



YOUTH
ADVISORY
COUNCIL

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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Barry
Community
Foundation

For Good. For Barry County. Forever.



What is YAC?

The Youth Advisory Council is made up of dedicated students aged 13-18 who share a passion for making a strong impact on their community. “YACers” make this impact through various community projects, such as hosting our annual roofsit, volunteering at The Shack in Delton, or participating in the United Way Toy Drive.

YAC has provided over half a million dollars in grant money to youth projects all over Barry County since 1996. This year, we were thrilled to provide \$21,261.22 in grants to student projects all throughout our county.

Beyond community service and philanthropy, YAC equips teens with valuable leadership experience and real-life skills that help prepare us for future educational and professional success.

2024–2025 Leadership Team

President - Evan Liu

Vice President - Micah Johnson

Secretary - Ryan Skidmore

Grant Committee Chair - Will Nathan

Social Media Chair - Meghan Skidmore

Thornapple Kellogg Representative - Blake Hardy

Hastings Representative - Petra Foster

Delton Kellogg Representative - Alyce Donley

Sergeant-At-Arms - Blake Newcastle

The Retreat



To kick off the 2024–2025 season, this year's retreat took us to beautiful Camp Algonquin. Upon arrival, we dove into the ins and outs of YAC and learned all about our roofsit beneficiary. We bonded over plenty of fun games and conversations which helped us grow closer as a group. On Sunday, we elected our new leadership team. We left with new memories and friendships to carry into the future.

The Roofsit



For our annual roofsit, we decided to support Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. The Imagination Library of Barry County provides kids aged 0–5 a new book every month. The 2024 YAC interns made the decision to pick them as our roofsit beneficiary, as they provide many kids access to books delivered to their own homes. Through the roofsit, YAC raised \$4,021 for the Imagination Library. We were able to help carry on this great service to kids throughout Barry County.

The Shack



This year, YACers participated in a meaningful service project at The Shack in Delton. The Shack provides thousands of pieces of clothing to community members completely free of charge. The Shack promotes confidence and stability throughout Barry County. We dedicated our time and energy to sorting and organizing donated clothing ensuring this vital resource remains accessible to all who need it.

Every year our YACers have the opportunity to participate in the United Way toy drive. We were tasked with sorting and moving thousands of toys and other donated items throughout the building, transforming the space into a “shop” where parents could pick out gifts, clothing and stocking stuffers for kids of all ages. All the gifts were generously donated by Barry County community members. This is one of our largest and most rewarding projects, giving us a meaningful opportunity to give back to our community.

United Way Toy Drive



TK Circle of Giving



YACers from Thornapple Kellogg Highschool volunteered to go to Page Elementary and help teach fifth graders the meaning and importance of philanthropy through a program called "Circle of Giving." Each classroom received a donation jar and learned about different organizations in Barry County. After thoughtful discussion, each class selected one organization to support with their collected funds. In total \$736.95 was given to various organizations within our county, continuing the powerful impact of the "Circle of Giving."

In recognition of our volunteerism, YACers were nominated by Kristen Cove, the main COG advisor, for the United Way's 2025 Volunteer Awards, and were honored with the Youth Volunteer of the Year Award. Thank you Kristen for your nomination!

Mr. Abbott - Barry County Substance Abuse
Ms. Rossi - YMCA
Ms. Ehrlich and Ms. Selewski - Family Support Center
Ms. Czala - United Way
Ms. DeWitt - United Way
Ms. Kahafer - Serenity Village
Ms. Kellogg - Barry County Animal Shelter
Ms. Michalski - Green Gables
Ms. Schneider - Green Gables



Community Grants

Delton Kellogg Bass Club

The Delton Kellogg Bass Club was awarded \$2,500 for their program. They used this money to purchase jerseys for each club member. This grant made participation more accessible for everyone in the club. Additional money was put towards materials or competitions.



Saxon Wrestling

YAC granted the Hastings Middle School Wrestling Team \$500. This money was put towards two mat mops and two mat cleaners. This purchase will help the athletes spend more time practicing rather than cleaning the mats with outdated equipment.



Maple Valley Band

Maple Valley's fifth and sixth grade band members requested \$3,000 to be put towards purchasing a new Yamaha french horn. YAC chose to grant this in full to support the members of the Maple Valley Band.



Thornapple Kellogg FFA Barn

The FFA program at Thornapple Kellogg was granted \$3000 towards the cost of the barn for their FFA program. The \$3000 will help cover the cost of the automatic water systems. The barn will give students the opportunity to have hands-on experience working with animals. This grant will help further students' knowledge within the agricultural field.



TKMS Drama Club

The TKMS Drama Club requested \$300 to purchase new costumes for their program. They wanted to buy better-fitting and newer costumes. YAC decided to grant this in full to help instill confidence in the young actors and support the program.



TKHS BPA

The TKHS BPA sent Evan Liu to BPA nationals this year. The group requested a grant to subsidize the expense of the hotel and airfare for Evan. YAC granted \$862.41 to help cover the cost. Evan placed fifth in the national competition.

Hastings BPA

YAC granted Hastings BPA \$2,000 dollars to cover the expenses of the National Competition held in Orlando, Florida. YAC thought this grant was necessary to recognize the accomplishments of the Hastings BPA students.



Delton Kellogg Robotics Club

The Gear Cats Robotics Club was granted \$1,500 to improve the transportation of their robots and tools to competitions. With these funds, the club was able to purchase a trailer. This trailer will make it significantly easier and more efficient to transport robotics equipment to events.

TKHS Anatomy

The TKHS Anatomy class requested \$377.51 to purchase 30 lab aprons for a cat dissection. YAC decided to grant this in full to help the students perform the dissection safely and properly.



Leadership Barry County

Four YACers were apart of the 2025 Cohort of Leadership Barry County. YAC decided to grant the group \$258 to help cover the costs of their selected group project. This group project provided a new awning and shelving for The Shack in Delton.



Thornapple Kellogg Hammock Garden

Fifth graders at Thornapple Kellogg had a dream of creating a hammock garden. YAC decided to grant them \$2,278 to help this dream come to fruition. We thought this hammock garden would make reading more enjoyable for students at Page Elementary.



TKHS Close Up Trip

YAC decided to grant the TKHS Close Up trip \$3,000 to help cover the expenses involved in the trip. YACers thought this was necessary, as the grant decreased the financial burden involved with the trip.



Thornapple Kellogg Music

YAC gave the TK Music department \$1,185.30 to cover the costs of purchasing new musical instruments. The grant will help foster youth's love for music, and continue to grow TK's music program.



Barry Community Foundation

The YACers chose to gift the Barry Community Foundation \$500 for the organization's 30th anniversary. We thought it was a meaningful way to give back to a foundation that has given so much to us.

