

YAC ANNUAL REPORT 2026



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Giving Purpose to Potential



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What is YAC?

YAC is a group of 13–18-year-old students who are dedicated to making a positive impact on their community. “YACers” make this impact through grant making and service projects, such as volunteering at the United Way toy drive, helping at the Shack in Delton, and hosting the Roofsit to raise money for local nonprofits.

Since 1996, YAC has provided over \$750,000 in grant money to help support local youth. This year YAC was thrilled to grant \$25,608 to student projects and groups all throughout Barry County.

Beyond community service and philanthropy, YAC equips local teens with valuable life and leadership skills they can apply to their future educational and professional careers.

2025-2026 Officers

Co-Presidents: Tom Poll and Meghan Skidmore

Vice President: Erika Wolowicz

Secretary/ LBC Rep: Chloe Yates

Grant Chair/ TAC Rep: Petra Foster

Public Relations: Alyce Donley

TAEF Rep: Ava Zellmer

DKEF Rep: Blake Newcastle

HEEF Rep: Anna Rose



The YAC Retreat



The annual YAC retreat was a fun-filled weekend of team building activities. This year's retreat took place at Camp Michawana in September 2025. YACers spent the weekend getting to know each other through games and icebreakers. Students played capture the flag, went head to head in a cornhole tournament, and in the evening had a bonfire with S'mores. Along with all the fun, students learned more about philanthropy and the mission of the YAC program. With a better understanding of their role in Barry County, YACers were able to make a great impact on the youth in their community this year.



2026 YAC Events



The Roofsit

Each fall, YAC holds the Roofsit, a beloved service project that raises money for a local non-profit. YACers stand on the street corner holding up signs asking passing cars to donate. This year YAC chose to raise money for the Barry County Humane Society, and ended up with \$2,680 to help fund the organization's mission to support stray animals and prevent overpopulation.



United Way Toy Drive

YAC members partnered with the Barry County United Way to help set up their Toy Drive. YAC members sorted donated toys by age and gender, and helped to cultivate a fun "Christmas Shop," for local parents. This project is always super fun and fulfilling for YAC members!



Fuller Street Elementary Cleanup

During September, YAC members headed out to support Maple Valley's Fuller Street Elementary. YAC members helped landscape their front greenery area, cut down trees, plant shrubbery, and helped weed the area. This was a fun opportunity for YACers to get their hands dirty while helping out their local community.



YAC Regional Summit

In November, a handful of YAC members traveled west to the Allegan Community Foundation, to participate in the YAC Regional Summit. YACers were able to connect with other YACs from all over West Michigan and learned various leadership skills. After attending, members learned about different things that other YACs do, and left hopeful to implement some of those things into Barry County's YAC.



Thornapple Manor Valentine's Cards

At YAC's January meeting, members got crafty! Members made hundreds of Valentine's Day Cards to give to seniors at Thornapple Manor in the hope of brightening their spirits on Valentine's Day. Each YAC member made around seven cards, each with different themes, colors, and sayings. It was a great creative opportunity for YACers to send love to Thornapple Manor residents.



The Shack in Delton

The Shack is a local clothing donation center where people can acquire free clothing items. YAC students left the experience with fun memories and a greater sense of community impact. The annual Shack service project went as swimmingly as ever this year. It is a favorite among members, as they sorted through clothes and made clothing displays.



2026 YAC Granting

The Process

Every year, YAC receives many grant applications from various student-centered groups in the community. Members consider many things when analyzing grant applications that they received from community members. YAC members consider how many youths will be impacted, how helpful and great the impact will be, and how long the impact will last. All grants are written by youth and must impact youth in Barry County. This year, YAC granted \$25,608 to benefit the youth of Barry County.

Grant Dollars Awarded:

\$25,608

of Grants Awarded:

13

◆ **Maple Valley Band - \$3000**

This grant allowed the Maple Valley band to purchase a new Yamaha Bass Trombone. The bass trombone will benefit both current and future band students.

◆ **Southeastern Elementary: Hammock Garden: \$1,000**

This grant helped the Southeastern Elementary Student Council construct a hammock garden. This space would provide students a realxing place to read, write, and spend time with peers.



◆ **Delton Kellogg: Teen Cuisine: \$1,409**

Two seoarate grants were given to the Delton Kellogg to help renew the Teen Cuisine program. The program teaches teens basic cooking skills, and the importance of nutrition. It is a seven-week course and is offered to both middle and high school students.

