and it's tough not to want to help all of them! To make decisions, we spent a lot of time analyzing each group's itemized list of costs and eliminated the costs which did not directly align with YEP's mission. Our decision meeting was very intense, as many of YEP's members had passionate opinions on different issues relating to each group's request, but we chose to vote on a consensus. This made sure that nobody was disappointed in the end; we worked to

persuade each other if an application had only a majority vote so that we could get everyone to back each decision. This helped us to build outstanding communication skills! I have attached a copy of our decisions which were endorsed by IPCF.

To celebrate the end of this YEP year, we plan to have a grant award ceremony and celebration of the end of our fundraising where we will hopefully have reached our goal!

We very much appreciate your support of YEP, and we hope that we can keep you engaged and updated on our progress as we embark on this new phase of YEP. Though the group is young, we have gained valuable experience in our time participating in YEP. Participation in this group is such a wonderful opportunity for all of its members. I look forward to continuing to spend time with the group and to make a lasting impact on this community through YEP.

Thank you!

Kylie Personette





