



The Yackety YAC

Summer 2011



Youth Grantmakers Conference



The Michigan Community Foundation's Youth Project committee plans and facilitates an annual summer conference geared towards providing youth grantmakers with tools to more effectively lead their respective councils as well as develop their individual leadership skills. This year more than 300 youth and their adult advisors came together June 24th through June 26th at Michigan State University for our 2011 Youth Grantmakers Summer Leadership Conference. Participants attended from all over the state along with out of state groups from Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, Arkansas, and Kansas.

This year the Michigan Community Foundation's Youth Project Committee decided to take a look at the social side of being a youth grantmaker, adopting the theme of, "Philanthropy for Social Change: Observe. Act. Impact." Participants had the opportunity to attend sessions on social issues that affect many communities across Michigan. The social issue sessions were about education, the environment, gender awareness, and immigration. These sessions highlighted the problems within each of these topics and allowed participants to gain a greater understanding of the subject matter. Students left these sessions inspired to make a difference within their communities, hoping to make a positive impact through their grantmaking and community service on these social issues.

Plenary sessions are always a highlight of the weekend and this year was no different. Participants heard from Kinetic Affect, Eric Thomas, and Sam Davidson who all had a story to tell about being a leader and the impact an individual can have on a community. Throughout the weekend youth also had the opportunity to participate in a grant review which was new to conference this year.

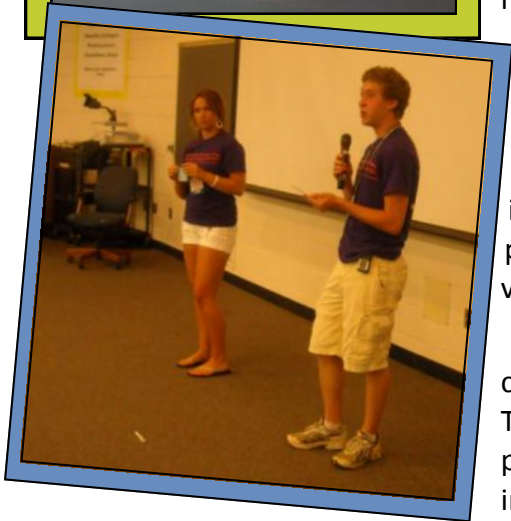
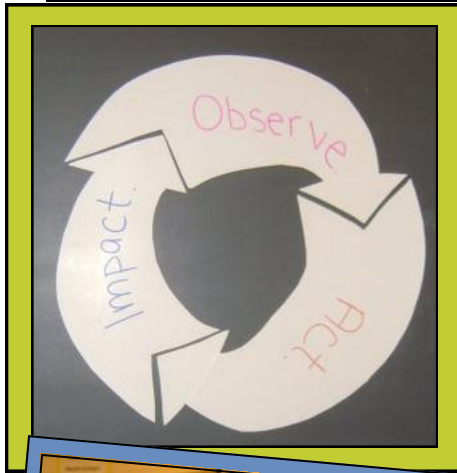
At the end of the weekend participants left with a greater understanding of youth grantmaking, how to be better leaders in their community, and new friends across the state and country that are working toward the same goal, empowering youth to be the leaders of today.

-Hannah Watson, 2011 Mawby Intern

Table of Contents

3- Conference Theme	7- Grant Review	11-MCFYP
4- Breakout Sessions	8- Weekend activities	12- Resources
5- Social Issue Sessions	9- YAC Awards	
6- Plenary Sessions	10- Advisor Programming	

Observe. Act. Impact. (Repeat.)



The theme of this year's Youth Grantmakers Summer Leadership Conference summed up my experience with Youth Advisory Committees and core of W.k. Kellogg's vision for the Michigan Community Foundation Youth Project. Philanthropy is about creating social change. And while "observe" might not come to mind before the other two verbs, "act" and "impact," it is the vital building block of making a difference. As Eric Thomas touched on in his plenary, observation is vital to leadership and making a difference. Observation can take many forms, passive and active, from needs assessments to more informal methods. It sets the stage for "act" and "impact" by letting us recognize the problems we are hoping to solve. Good observation allows us to push away our pre-conceived ideas of what needs to happen and reach a true understanding of what will help best accomplish our goals.

