



Secondary Youth Development

Positive Happenings—November 2013

Youth development, the process of growing up and developing one's capacities, happens no matter what we do. The challenge is to promote positive youth development and plan quality experiences with young people.

University of Minnesota Extension Center for Youth Development

Community Education and Lakes Area Youth Service Bureau collaborate to sponsor the Youth Advisory Board (YAB). Junior and senior high school students join YAB to improve their leadership skills, make a difference in their communities and to make a positive impact on those around them. The group meets one-two times each month to plan and implement service projects that allow them to practice their leadership skills and work to benefit others.



Recent service projects have included:

- offering a free class for technologically challenged adults called "Smartphones, iPads and Tablets, Oh My!"
- making holiday cards for Birchwood residents
- making fleece blankets for homeless youth
- assisting with community events such as the Johnson/Turner Calorie Burner and the Stomp Out Suicide 5k

I attended the Smartphones class last night. I was very impressed with your youth staff teaching the class. They were so good with all of us old people who didn't understand our device.

Laura Hermann

Secondary Youth Development Continued

“In YAB I have learned that it’s not all about yourself, but it’s about making a powerful impact in those around you. I have built friendships with other students I would have never met, I have explained that LET’S TALK CANS are conversation starters created by the Youth Advisory Board over a hundred times, and I have stood out in the cold ringing a bell for the Salvation Army, no matter how many people think that’s crazy, to me it’s wonderful when you see the joy on others faces.”

Amanda Stafford, YAB



In addition to improving their leadership skills and working to benefit their community, YAB members also raise money to support their projects! Busing tables at Culver’s and washing cars are two ways the group has raised money recently.



For more information about YAB or any other Youth Development activities, please contact:

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