



# YGAB Connection

May 2007

## The Youth Grant Allocation Board Class of 2007

The Youth Grant Allocation Board is a new program of The Community Foundation of South Alabama designed for youth, recommended by high school administrators, in the Mobile, Baldwin, and Escambia Counties to learn about non-profits, grant making and giving back to the community. YGAB gave all 24 members a chance to go behind the scenes of grant making and allowed us to partake in the process. The Community Foundation allocated \$10,000 from its Undesignated Community Endowment to YGAB for awarding grants to the non-profit organizations of our choice.

At our first meeting in November at the Drug Education Council, we learned about the work of this nonprofit and then about philanthropy, non-profits, and grants. We were given an assignment of performing our own community needs assessment to see what the grant should be used for. This assignment was to call various non-profit organizations in the three counties asking a series of specific questions regarding the needs of the community.

During the second meeting in December at the Senior Citizens Center, we learned about the various services of the Center and then discussed our community needs assessment results. You can read the results of the assessment on The Foundation's website. We were then able to decide that

we wanted to fund a program that focused on Human Services and Education that motivated underprivileged children to learn, improved self esteem, and encouraged community involvement. This decision narrowed down which non-profit should receive the grant. With guidance from Foundation staff, we developed our own Request for Proposals which staff publicized and placed on the website. At this meeting we also participated in the first service project.

Our third meeting in early March was at Victory Health Partners Clinic. We reviewed 13 non-profit applications that fit our initiative following guidelines provided by staff. We narrowed down our choices to four applicants. That day we brought toys that were later donated to a nonprofit.

We met one more time at the Eastern Shore Literacy Council in late March, broke off into groups, talked about our top choices, reconvened, and voted. Through a consensus building process, we were able to agree on two

recipients of the \$10,000 grant, \$5,000 to Helping Hands Ministry and \$5,000 to Penelope House.

I am so glad that I could be a part of this wonderful experience. Participating in YGAB helped me become aware of my own community's needs. This experience helped me in turn be aware of opportunities for me to help my community.

by Samantha Parrott



Members at Drug Education Council

*"YGAB has motivated me to take a more active role in my community and assume leadership roles."*

*Richard Cullum*

## The Impact of Leadership

By Kourtney Jackson

The mission of YGAB is to “promote philanthropy and charitable actions among high school students as a community wide effort to develop leadership skills as the students actively learn how to steward and enhance the quality of life for our area, now and into the future.” The most important part of YGAB is to be a leader. The definition of a leader is one that has the ability to embrace the world of opportunities and to make precise decisions among themselves and others.

Throughout the year with YGAB, we have been presented with numerous activities that required a good leader. Although we were not familiar with one another at first, we came together as a group and got the job done. We worked long and hard on making the right decision, and I truly think we did a great job.

When I look back on this, I will have the honor to say that I made new friends and also helped others along the way. My experience with this group has been an amazing one, and most of all it has taught me that with a little team work, nothing is impossible.



Members at Senior Citizens Center



Group evaluating at Fairhope Public Library

**“I have learned that when working with a large group of people, there has to be compromising. We wouldn't have made any decision if we all didn't compromise a little bit.”** *Anna Jarman*

## Service Projects

By Kat Screven

I came to Mobile my sophomore year and am coming to a rapid end to my junior year! YGAB began back in November and our first meeting fell on our Preview Day for ASMS. I am an ambassador there, so I knew from the get go that joining YGAB was going to have to be a full commitment. I was quite impressed by the first meeting and the students just like myself who

were there to make a difference as in the CFSA logo, "For good. For ever."

Above and beyond meeting four times throughout this year, YGAB took part in community service projects for every meeting. At our first meeting in No-

vember, we were asked to bring a small unwrapped child's gift to the December meeting. In December, we met at the Senior Citizen's Center on Dauphin Street, brought the gifts, and later took them to Ronald McDonald House for their clients and siblings.

For the March meeting held at Victory Health Partners on Professional Parkway in Mobile, we brought unwanted household items, from clothes to appliances, to donate to Mobile Community Action in Prichard.

**“I have come to realize that there are many people in our communities that need help. Receiving this information has inspired me to be the one to help these people in need.”**

*Cicily Williams*

Finally on March 31, our last meeting, we brought canned food items to donate to the food pantry of the Ecumenical Ministry in Fairhope.

I believe that beyond just going through the grant awarding process and in a sense, give back to our communities, the service projects were just as rewarding. It gave YGAB members a personal opportunity to give back, and this, to me, was very rewarding.

I have enjoyed working with the other members of YGAB 2007 as well as CFSA Staff, Lisa Hirsch and Janine Phillips. I believe I have become more of a leader and certainly have become more aware of how grants are awarded and the intense process of deciding who the money goes to. I feel the experience was rewarding and I am thankful I was able to participate.

