

Hello Friends of YEP!

I am pleased to share the latest and greatest goings on with the Youth Engaged in Philanthropy! The 2018-2019 YEP cohort is comprised of 22 members, from 4 counties. With the aid of veteran members, outstanding mentors, and community assets, the rookie YEP members were able to learn the importance, and true meaning of philanthropy.

My name is Elizabeth Raycraft, and I am a first year member. I am currently a junior at University High School, and heard about YEP through my parents. They encouraged me to join the organization in order to learn more about service, and the importance of giving back to the community. I was taught these skills and more in just a short year as a member of the cohort. A few of the many things things I learned in YEP include: professional skills, how to work as a team, time management, communication skills, leadership skills, the true definition of philanthropy, and how to give back to a community that does so much for me.

Claire Meyer, who is currently a senior at Normal Community High School, has been a member of the YEP cohort for four years. She found out about YEP in 8th grade through a family member who was already a part of the group. Many of the clubs, and activities she has been involved in throughout high school has taught her important skills, and lessons required to be a successful YEP member. A few of the activities she has been a part of include, Future Business Leaders of America, President of Student Council, Habitat for Humanity, Key Club, Health Occupation Students of America, and more.

One of Claire's favorite memories from YEP was going to Central Michigan University for a YAC conference. At the conference Claire was able to meet many great people who had interests similar to her own, who she is still friends with to this day. Claire says that the most interesting part of the conference was learning about other groups philanthropy organizations, and how they compare and contrast to YEP.

Throughout her four years in YEP, Claire says that one of the many things she learned was professional skills. Specifically, being able to speak confidently in front of large crowds, sending formal emails, and numerous leadership skills. Claire will be applying these skills at Illinois State University, where she is studying Marketing as a freshman this fall. Currently, Claire plans to earn a Master's degree in both Healthcare Administration, and Business Administration which will help her to one day be a Health Administrator in a children's hospital.

## Here are some of the events YEP was involved in this Spring!

Normal Community West High School Activities Fair: YEP members Jasmyn Jordan, Abby Calhoun, and Mason Runkle explained to students the importance of philanthropy, and encouraged them to be members of the 2019-2020 YEP cohort!



SOAR Respect Run: YEP members Reagan Spaid, Calis Lim, and Divya B, volunteered at the Special Opportunities Available in Recreation 5K to help raise awareness about the importance of respecting others!



YEP member Reagan Spaid was able to represent YEP at the Royal Family Kids Camp, helping serve breakfast. The event was able to raise enough funds to provide two campers scholarships!



YEP is extraordinarily grateful to the anonymous donor who has funded our organization for the past six years. Also, YEP is working to obtain sustainability by growing an endowment fund. YEP is asking you to support us with our goal by submitting donations through the [YEP website](#) or mailed as a check written to Illinois Prairie Community Foundation with YEP in the memo. Make sure to follow us on Facebook, @McLeanYEP, to keep up with us and other events around the community!

With thanks,

Elizabeth Raycraft  
Youth Engaged in Philanthropy member