



YGAB Connection

June 2008

A newsletter of the Youth Grant Allocation Board

Teen Board Impacts the Community

Who ever said that youth cannot make a positive difference in a community? Certainly, the Youth Grant Allocation Board (YGAB) Class of 2008 did just that this past year! The board raised over \$10,500 and awarded two grants to highly significant programs in Mobile County that will touch over 350 disabled residents of our area. Within this newsletter are accounts of activities written by the board members that relay the process on how they decided on the initiative and selected the recipients.

YGAB Meetings

by Drew Mitchell

In all of our YGAB meetings, we learned about many things including the purpose of The Community Foundation of South Alabama, and the meaning of philanthropy. One thing we learned and will continue to learn and improve on throughout our lives is how to be a philanthropist. Each meeting was held at different nonprofit offices in Mobile and Baldwin Counties. We met with many different people on how their nonprofits help our communities. It was eye opening to hear about all the many services these nonprofits provide to our area and that they are dependent upon donations from the community.

We met at Ronald McDonald House in October and brought canned and dried foods for the pantry that provided for their

"I learned that even a small amount of service can make huge things happen! When a group of young adults get together, we bond to help the community and make great friends in the process." Lynn Tamblyn



visitors and even prepared a lunch for them. The House was very warm and friendly. At this meeting we began our community needs assessment which lasted two months. We also began learning about fundraising and soliciting private donors.

In November we met at the Weeks Bay Estuary and saw many exhibits of native animals and plant life in the area as well as walking the nature trail to see the Bay.

In December we met at Volunteer Mobile and learned about their services including Volunteer Referral, Impact Club, Good Samaritans, Connections, Corporate Volunteers, Disaster Response, and AmeriCorps Programs. We reported on the results of our community needs assessment and developed our grant initiative.

In February we met at the Community Action Agency of Baldwin, Escambia & Clark Counties and heard about their programs which included Low-Income Home Energy Assistance, Weatherization, Head Start, Emergency Food and Shelter, and Day Care Center. For four hours we reviewed and discussed all the grant applications.

Then in March we selected the final recipients and learned the importance of money management and of making a budget that included saving and giving.

*"YGAB has allowed me to become more aware of my community and more willing to take an active and leading role to help the people and organizations in my community."
Amber Hubbard*

Community Needs Assessment

by Payton Tanner

Before we could come up with a grant initiative, everyone performed a community needs assessment. We were all given a list of non profit organizations in Baldwin and Mobile counties and their contact information. There were a variety of organizations with lots of different missions such as arts, education, environment, etc. We individually selected several organizations we were most interested in, contacted the directors and, using a script, asked for three problems that they saw in their community, what areas of their county needed more help, what groups of people were lacking services, what were the greatest needs of these people, and suggestions that they had for these problems. We also asked people we knew for their input and made our own observations. At the December meeting, we shared the feedback we received from the community and presented the following needs in our counties:

- Education for the mentally or physically disabled
- Education for the impoverished
- Breaking the cycle of poverty
- Addressing general needs of the disabled
- Language barriers
- Providing better day cares
- Providing transportation for the elderly



Developing the Initiative

by Damien Hires

On Dec. 15 we met at the Volunteer Mobile office from 10 am-1 pm to develop our grant initiative. From our assessment, we noted many issues.

Of these issues YGAB had to decide which one they could help the most. We knew they were all important but most of us were drawn to help the disabled. We talked about children with Autism and about adult disabilities. We knew it was important to the disabled to become more independent. So we decided to offer a Health and Human services grant initiative for programs that aided the mentally and/or physically disabled of all ages toward an independent life style. The Community Foundation then sent out a Request for Proposals to nonprofit organizations within Mobile and Baldwin Counties requesting applications to be in by Feb. 1, 2008.

Evaluating Applications

by Caroline Wilson

On February 23 YGAB had the important task of reviewing all of the 21 worthy applicants. Everyone was divided into seven small groups to review three different applications using a scoring sheet to see how well each organization ran their programs and if they met our criteria. Once all of the small groups finished, each group reported on their applications, saying whether or not they recommend them for the grant. After we were informed and heard everyone's voice about each applicant, we voted on whether or not they were to be considered for the grant. After four hours of review and discussion, we narrowed down our applicants to three deserving finalists which were to be considered at our next meeting.

"YGAB has shown me that every little bit that I can do helps." Payton Tanner

"I learned how giving affects both the giver and the receiver." Caroline Johnson



Selecting the Recipient

by Lauren Huffman

In March after further discussion and review, we decided to award grants to two applicants that stood out and warmed our hearts. We felt that they best fit the purpose of our grant initiative and were programs that all our donors would want to fund. The Mobile Association for Retarded Citizens (MARC) requested funds to provide art supplies, instructors, and facilities needed to expand their art program to benefit 114 mentally handicapped citizens around the Gulf Coast. The other charity we favored was United Cerebral Palsy. Our grant to them will fund Camp Smile this summer that for the last sixteen years has provided disabled citizens with a week filled with learning and fun. This year our grant will pay for medical personnel and therapeutic horses for 240 campers. By choosing to award \$6,227 to MARC and \$9,200 to United Cerebral Palsy, the members of the Youth Grant Allocation Board felt that we will make the greatest positive impact on our community.