"Act" takes what we learned from our observation and applies it towards "impact." Observation allows us to take action on the most pressing problems in our communities and takes many forms, from service projects to grantmaking to the way that we conduct ourselves.

Action is central to youth grantmaking. We are involved because we have observed problems and change that we want to create. To do this, we do our best to take action in a way that positively impacts the lives of our peers and communities. As the leaders of today, impact is our goal.

Throughout the conference, we saw how repeating the cycle of Observe. Act. Impact. again and again in the different facets of our life can create social change, from learning how to maximize our role as grantmakers to hearing first hand how leaders like Kirk and Gabriel are changing young people lives one poem and note card at a time.

-Christian Birky, *MCFYP*

With the theme of this year's conference, "Philanthropy for Social Change: Observe. Act. Impact.", participants were asked to think of things in their communities that they wanted to change. In the lobby, where most of the participants spent their free time, was an empty wall. On this wall there were sheets of paper with *Change Wall* written on them. Participants took sticky notes and wrote what they wanted to change, how they were going to change it, and when they were going to start making this change and stuck it to the sheet of paper for everyone to see. Before each plenary session members of the MCFYP Committee selected 4 different ideas to share with the entire conference. This activity showed everyone that they had already identified the needs in their communities and, with action, could have an amazing impact.

-Mackenzie Price, *MCFYP*

Breakout Sessions

Youth attended two different breakout sessions that could be applied to their YACs that were primarily facilitated by the MCFYP committee. Below are the descriptions of all of the sessions that were offered.

Motivational Values– Youth were asked to think about what they value in life. They learned how these values help to create what we are passionate about along with how we interact with others. Students left with a better understanding of their personal motivations and how they impact the decisions they make.

Fund Development- This session focused on the difference between fund raising and fund development. Students learned about the importance of fund development when it came to their YACs and the importance of continuously building the fund to have a greater impact.

Leadership- Participants learned the importance of good leadership within their youth boards to run an effective meeting. Students discussed traits of a good leader and how they can be applied when dealing with different types of people like those that are shy or those that are distracted during meetings.

Public Speaking- Participants in this breakout session discussed what it means to be a good public speaker and how they evaluate their own public speaking. They then had the opportunity to make a mock public speech to a targeted group which taught them how their speaking style should change with audiences.

Public Relations- In this session participants learned about how collaboration within the community can help the causes that they are working to address. The idea that initiatives are more successful by including key stakeholders in the planning and implementation of various projects was discussed as well.

Youth Voice- Youth Voice focused on youth advocacy and its importance for YAC. The session talked about how advocacy can be used to empower young people to make a difference as well as a way to inform the community of major issues impacting youth.

Needs Assessment- Assessing needs is often done unconsciously by individuals engaged in the community daily. This session focused on how a Needs Assessment can be used in gauging a better understanding of community needs and different ways of assessing them.

Diversity- Diversity of thought leads to new ideas and different perspectives that are vital during open discussions and grant reviews. Participants learned about the importance of having diverse individuals on their youth boards.



Volunteerism- Participants learned what it means to be a volunteer and how volunteering your time makes you a philanthropist. Students received a crash course on how to create an effective community service initiative that bring awareness to a cause and inspires those that participate to make a difference.

Grass Roots Organizing- This session focused on building on participants leadership skills and focused on the importance of building relationships to create change in society. Participants learned about building momentum to create the change that they want to see in the world and how it starts with being proactive and strategic.

Youth Driven Space– Facilitators from the Neutral Zone conducted a session that introduced conference attendees to the concept of a Youth Driven Space. The two core practices that the youth driven space initiative capitalizes on are genuine partnerships between young people and the community and opportunities for youth to take on real meaningful organizational roles.

