

Youth Council Notes - 12/4/23

Attending:

Lori
Laura
Matt
Marie-Louise
Judy
Sarah

1. Review Minutes from November meeting - minutes were approved
2. Feeding Westchester
 - A. There was a pallet mix-up; we expected one and they tried to deliver three
 - B. Community donations have been coming in
 - C. MS just donated - lots of cereal and oatmeal, snacks
 - D. We have a continued need for canned proteins, canned tuna and chicken
3. Review Budget
 - A. Judy led a discussion to review the 2023 expenditures against the budget. We agreed to further develop the 2024 budget with insights from 2023.
 - B. The 2024 budget proposal will be discussed at the next YC meeting for approval onward to the Friends.
4. Food Pantry
5. KIDS
 - A. Mary Esther has been working with KIDS on the Food Pantry and the school shows' fundraising collections – because many people purchase tix online now, they tend to zip right into the auditorium and we're missing them – could the online tix option include a message from KIDS/FP? (ie, would you like to add a donation to your cost of tix?)
 - B. Such a large, dynamic, enthusiastic group this year - about 27 kids participated (maybe 8 in the past)
 - C. Marie-Louise, Lori, and Mary Esther run it but they let the kids be in charge and take initiative themselves
 - D. The projects: blood drive, Kids Night Out, Book Buddies, plays collaboration, Midnight Run, after school programming (Re-Use/Re-Create art project), Hillside Hikes over Thanksgiving and Christmas, worked with refugees living in the Ardsley Hotel over Thanksgiving, volunteer at Grace Church alternative gifts event
 - E. Engaged in thoughtful conversations about “what do we think community service is vs. unpaid labor?” - didn't land on one answer, but had great dialogue
6. Help a Child
 - A. Another big collection period coming up and we are down a person?
7. The Way Coalition

A. Matt continues to rep YC on this group and provided an update on recent Narcan training, a community survey, and upcoming activities in 2024.

A. The new van is now in service.

9. Friends of YC

A. They did community outreach - Amanda Kupillas Dance is offering 2 or 3 scholarships to kids, to let them take a class for free (she will provide the outfit)

B. Friends is working with the application but would like our help to find appropriate kids who might benefit

C. Looking at another after school program (more STEM), in discussions @ scholarships for that - more opportunities for us to help kids access these classes D. Find out if Amanda Kupillas already has a sliding scale and/or if she has already identified some kids who could use help

8. Year in Review

A. Last year was about refining our goals, adding new people and new ideas, building the team, internal communication refinement; this year we have more visible accomplishments

B. We began collaboration with Feeding Westchester

C. Started Mighty Network volunteer platform (thru app) to work with FW and FP

D. Transformed the Food Pantry space (this is still an ongoing project) E.

Community partnerships (thru Friends of YC), Safe Rides biz sponsorships F.

Successful fundraisers with Kids Night Out, Rivertown Thrift - events in person that are visible, community can be involved

G. Collabs with the schools (school shows)

H. Created slide presentation for Board of Trustees presentation

I. We did thank you notes to the Fire Department and Farmers Market J. Looking ahead: Back to School Night intros to the community? Launch college help programming?

(Look at Yonkers college help program, what other programs like this already exist that we can piggyback on or learn from?) - Lauren will do some research on what's out there, we are still in research and planning stage K.

Further goals: refine our operations and efficiency, looking for opportunities of support across HOH and programming (are we doing things we don't have to do alone?), put together a map of all the community groups