◆ **Thornapple Kellogg: Digital Media Class: \$4,800**

This grant was given to the TK sports media crew to help them afford equipment that could be utilized to produce play-by-play productions and live broadcasting that would help to produce an immersive game day experience for fans and scouts.

◆ **Thornapple Kellogg BPA : \$3,000**

This grant was given to the TK Business Professionals of America to help the members cover costs of attending the national competition. The program helps students learn hands-on in the different areas of business and is a great experience for youth to learn soft skills and leadership.



◆ **Thornapple Kellogg Red Cross Club: \$300**

This grant was given to the Thornapple Kellogg Red Cross Club to help students involved in the club get CPR certified. This training helps youth by giving them important, life-saving knowledge, and will have a lasting impact on many students.

◆ **Delton Kellogg Bass Club: \$3,000**

This grant was awarded to the Bass club in Delton to help fund jerseys for competitions. The Bass club is a group of students who go to fishing competitions to help youth learn how to fish and to respect lakes and fish.



◆ **Hastings Youth In Government: \$1,500**

This grant was given to the Hastings High School Youth In Government program to cover costs of going to the YIG conference at the state capitol. This is a fun program where students learn how the state government runs by acting as the government for a weekend.



◆ **Thornapple Kellogg Close Up: \$2,000**

This grant was awarded to the TK Close up program to help with costs of travel and tuition. This program gives students an opportunity to learn about cultures and the US Government in Washington D.C.

◆ **Hastings Robo Saxons: \$2,500**

This grant was given to the Hastings High School Robotics team to help pay for entry fees for competitions and materials to build a robot. Members build robots and then enter them into competitions, giving them experience and skills in programming, electrical, and CAD.

◆ **Delton Kellogg FFA: \$800**

This grant was awarded to the DK Future Farmers of America to support costs of community service projects. This program lets students get hands-on experience in agricultural, environment, and leadership areas through farming, handling animals, and serving in leadership positions.

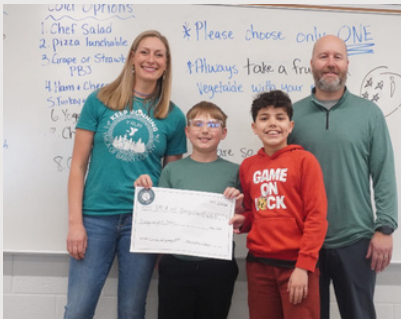


◆ **Delton Kellogg Rock n' Roll: \$2,009**

This grant helped the DKHS Rock n Roll History Class afford a trip to Cleveland, Ohio to tour the Rock n Roll Hall of Fame. This trip helped students appreciate music culture, memorabilia, and see first hand all that they had been studying. This fun but educational trip created lasting memorable experiences for the students of this class.

TK Circle of Giving

INSPIRING FUTURE LEADERS



YAC students from Thornapple Kellogg High School volunteered to teach fifth-grade students at Page Elementary the meaning of philanthropy and the importance of serving others through a program called the “Circle of Giving.” During the first session, each fifth-grade classroom received a “giving jar” and learned about various nonprofit organizations throughout Barry County. After thoughtful discussion, each class selected one charity to be the beneficiary of their jar. In total, \$625.43 was given to various organizations throughout the county. Some of these organizations included the United Way, Green Gables Haven, the YMCA, and the Barry County SATF.

Summer Interns



**Meghan
Skidmore**



This summer I am going into my senior year at Thornapple Kellogg. YAC has been such a big part of my life for the past three years, and I have been honored to serve as Public Relations Officer and, most recently, YAC Co-President. This internship was such an amazing experience as it allowed me to connect with other community leaders, learn leadership skills, and have a hand in the puzzle that makes YAC phenomenal. I am so thankful for my internship at the Barry Community Foundation and will apply the lessons I learned to my future educational and professional career.

**Petra
Foster**



I am going into my senior year at Hastings High School, and throughout my time in Hastings, YAC has been an important part of my life. I joined YAC when I was 10 and have been a member ever since. I have served as the sergeant-at-arms, Grant Chair, HEEF rep, and the Thornapple Arts Council representative. This internship has been amazing. I've been able to sharpen my leadership skills and learn more about how YAC runs. I'm so thankful for this opportunity to help behind the scenes in one of my favorite clubs and will take this experience with me through my life.

CELEBRATING

30 Years

1000 Students

511 Grants

2100 Pizzas

\$723,461 in Giving



YOUTH
ADVISORY
COUNCIL

By: Meghan Skidmore & Petra Foster