Social Issue Sessions

This year participants attended two sessions focused on a different social issue to fit in with the theme "Philanthropy for Social Change: Observe. Act. Impact.". The goal for these sessions were to give youth a deeper understanding of each issue so that they could better attack the problem in their own communities.

Education

I was able to participate in the Education session lead by Candice Braddock, who works for the MDOT- specializing in outreach and education, and I can vouch for myself and all the other participants when I say that this session was great! Candice provided the group with a wealth of knowledge on various organizations and websites that can assist in making vital educational decisions, resources for scholarships, and even information on specific career paths and degree programs. On a personal note, I found Candice's session very informative and eye opening as I approach my freshman year of college this September. Participants took away a greater understanding on the financials of their education, ways to fund the furthering of their education, and the how, what, when, where, and why of pursuing their educational and career goals. - Shelby Avery, *MCFYP*



Gender Awareness

Ellen Blanchard's Gender Awareness session was very informative on the difference between gender and sex, tolerance and acceptance of sexuality, and the effect of social constructs on personal perception. It also opened up a civil dialogue on what these things mean to different people. -Dustin Moretz

Immigration

Mike Goorhouse was the speaker and facilitator for the Immigration session where conversation was centralized around topics such as the differences between legal and illegal immigration, the difficulties legal immigrants face when trying to get citizenship and also touched on the long history of immigration in America. YACers were very interested and the conversation flowed around various immigration topics for the entire session. By the end of the session, the YACers and advisors were equipped with a new set of knowledge to bring back to their respective YAC to try to do something about the problem at hand facing immigration. -Molly Moore, *MCFYP*



The Environment

Presented by Andrea Alexander, it focused on how climate change occurs, why it's occurring now, and some steps that could be taken to slow it. I think it was very helpful to the participants in that it gave them a good grounding on what's happening with our world. I also think it'll be a great thing to think about when they go back to their YACs and are making grants; they'll remember what they learned in the session and it could possibly serve as an inspiration for a proactive grant or a service project within their community. -Corey Miles, *MCFYP*

Plenary Speakers



Kinetic Affect is a two man show of spoken word poetry made up of Kirk Latimer and Gabriel Giron. These two men once competed against each other, but now combine their powerful voices to create something special. Many participants had not experienced something like Kinetic Affect before.

They performed several of their slam poetry pieces which had positive messages about opening up to others and how little acts of kindness can make a difference. Their performances moved the campers and provoked serious thought for many.

After hearing from Kinetic Affect I personally felt the need to do good and help people become more comfortable expressing themselves. Participants walked away feeling touched and inspired to help others and make change in their own life.

-Harley Sasse, *MCFYP*



As an accomplished motivational speaker, Sam Davidson has utilized stories to inspire countless audiences to, in his

words, change the world. For over ten years, this dynamic and engaging speaker has used his passions and personal experiences to connect with youth and give them the tools necessary to make change in their communities. In addition, Sam has co-founded philanthropic ventures such as his media and merchandise company Cool People Care, which connects individuals to causes and nonprofits near them, and Proof, which specializes in branding and marketing services for nonprofits and entrepreneurs. On the final day of the 2011 Youth Grantmakers Summer Leadership Conference, Sam spoke to the over 300 people in attendance about the many ways they could make change in their individual communities. His stories were used to convey a deeper message of empowerment and dedication, and how these lessons could be used to make a difference. More specifically, even through adversity, any change you want to occur can be possible with hard work and perseverance.

Through this presentation, members of the audience gained a much deeper understanding of how they can personally impact their community for the better. They learned that all actions start with an individual, and that the little things they do in their lives can lead to social change. Using relatively ordinary events, he taught that something extraordinary can take place.

- Katharine Janes, *MCFYP*

Eric Thomas, otherwise known as the Hip Hop Preacher, spoke at summer conference about his personal experience of becoming a leader and facilitating change in his community. Eric obtained his GED and went to college at Michigan State University. There, he found many struggling students, who needed help with academics and mentoring in many other areas. In response, Eric started a nonprofit, called Break the Cycle I Dare You (BTC), which helps develop programs for youth who have had family, academic, and social struggles. Eric identified a need in his community, and he acted in a proactive way to impact youth.



