



What is YAR?

Rochester Monroe County YAR is a community based youth philanthropy program that provides small grants to young people to design and carry out community service projects that address social issues or problems and contribute to change in the community. We work under the following mission statement:

Youth As Resources seeks to empower and engage youth as partners with adults in creating positive community change and development. Youth and adult members govern the YAR board that provides mini grants to local youth in order to develop and carry out service projects that addresses a clear community need.

Youth and adult board members strive to make their community a healthier and more positive place to live and grow. The youth board members range from ages 11-21 and have diverse backgrounds that reflect the varied socioeconomic status of our county. Each youth brings their unique talents to the table, and they all work collaboratively to achieve the shared goals of the board. Adult board members also come from an array of different backgrounds that include school teachers, parents, community development representatives, businessmen and women, community members, and others.

YAR assists in increasing participants' connectedness to the communities and neighborhoods of Monroe County. When we successfully achieve this goal, YAR contributes to "social capital development," which as outlined in the RFP from the Rochester Area Community Foundation (the organization that funds the YAR Grants) refers to, "the levels of connectedness, involvement, trustworthiness, and reciprocity among people. Social capital is a barometer and foundation of the health, vitality, viability, and productivity of individuals, communities, and society as a whole."

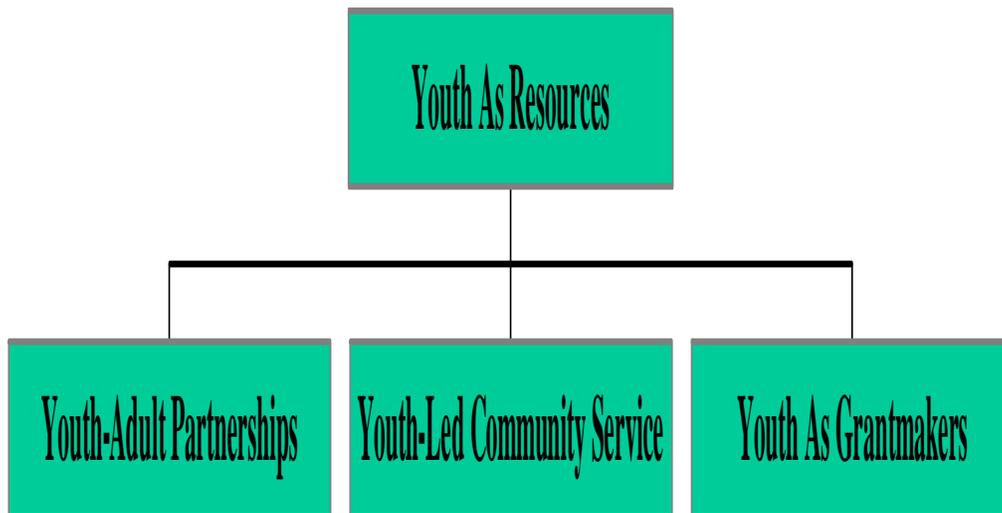
Youth As Resources is able to link youth and community development opportunities together. From YAR, communities benefit from the hard work, services, and products youth provide. Youth are given the opportunity to change their lives while at the same time improving the lives of others. Adults also start to perceive youth as partners who can contribute to their community, and can be respected and trusted.

Youth philanthropy is a key method to increase youth involvement in youth community service, civic engagement, and community decision making. The concept of youth philanthropy has gained credibility over the past 20 years as an effective method to involve youth in community problem solving, application of leadership techniques, group decision making, program design, proposal, and budget evaluation.

YAR identifies the following as key fundamental beliefs that govern all YAR initiatives:

- ◆ Young people of all ages and backgrounds can -- and will -- be active, enthusiastic, and creative contributors of service to their communities.
- ◆ Young people can be effective leaders and decision-makers in identifying and solving pressing community problems.
- ◆ Young people, when given the chance and the guidance, can act as responsible partners with adults in all levels of service.
- ◆ Through involvement in YAR, young people have gained, and continue to gain, confidence, leadership skills, and new insights about themselves, others, and the value of contributing to their communities. Adults--both those working with young people and those touched by their volunteer service--have come, and continue to come to understand that youth are capable and caring citizens with important contributions to make. And communities have enjoyed, and continue to enjoy, the benefits of new services and improvements as people of all ages are touched by the caring actions of youth.

3 Principles of YAR



What does it mean to be a board member?

You will have the opportunity to enhance the community by providing grant opportunities to the residents. As a member of the board, you are responsible for helping to improve personal change and improve the lives of others. Also, you are solving critical problems and providing needed community services while being about mutual understanding and increased trust between youth and adults, leading to strong youth-adult partnerships.

EXPECTATIONS OF BOARD MEMBERS

1. Active Participation, which includes
 - attending board meetings
 - contributing to discussions and decisions at board meetings
 - coming to meetings prepared
 - following through on commitments
2. Honoring and supporting board decisions with action
3. **Honesty, openness, and respect** within board interactions and all interactions that are a part of YAR.
4. Commitment to the mission of YAR. Understanding the principles of YAR and exhibiting those principles throughout your daily activities (not just at YAR events)
5. Willingness to serve as spokesperson and advocate for YAR through **attitude** and **action**
6. Understanding and respecting the difference between governing (the work of the board) and managing (the work of the coordinator and the Youth Bureau staff) and honoring that difference
7. Help with annual and long-range planning for YAR, including vision, goals, etc.
8. Recruiting potential YAR board members
9. Help YAR and staff provide orientation and training for new board members
10. Help identify financial resources and raise money
11. Promotion and advocacy of YAR and the philosophies we ascribe to, as well as the groups that we are partners with throughout Monroe County
12. Share expertise with staff (advice, support, insight, opinions)
13. Hold yourself and the staff accountable. Be responsible for your actions and understand that you are representing the entire YAR board, the Youth Bureau, and the County of Monroe
14. Provide feedback and constructive criticism to the board and staff
15. Exhibit enthusiasm for the cause
16. Have fun and be yourself!

The Work of the Board:

- Board Meeting: the 1st Saturday of each month from 10:30-12:30 (usually) this meeting is occasionally scheduled for a different day / time
- Grant Reviews: during each grant cycle the board is required to review each grant and collectively make a decision
- Celebrations: Before each grant cycle, there is a recognition ceremony to welcome the new grant recipients, and to recognize the previous cycle's participants
- Site Visits: Are conducted to observe the grant projects that were funded. Each board member is required to attend 2-3 site visits each cycle
- Committees: Designed to meet the needs of the board. Board members are not required to sit on a committee but it is strongly encouraged
- Community Events: Attend and participate in other community activities and events that are related to the mission of YAR
- Collaborate with Youth Voice, One Vision - the City / County Youth Council: Plan and carry out various community service and service learning projects and events including our annual youth conference - *Steppin' Up To Solutions*

Our Funding Support:



Maggie Brooks
County Executive



THE
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

HEART
Coalition for a Drug Free Rochester

Our Community Partners:



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