



YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE FACT SHEET

What is the Youth Advisory Committee?

The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) is a special project of the Charlevoix County Community Foundation. The YAC is made up of sixteen (16) student representatives from six (6) Charlevoix County high school districts and six (6) adult advisors. Members of the YAC interview potential grantees and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees regarding the distribution of grants to promising projects affecting youth issues.

When and why did the YAC get started?

In 1992, the Trustees of the Charlevoix County Community Foundation created the YAC in response to a statewide challenge by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. On a 2:1 basis (we received \$1 for every \$2 raised in the community), Kellogg matched funds raised for youth up to a million dollars over five years. In order to meet the requirements of the challenge, a permanently endowed Youth Fund was created to address youth issues. YAC was established, in part, to oversee the operation of the Youth Fund and to make grant recommendations to the Foundation's Board of Trustees. Since its inception, YAC grants to local youth projects total more than **\$618,500**.

What do YAC members do?

Members of the YAC attend about six meetings during the school year to: learn more about youth issues in Charlevoix County; attend regional training sessions; review grant proposals for youth projects; make grant recommendations to the Board of Trustees; participate in site visits to grantee organizations; and conduct a needs assessment survey every other year to identify the priority needs of young people.

YAC member responsibilities:

- Be on time and attend all meetings
- Know YAC purpose and community foundation mission
- Know grantmaking guidelines
- Prepare for grantmaking day by reading grant proposals, have questions prepared and be ready to share your opinion!
- Identify peer needs and issues on a community wide basis
- Participant in fundraisers, community service, and public relations events

What is the Charlevoix County Community Foundation?

The community foundation was established in 1992 by a group of local citizens who hoped to build a charitable reserve for Charlevoix County. Since then, the foundation net assets have grown to more than **\$21 million**, thanks to generous contributions from individuals, families, and local organizations, as well as matching grants from the Frey, Malpass and Kellogg Foundations. Like other community foundations, the organization holds contributions in a permanent endowment and use only part of the investment income to make grants. Thus, the endowment continues to grow and serve the area for many years to come. The Charlevoix County Community Foundation has returned more than **\$8.7 million** in grants and scholarships.

What are some grants funded by YAC?

- Supported arts programming for Crooked Tree & Jordan River Arts Council
- Establishment and expansion of the Challenge Mountain snowboarding program.
- Provided a mentor program for Probate Court referred youth.
- Supported construction of a pavilion at the Boyne City Rotary Park.
- Purchased recreational and safety equipment for Camp Daggett.
- Supported Raven Hill outreach to schools, exhibits, and science & environmental education programs.