



Courtesy: Broomfield Community Foundation's Youth Advisory Council Facebook page

Broomfield Community Foundation Engages Local Youth in its Mission

One Community, Many Hearts, Unlimited Impact

By Missy Ruzicka

The Broomfield Community Foundation has been looking after Broomfield and helping the community for more than 30 years. The organization believes that together we can enhance and enrich our community through the power of generosity and philanthropy, changing lives and creating hope and possibilities for all. One way is by teaching the next generation the importance of service to the community and so the Foundation's Youth Advisory Council gives students an opportunity to get involved and make Broomfield a better place.

The Broomfield Community Foundation's Youth Advisory

Council supports charitable organizations and local non-profits through fundraising, grant-making, and volunteerism. YAC is made up of problem-solving high school students from the Broomfield area, who value community service and want to learn practical ways to serve their communities beyond high school. The council meets twice a month to assess the needs of the community, organize fundraisers, write grants and volunteer to reach their goals of helping where they see the need.

River Paranto, 17, said, "I joined the YAC because I wanted more opportunities to help support my community, and have impact on problems that were important to me." Through YAC, students learn valuable professional skills like networking, giving presentations, and leading teams. "I knew that joining YAC would allow me to expand my skills in a completely new way and in a different environment than I was used to which was incredibly appealing."

Council member Avery A., 18, recalled one of their favorite projects was when YAC teamed up with Broomfield's non-profit The Refuge for Laundry of Love night. YAC provided coins and dinner for some of The Refuge's clients so that they could get much needed laundry done while visiting with members of the council. "It was a super cool experience because we got to meet the clients and learn about their experiences living in Broomfield, so it was a very meaningful and personal service opportunity, one I don't think I'll ever forget."

The Youth Advisory Council participates in service activities to acquaint themselves with the wide range of needs and services provided throughout the Broomfield area. Then with



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April 2024 Our Broomfield™



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the guidance of Broomfield Community Foundation's board, the council develops a grant making strategy, chooses their recipients whose mission inspires and whose efforts impact the Broomfield community, and award grants to those amazing organizations. Avery added, "It is such an amazing chance to learn valuable skills like networking, fundraising, and how to build meaningful connections while volunteering and making a positive impact

in Broomfield."

If you are a motivated, compassionate student, who thinks critically, can identify solutions quickly, and has a deep love for this community, joining BCF's Youth Advisory Council could be the place for you to start an amazing journey. River Paranto advised "Anyone who has a particular interest in non-profits would enjoy the work that the YAC does." The council is student-led which allows the students

to take their projects in the direction they are most interested in. River added, "Getting to see your hard work turn into something that supports a non-profit of your choosing is incredibly impactful and heartwarming." There is no GPA requirement, and all students are encouraged to apply.

To learn more visit: <https://www.broomfieldfoundation.org/>