Eric's empowering message fit perfectly with the theme: Philanthropy for Social Change. He spoke passionately about the need to observe the issues faced in our community, the importance of acting to combat such issues, and impacting the community.

Hearing Eric Thomas speak about an issue close to his heart was empowering. Participants could feel the passion and dedication that Eric put into his work. Everyone (myself included) left feeling inspired and ready to facilitate change in our own communities. Eric Thomas was a perfect speaker for a conference whose theme resonates with all people and the needs of our hometowns.

-Dustin Moretz, *MCFYP*

Grant Review Session



\$5,000



For the first time, conference participants had the opportunity to take part in a live grant review! The YAC Best Practices says that a YAC should participate in a grant session at least once a year and what better way to learn than experiencing the process first hand.

The Council of Michigan Foundations sent a request for proposals out to non-profits across the state that a \$5,000 grant was available to programs serving youth. Over 20 grant applications were received from well deserving programs. Project proposals were then put online for YACers across the state to vote on. The three grants that received the most votes were then asked to present at conference.

The proposals of the final three grants were handed out to attendees of the conference for their review and discussion. On the second day of conference, the three organizations came in to present their grant and programs. Each organization was allotted time to make a presentation and take questions from the group at large. In a normal YAC grant session, a presenter might face questions from a small group of youth, however at conference presenters had to impress 300 YACers and advisors!

Once all three presenters made their cases, it was time to ask the audience! Each person was handed an iClicker to choose which organization would be granted the \$5,000. The poll was displayed on the projection screen and participants watched as the numbers rose for each organization. In the end, the participants chose to award the \$5,000 to Catholic Charities of Lenawee County for their program that provides homeless youth with shelter and adult mentors.

In conclusion, not only did a great organization get funding to help improve their community, but also all attendees of the 2011 Youth Grantmaker's Summer Leadership Conference got to participate in a grant session which gave them a guide to running grant reviews within their own groups.

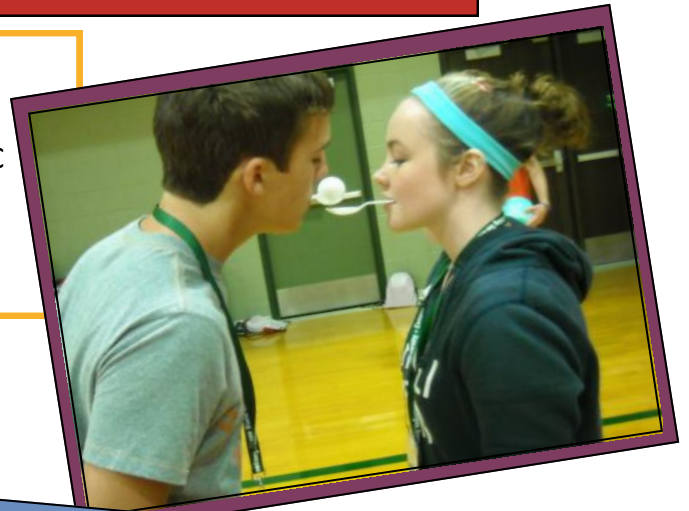
-Kylie Musolf, MCFYP

Conference Sessions

YAC 101 and Best Practices is a session that youth attend every conference which allows students to gain background information about non-profits and YACs. The YAC best practices are guidelines of what each YAC should be doing to ensure that their group is running effectively.

11 teams. 200 youth. 12 relay challenges.

One of the greatest challenges at conference is to get participants to open up to one another and feel comfortable. Enter the Extreme YACer challenge where youth were broken up into teams that had to complete numerous challenges including passing a grapefruit using only their feet and blowing a ping pong ball across the floor using a straw. To cap off the afternoon of teambuilding was "Rock Paper Scissors entourage" which is a large tournament game of rock paper scissors. The youth left with new friends and also learned a thing or two about team-work, leadership, and supporting others.



