



## IRYA Staff

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## Food Drive 2015

IRYA food drives are sponsored in several schools including those in Cherry, Chisholm, Eveleth, Hibbing, Mt. Iron/Buhl, Virginia, and the Northeast Range High School and Elementary School. Hundreds of pounds of food was collected and donated to local food shelves.

## Learning Day at the Capitol

On April 12, 32 students from six area schools traveled to the State Capitol to meet with politicians including Governor Mark Dayton, Representatives Jason Metsa and Rob Eklund, and Senator Tom Bakk. The students prepared questions relating to topics that are important to them and also had the opportunity to ask questions related to the political process and what it means to work in politics.



**Holiday Food Drive**

**15 Most Wanted**

Soup, Beans, Fruit, Tuna, Vegetables  
Crackers, Tortillas, Oatmeal, Cereal  
Pasta, Rice, Flour  
Tomato Sauce, Peanut Butter, Fruit Juice

Choose healthy options like whole grains, low-fat & light syrup.

**December 7-11**

Bring a canned or boxed food item in to the drop off site.

The grade bringing in the most donated food items will be rewarded with a special fun event.

- ALL FOOD IS DONATED TO OUR LOCAL FOOD SHELF FOR FAMILIES IN NEED.



Sponsored by Virginia Iron Range Youth in Action



SAINT LOUIS COUNTY MINNESOTA

IRYA maintains and supports quality programs for students in grades 9-12. We promote positive youth development and public service values, and encourage Iron Range youth to become young leaders who are better engaged with their communities. At the same time, we work to bring positive changes to Northern Minnesota through partnerships with area businesses, organizations and elected officials.

[IRYA.org](http://IRYA.org)



## Make a Difference Conference

Members held their 21st Annual Young Leaders Conference, Make a Difference 2016, on February 22, hosting nearly 350 Iron Range teens from Hibbing, Chisholm, Cherry, Ely, Eveleth/Gilbert, Mesabi East, Northwoods, South Ridge, Northeast Range, Mountain Iron/Buhl and Virginia High Schools at Fortune Bay Resort. The focus of the conference was to provide education through a variety of workshop offerings and presentations delivered by professional keynote speakers, Jamie Nebozny and Steve Mead. Our goal for student participants is to bring awareness that everyone can make a positive difference in their lives by becoming active in community service projects and civic events.

## Service Learning Trip

Fourteen IRYA students from five Iron Range Schools joined together to help children and families served by two Twin Cities agencies. The two-day trip in late July brought Iron Range Youth in Action (IRYA) students to the Ronald McDonald House and a Salvation Army kids camp in St. Paul. The students chose the organizations where they wanted to serve and worked to raise funds to cover the costs. The students were responsible for planning a meal, shopping for necessary groceries, and preparing and serving the food to 70 people at the Ronald McDonald House. The following day they visited the Salvation Army kids camp, playing games and spending time with the children there.



*Bonding and getting to know each other by grocery shopping or having a pool party was all a great time. But, what was even better, was helping out and making a dinner for the families who appreciate it more than we know. Meeting new kids and learning their story gives you a new look at life, and what we take for granted.*

Marissa Peterson, 2016 Service Learning Trip participant