INTRODUCTION

The Yellow Springs Youth Action Board uses philanthropy and leadership to teach teens how to change the world.

Fourteen students from the Yellow Springs area joined this year’s Youth Action Board. They collectively spent 840 hours working to improve their communities while becoming leaders and activists in the process. The team completed a community needs assessment on the most pressing issues facing youth in Yellow Springs, raised awareness of the issues with the community, and fundraised $2,300 for local nonprofit organizations benefitting youth across the Yellow Springs area.
THE PROGRAM

Youth Action Board is the youth-led arm of the Yellow Springs Community Foundation. Each year, students conduct a grant cycle.

Facilitators: Melissa Heston & Linda Sikes

Youth Action Board is the youth-led arm of the Yellow Springs Community Foundation. Each year, students conduct a grant cycle.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT
Youth dive deep to find the most pressing issues facing children and youth in their local community.

FUNDRAISING
Youth meet with community members to raise awareness about and funding for the biggest issues.

GRANT MAKING
Youth decide which nonprofits are doing the best at meeting the needs and give away 100% of the funds raised.

PARTICIPANTS
Facilitators: Melissa Heston & Linda Sikes

Kian Barker
Malaya Booth
Olive Cooper
Lucy Dennis
Joaquin Espinosa
Sophia Gisslen*
Arielle Johnson*

Lily Kibblewhite
Rylee Mckenzie-Feltner
Gini Meekin
June Pyles-Treser
Mateen Sajabi
Samantha Snyder
Marin Wirrig

*Youth Facilitator
After many hours of research, the Youth Action Board decided to focus on the following funding priority:

Accessible & Affordable Healthy Food for Youth
The Yellow Springs Community Foundation Youth Action Board members believe that healthful and nutritious food is a basic and necessary human right that should not be restricted by one's socio-economic status, race, identity, or any other possible discriminating factor. Nutritious food fundamentally influences our ability to thrive physically, intellectually, and emotionally. Access to fresh and nutritious food at a young age can increase our capacity to flourish into adulthood.

“I really enjoy attending the meetings and learning about the different non profits and improvement areas for my community. I leave each meeting feeling like I learned something new.” - 2021 participant
The Youth Action Board created a fundraising plan to raise as much money as possible to support their chosen priority. They met with local business, community, and nonprofit leaders (known as “Impact Partners”) from across the Yellow Springs area to talk about their funding priorities and ask community leaders to invest in their work.

RAISED: $2,300

Thank you to our Impact Partners!

Lisa Abel & Lynn Adams
Carol Cottom & Bruce Bradtmiller
Barb & Rich Bullock
Luke & Sally Dennis
Caryn Fox Diamond
Melissa Heston & Mary Kay Smith

Barbara Leeds
Aida Merhemic
Susan Miller
Macy & Roger Reynolds
Melissa Tinker & Family
George Michael Wanicek
Yellow Springs Chiropractic

Interested in volunteering?
Contact info@youthroots.org
The following organizations were awarded a grant based on their ability to meet the funding priorities of the Youth Action Board:

**Agraria - $2,000**
Agraria is a center for research and education about regenerative land use that supports the expansion of our regional food system and serves as a platform for building community resilience. Funds from the Youth Action Board will support the organization’s Youth Forage Garden. The Garden will provide a source of nutritious, foragable foods for visitors to the Agraria property, as well as an educational experience for youth who plant and tend the garden. The Youth Forage Garden will be a special place for local children who visit Agraria with their class, with their parents, or as part of an outdoor education group they provide.

**Yellow Springs Schools - $300**
The Yellow Springs Schools serve 700 K-12 students annually in the Yellow Springs, OH area. Funds from the Youth Action Board will be used for an improved cafeteria plan for the schools.

“**YAB helped me learn how to take control of a situation and not to let pressure get the best of me.”** - 2021 participant
## STUDENT IMPACT

### Empowerment

100% of participants said YAB improved their ability to identify an issue and take action.

### Community

Students raised awareness and funding ($2,300) for pressing issues.

### Leadership

100% of participants said they would be more likely to take on a leadership role because of YAB.

### Knowledge

100% of participants gained knowledge in curriculum topics.

### Empathy

75% of participants stated YAB improved their empathy skills.

### Life Skills

Participants showed improvement in non-cognitive skills 98% of the time.
PARTNERSHIP

The Youth Action Board program is a joint project between the Yellow Springs Community Foundation and YouthRoots, a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to unleash the power of youth to change the world. The Yellow Springs Community Foundation uses the YouthRoots curriculum to teach Yellow Springs area teens how to change the world through philanthropy and gain valuable leadership skills. Together, they are cultivating the next generation of Yellow Springs leaders and change-makers.

Learn more at:
www.yscf.org
www.youthroots.org

“YAB helped me learn and think more about the needs of my community, and showed me how I could help.” - 2021 participant