During free time participants had the opportunity to participate in a community service project. Kids Food Basket is based out of Grand Rapids and provides sacked meals to children in need. Students decorated the bags that contain the food to help bring smiles to those that receive these bags. For more information visit kidsfoodbasket.org



Open space is a time that allows students to get into groups to discuss what they are interested in and passionate about. There are no rules to open space which allows discussions to flow freely and allows participants to make the session into what they want it to be. This year we had groups talk about gender topics, religious tolerance, education, and advocacy.

YAC Awards

YACer of the YEAR



Kelsey Maxwell from the Community Foundation of Greater Flint received the YACer of the Year Award for her outstanding contributions to her YAC and her commitment to empowering young people to make a difference in their community.

The Jackson Community Foundation YAC showed outstanding community outreach through their support of “Real Dads: Men Embracing Nonviolence,” a powerful and moving collection of photographs and essays that capture loving fathers at their best, men who have stepped up or stepped in at critical moments in their children’s lives.

The Outstanding Fund Development Campaign award recognizes a YAC that has raised the largest amount of funds as reported in the YAC survey. The Lapeer YAC raised 17,226 dollars to be used in furthering their efforts to support youth in Lapeer County.

Outstanding Fund Development



Outstanding Community Outreach



The Petoskey-Harbor Springs YAC’s \$3,000 grant was matched by a local funding partner to meet the required dollar amount to leverage a 3:1 match of state and federal dollars for the initial startup costs of a community health center serving youth ages 5-21 in an underserved, rural area. In the first five months, the center located on the school campus, served over 100 students requiring physical and mental health care.

Advisor of the Year

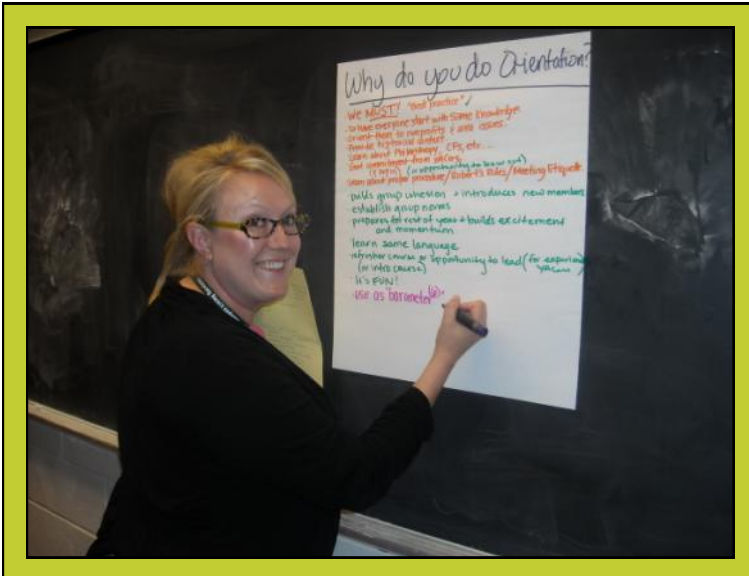


Amber Yoder from the Hillsdale Community Foundation was named the Advisor of the Year. This award is given to an advisor who has shown immense commitment to the progress of the YAC and the young people within it.