**“I realize how nonprofits facilitate improvement in communities and people.”**

*Cody Dockens*

## YGAB Awards Presentation

By Sara Teague

The Youth Grant Allocation Board of South Alabama Class of 2007 convened on Sunday, April 29, 2007 at 2 p.m. after several months of planning and evaluating 13 applications, to present a \$10,000 grant to a non-profit organization. On the afternoon of the presentation with over 90 in attendance at The Community Foundation's office, Honorable Sam Jones, Mayor of Mobile, applauded the young leaders for their ability to go through the grant making process, come to conclusions and decide on a recipient. The Community Foundation's Vice President, Ron Melton, also extended his appreciation for the time and effort this volunteer youth board offered to serve their communities.

To the pleasure of all who attended, YGAB presented two grant awards. Mary Kate Hinton presented Penelope House with a \$5,000 check to help fund the salary, benefits, and travel for the prevention education coordinator for their school-based abuse prevention education program. Brandon Pilot awarded Helping Hands Ministry Foundation with a \$5,000 check for a pilot program to train teens to become peer leaders within their school and/or faith based community through educating and promoting awareness of HIV/AIDS and its effects within the teenage population. Both non-profit organizations were viewed as very deserving organizations, providing services that meets the needs of youth.

**"I think YGAB is THE best program for young leaders."**

*Evan Howell, Class of 2007*



Mary Kate Hinton with Phyllis Harris, Helping Hands Ministry Foundation



Brandon Pilot with Dr. Kathryn Coumanis, Penelope House

## Inaugural Youth Congress

Under the direction of CFSA staff, a meeting of the Inaugural Youth Congress met on April 29, 2007 at 3 p.m. after the grant awards presentation. Approximately 25 youth representatives from 11 youth leadership/service programs in Mobile and Baldwin Counties were in attendance. The purpose of this program was to make youth aware of all the various



youth leadership programs in our area, network, and possibly collaborate in the future on various projects.

The youth first introduced themselves and their programs. Afterwards, Dr. Joel Lewis, Director of Youth Leadership Mobile, divided the youth into four groups to separately answer the following questions:

1. What are the needs of youth today?
2. What can youth do to better their schools?
3. How can "youth citizens" get other youth interested in being engaged with the community?
4. What are some of our community needs?

After the four groups expressed their ideas, it was obvious these youth were deep thinkers and understood some of the complexities of our area. An in-depth report on this Congress will be placed on CFSA's website, [www.communityendowment.com](http://www.communityendowment.com), this summer. Youth programs represented were:

YGAB  
Dearborn YMCA  
Volunteer Mobile Impact  
Mobile Ed. Fdn. Superintendent Adv. Board  
YMCA North Mobile  
Youth Leadership Mobile  
Boys & Girls Clubs Southwest Alabama  
Boy Scouts of America  
St. Paul's Campaigners  
Big Brothers, Big Sisters  
Young Life

If you are a director of a youth leadership/service program and would like a couple of your youth to participate in the next Youth Congress, or if you are a school administrator and want more information on YGAB, please call our office at 251-438-5591 and ask for Lisa Hirsch.

**"I had a lot of fun not only learning about different non-profits and giving, but also meeting new people from different schools."**

Mary Catherine Mosteller



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## YGAB MEMBERS 2007

Elizabeth B. Cameron  
Richard L. Cullum  
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Morgan D. Dorsett  
Benjamin R. Easter  
DeOisha A. Frazier  
Mary Kate Hinton  
Evan C. Howell  
Kourtney K. Jackson  
Anna Jarman  
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Margaret McCormick  
Mary Catherine Mosteller  
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David A. Sheffield  
Julia-Anne N. Snellman  
Sara J. Teague  
Klaus S. Williams  
Cicity G. Williams  
Caroline C. Wilson

### Participating Schools:

Alabama School of Math & Science  
Alma Bryant High School  
Baker High School  
Baldwin County High School  
Bayside Academy  
Cottage Hill Christian Academy  
Daphne High School  
Fairhope High School  
LeFlore High School  
McGill-Toolen High School  
Spanish Fort High School  
UMS-Wright High School  
W.S. Neal High School  
Williamson High School

### YGAB Newsletter

*Designer:* Cicity Williams  
*Editor:* Caroline Wilson

*YGAB's Quote for the Year:*

**"Be the change you wish to  
see in the world" -Ghandi**

## YGAB Mission Statement

To promote philanthropy and charitable actions among high school students as a community wide effort to develop leadership skills as the students actively learn **how to steward and enhance the quality of life for our area, now and into the future**, through endowment grant making benefiting non-profit organizations.

**YGAB needs your support! Please give to The Community Foundation today and mark it for the YGAB Endowment so youth will continue to experience leadership in philanthropy!**

*More information on YGAB can be found on the home page of The Foundation's website.*

### The Community Foundation of South Alabama

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