



Grand Haven Area

community foundationSM

Thank you for your interest in joining the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation.

What is YAC and what does a YAC member do?

YAC members are young, energetic, and imaginative. They also happen to be philanthropists. The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation functions as a Grant Review Committee of the Foundation. The 20-25 committee members represent local school districts and come from diverse social and economic backgrounds. They meet monthly to study youth needs in the community, review grant applications from various community organizations with programs and projects that will benefit young people, and evaluate the impact of their grantmaking program. The grants are made from the Youth Fund which is an endowed fund held with the Community Foundation totaling over \$2,000,000. Each year, the Youth Advisory Committee grants between \$50,000 to \$75,000 to programs and projects benefiting the young people of the Tri-Cities.

Each meeting begins with pizza, pop, and socializing. Very quickly the students settle in to thoroughly review and discuss the grant proposals, which have been distributed a week prior to the meeting. Questions, such as how many kids will this program impact, and will this program make a difference, or were kids involved in the planning for the project, are asked and answered. Finally, a recommendation is made and a vote of the group is taken on whether to provide funding for the program.

In addition to funding youth-related projects and programs from the Youth Fund, YAC Members learn about the issues and needs facing their peers and seek solutions to improve their community. Issues relating to substance abuse, grief, child abuse, self-esteem, and the environment, have been some of the topics discussed this year. Grants targeting some of these issues have been awarded to programs like The Ottawa County Mentoring Collaborative, Love, INC, Child & Family Services, and the Outdoor Discovery Center.

A favorite experience of participants is shopping for “adopted” families at Christmastime. Each year, the YAC adopts several families through the Salvation Army. The group goes on a shopping trip to purchase gifts for each member of the family.

Through their YAC experiences, students are learning that they can make a difference in their community. They also receive valuable leadership training and a working knowledge of philanthropy and volunteerism.

The Youth Advisory Council and Youth Fund started in 1990 with a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Since its beginning, the Youth Advisory Council has awarded over \$500,000 to programs and projects benefiting the young people of the Tri-Cities.

The Application Process

There are a limited number of open seats on the Youth Advisory Council. All submitted applications are reviewed through a fair and neutral process. A Committee of YAC members seeks to ensure a cross-section of youth membership by gender, age, and school. Additionally, applicants are evaluated with respect to their interest and awareness of issues and concerns in the youth community and the broader community, thoughtfulness, and potential for leadership. Selected applicants will be invited to interview for a position on the Council. Decisions regarding membership are generally made by June 1, and an Orientation is held in September.



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**Youth Advisory Committee
Application for Membership
2011-2012 Academic Year**

Name _____

Address _____

City, State ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

High School _____ Grade in 2011-2012 _____

Responsibilities of a YAC Member:

- Available to attend meetings on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. once a month during the school year.
- Committed, dedicated, and interested in learning about community youth issues through discussion, speakers, site visits, and possible regional meetings with other YACs in the State of Michigan
- Preparation for meetings, which can include reading multiple pages of grants.
- Active engagement in the meetings.
- Responsible and mature representation of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation.

Please answer the following questions. Please print neatly. You may attach up to one additional page if necessary.

1. Why are you interested in becoming a member of the Youth Advisory Committee?

2. What volunteer activities have you been involved in?

3. What extracurricular activities are you involved in?

4. Many issues face youth today. From the following list, please rank the issues you feel are most important for youth in our community (with 1 being most important).

<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Substance Abuse
<input type="checkbox"/> Diversity	<input type="checkbox"/> Teen Pregnancy
<input type="checkbox"/> Arts	<input type="checkbox"/> Environment
<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> Violence/Juvenile Delinquency
<input type="checkbox"/> Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Mentoring (Adult Role Models)
<input type="checkbox"/> Poverty	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bullying	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

5. Please explain why you believe the issue you ranked as number 1 is the most critical issue facing youth today.

6. Recognizing that everyone has a busy schedule, what possible conflicts might prevent you from attending monthly meetings?

7. Are there any other experiences you have had that were not addressed on this application that you would like to share?

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Thank you for completing this application!
Please return by mail, fax, or e-mail by April 30 to:

Carol Bedient, Program Administrator
Grand Haven Area Community Foundation
One South Harbor
Grand Haven, MI 49417
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