Great Grant of the Year



Advisor Programming



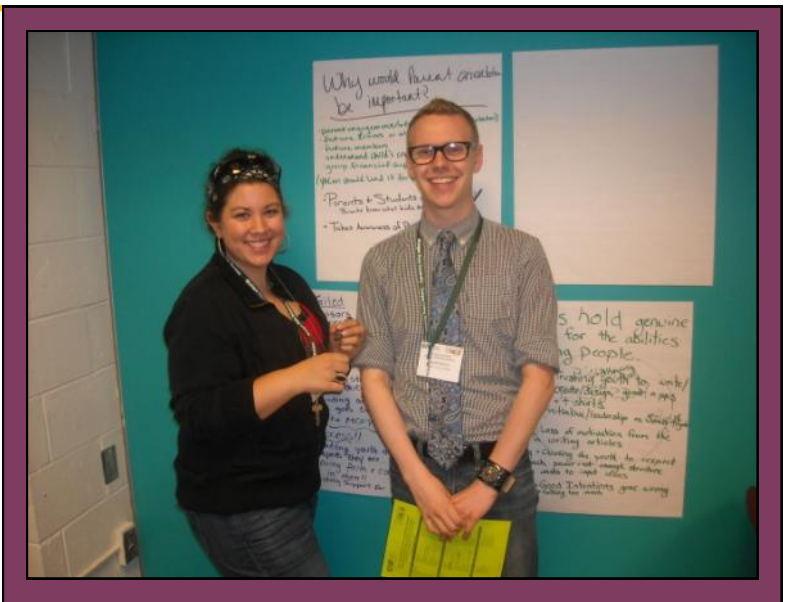
At this year's Youth Grantmakers Summer Leadership Conference, advisors were given the space to discuss common practices and get feedback on what (and what did not) work in their YACs. One of the main topics discussed was Orientation, and finding out how each YAC carried out their own Orientations. During this session, it was amazing to hear and see all of the interesting ways that advisors used Orientation to educate, empower, and bring together all of their youth for the greater good. Some YACs used their Orientation as a two-hour meeting (before selecting new YAC members) to help potential members realize if they were committed enough to serve on YAC. Other YAC Ori-

entations were two days long and educated YACers on what was going on in their communities (after joining YAC). After listening to the different viewpoints, I realized that each YAC had their own culture and way of doing things. It was great to hear all the numerous approaches to putting on a YAC Orientation – and how they all prepare YACers for their service as valuable youth leaders in their community!

-Sarah Percoulis , Battle Creek Community Foundation

Advisor's are a vital part of the operation of youth advisory councils, which means it is imperative to make sure that they receive all of the tools and information necessary to advance their work with young people serving on YACs. This year the advisor's had the opportunity to participate in multiple advisor specific sessions. The initial session was an advisor empowerment exercise that focused on assisting advisors in further empowering the young people that are currently engaged in their YACs. Advisors also had the opportunity to discuss the purpose of doing orientation, what material should be covered and ways in which they administer orientation to young people within their YACs. This discussion helped inform the creation of a new toolkit to guide advisors through the orientation process for their young people and ensure that all bases are being covered. In addition to those primary sessions, YAC Advisor 1.0 and YAC Advisor 2.0 were offered as breakout sessions to allow advisors to explore and expand on the basics of being a YAC advisor. Throughout conference advisors were networking with one another and really partaking in this weekend centered around empowering youth to make a difference through grantmaking.

-Breannah Alexander, Council of Michigan Foundations

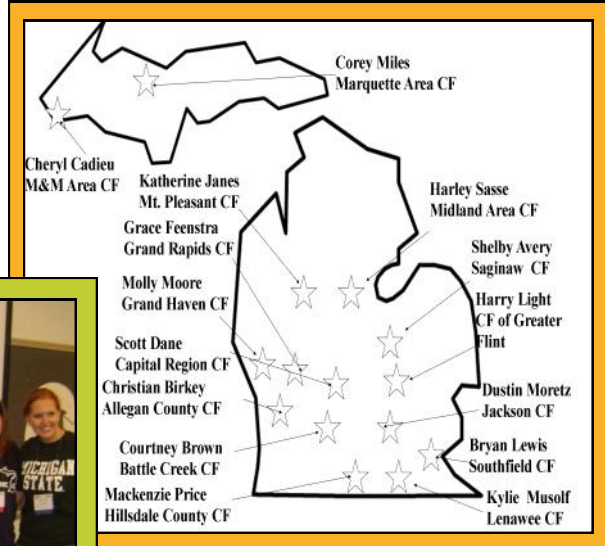


MCFYP

What is MCFYP?