Why We Should Support Nonprofit Organizations

by Michael Keyser

Nonprofit organizations are undoubtedly some of the most important segments of our society. They provide for our safety, health, recreation, environment, as well as many other aspects of our lives which we often take for granted. Nonprofits are everywhere; they include fire stations, churches, blood centers, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, museums, parks and also many schools and hospitals, to name a few. In Mobile and Baldwin Counties alone, there are over 500. It would be quite hard to imagine a world without these nonprofits for our society truly depends on them. We all have personally benefited from them. This is why it is immensely important that we support nonprofits, because without their selfless, vital work, our communities would not be as great as they are. Nonprofits provide a humanitarian heart to our communities, which helps keep our community and society, as a whole, alive and well.

"I learned the difficult process that an organization must undergo to receive or give out a grant. I have learned valuable leadership, listening, and discussion skills that will take me far in life." Kathleen McCormick

"The overall YGAB experience was incredibly rewarding. It has changed my life and given me a different view on things, such as donating." Caroline Johnson

Fundraising

By Samantha Parrot

It all starts with a dream. The only problem is putting that dream into *action*, and that is where fundraising comes in. This year as a member of the YGAB, we were able to experience hands on the art of fundraising. Hank Rosso, a well known philanthropist, states that "Fundraising is the *gentle* art of teaching the joy of giving."

We began the process with a goal in mind: raise \$10,000. Through the use of the telephone and face to face interactions we were able to acquire all of the funds and more. Members from four schools, Alma Bryant High School, Cottage Hill Christian Academy, Fairhope High School, and Gulf Shores High School, used a little ingenuity and created fundraisers that their fellow students and teachers could participate in. Among them, Fairhope had a Jean Day and Cottage Hill made and sold a Christmas break t-shirt. The entire board received a total of \$10,542 in donations, and of that, \$10,427 was approved to award. And we also received \$10,000 from The Community Foundation of South Alabama as a matching grant, \$5,000 of which established our own YGAB endowment and \$5,000 went for grants.

There were 51 total donations given, ranging from \$5 to \$2,500! We learned that fundraising requires diligence and boldness— diligence in requesting money from any possible donor, and boldness to ask those potential donors for any funds.

Another key part of fundraising is a passion for the reason behind the funding. In our case, we wanted to impact our community by supplying nonprofits with the funds necessary to improve our community. And where would a fundraiser be if there were no donors? G.T. Smith says, "Donors don't give to institutions. They invest in ideas and people in whom they believe."

From the bottom of our hearts and I'm sure from the hearts of those who are receiving a grant, we would like to thank everyone who funded these grants.



How Teens Can Serve Their Community

by Chris Dudgeon

Many people often wonder why the world is the way it is. Why do people do so many things to cause harm or why does no one help anymore? We often forget that there are so many things that need to be done before we can witness the good in others or to see the good that we can bring. Many people are either too lazy to do what they should do or they think that someone else will do it.

One group that is always talked about is the teen group. We are underestimated for our work ethics and intelligence. We can show others that we are willing to help and make a difference. There are so many little things that we can do that will make a big difference and hopefully influence others to also help out. Just in your community, people need help with raking a yard or watching a young child for a hard working parent who can't find a break. My church often does yard work or other services for people and the expression on the people's faces tells us that every second was appreciated. This is just one example that proves that just taking a little time out of a Saturday or any day gives you a chance to reach out and help others. Each one of us can make a difference in the lives of others. For good, for ever.

YGAB MEMBERS 2008

Amanda C. Adams
Elizabeth B. Cameron
Richard L. Cullum
Cody W. Dockens
Morgan D. Dorsett
Christopher Dudgeon
Benjamin R. Easter
DeOisha A. Frazier
Diedre A. Graham
Savannah H. Hallstrom
Damien J. Hires
Amber M. Hubbard
Lauren E. Huffman
Caroline A. Johnson
Lester P. Jones, Jr.
Camille P. Jordan
Michael T. Keyser
Richard C. Lee
Kathleen McCormick
Cullen B. Milner
Drew Mitchell
Mary Catherine Mosteller
Samantha A. Parrott
Brandon D. Pilot
Joshua R. Stone
Lynn M. Tamblin
Payton A. Tanner
Blair Williams
Caroline C. Wilson

Participating Schools:

Alabama School of Math & Science
Alma Bryant High School
B.C. Rain High School
Baker High School
Baldwin County High School
Bayside Academy
Cottage Hill Christian Academy
Davidson High School
Fairhope High School
Gulf Shores High School
McGill-Toolen High School
Murphy High School
Robertsdale High School
Spanish Fort High School
St. Paul's Episcopal School
UMS-Wright Preparatory School
Williamson High School

YGAB's Quote for the Year:

**"We make a living by what we
get, but we make a life by
what we give."**

-Winston Churchill

YGAB Mission Statement

To promote philanthropy and leadership skills among high school students as they actively learn how to steward and enhance the quality of life for our area now and into the future.

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 at www.communityendowment.com.

The Community Foundation of South Alabama

PO Box 990, Mobile, Alabama 36601
212 St. Joseph Street, Mobile, Alabama 36602

Phone 251-438-5591; Fax 251-438-5592
www.communityendowment.com