The Michigan Community Foundations Youth Project (MCFYP) Committee is a group of 12 YAC members and three YAC advisors from across the state of Michigan who work to promote youth philanthropy and assist YACs throughout Michigan and the country.

Each committee member serves a three-year term. During their time on the committee, members coordinate several trainings for YAC members, including the Summer Leadership Conference, Fall Regional Trainings and Advisor Roundtables. The committee also sets the agenda for state-wide YAC initiatives and facilitates the Great Grants and Community Initiatives award



3rd year Reflections

"It's nearly impossible to put to words what MCFYP has meant to me over the past three years. Not only did I get to live out my passion for youth empowerment, but I gained something of unfathomable worth in the meantime. MCFYP has given me unbreakable friendships, unbelievable opportunities, and enough lessons on compassion and leadership to last a lifetime. Giving my loyalty to MCFYP for three years is nothing compared to everything MCFYP has given back to me." -Kylie Musolf

"Barely 3 years after showing up to my first MCFYP conference and sitting in the back of the auditorium during opening ceremonies, confused beyond belief by things like Mick-Fip, Yacs, and brown-squirrel, it's hard to believe that my incredible time as a member of the MCFYP committee has come to a close. It was an invaluable opportunity to learn about all things philanthropy and service. In a culture that focuses a lot on earning money, being surrounded and interacting with a group of exciting individuals driven by giving their time, talent and treasures to help others will have a lasting impact on the way that I live my life." -Christian Birky

"My time on the MCFYP Committee has, honestly, been one of the most valuable experiences of my life. I am certainly blessed to have had the chance to learn from such an inspiring group of young adults. My only wish is that we continue to do amazing things in the lives of others and always adhere to the motto: For Good, For Ever." -Bryan Lewis

"I can't even find a word to describe my time on MCFYP. It has opened up many opportunities for me. Because of this organization I now know what I want to do with the rest of my life. I have met some of the most amazing youth in the state of Michigan and from across the nation. I have been able to learn from them just as they have learned from me. This may sound cliché, but I would not be the person I am today without the MCFYP Committee." -Mackenzie Price

Resources

www.youthgrantmakers.org

To find out more about YACs across Michigan along with staying up to date with YAC news and available resources visit our website.

Thank you to our sponsor!

DOW CORNING

Dow Corning
Foundation

To schedule a regional training contact Breannah Alexander, Program Associate for Youth at 616.850.2139 or balexander@michiganfoundations.org.

Follow MCFYP on Twitter

Like MCFYP on Facebook!

Thank you to all groups that attended conference!

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Ann Arbor Area CF | CF of Lorain County | Manistee County CF |
| Arkansas CF | CF of Mt. Vernon & Knox | Marquette County CF |
| Baraga County CF | CF of St. Clair County | Midland Area CF |
| Barry CF | CF of Great River Bend | Missaukee Area CF |
| Battle Creek CF | First Ward Community Center | Mt. Pleasant Area CF |
| Bay Area CF | Frankenmuth CF | North Central Michigan CF |
| Bedford CF | Grand Haven CF | Otsego County CF |
| Branch County CF | Grand Rapids CF | Petosky– Harbor Springs Area CF |
| Cadillac Area CF | Greater Salina CF | Pickaway County CF |
| Canton CF | Greenville Area CF | Pottawattamie Youth Council |
| Capital Region CF | Hillsdale County CF | Saginaw CF |
| Center for Arab-American Philanthropy | Iosco County CF | Shiawassee CF |
| Chippewa County CF | Iowa Council on Foundations | Southfield CF |
| CF for Delta County | Jackson CF | Steuben County CF |
| CF of Holland/Zeeland | Kalamazoo Youth United Way | Sturgis Area CF |
| CF for Muskegon County | Lapeer County CF | The LEAGUE Michigan |
| CF for Greater Dubuque | Lenawee CF | Tuscola County CF |
| CF of Greater Flint | M & M Area CF | Wyoming CF |
| | Mackinac Island CF | YMCA of Saginaw |

