

BY YOUTH FOR YOUTH GROUP AWARDS \$26,130 TO LOCAL YOUTH PROGRAMS

High school leaders review and identify grants that will benefit youth-led organizations and youth programs

Madison, WI (April 27, 2022) – Earlier this month, the By Youth for Youth (BYFY) committee, a collaborative project through the Dane County Youth Commission, United Way of Dane County, the City of Madison Community Development Division, and UW-Extension Dane County’s Institute of Positive Youth Development, awarded \$26,130 to 16 local youth programs and projects.

BYFY’s funding priorities for 2022 were focused on racial justice, rights and accessibility, environmental change and environmental justice for climate change, mental health access (with an emphasis on marginalized communities), resources for teens experiencing poverty, and immigrant and undocumented youth justice, rights and accessibility.

“By Youth for Youth gives the next generation of community leaders an opportunity to make real impact at a young age,” said Renee Moe, President & CEO of United Way of Dane County. “These inspiring teens are learning how to collaborate, communicate effectively and accelerate results – all to help more people and change more lives. We are so proud to convene Dane County’s up and coming thought leaders and change makers!”

Funding Highlights:

- Madison East High School - Food Equity Club: \$2,978 goes towards providing healthy snacks year-round for students experiencing food insecurity.
- Warner Park Community Recreation Center - Kids Need Opportunities at Warner (KNOW): \$2,378 goes toward the KNOW Basketball Referee Certification and Employment program, providing youth paid opportunities with an employment track in coaching basketball.
- Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools (GSAFE) - Youth Activist Council’s Supplementary Mental Health Curriculum: \$2,427 goes towards improving youth mental health awareness and access by providing additional mental health curriculums in local schools.

Full List of Funded Organizations and Programs:

- East High School – Food Equity Club
- Dairyland Dancing Diamonds Youth Team Communities Project
- Briarpatch Youth Services – Briar-Attire
- Middleton Cross-Plains Area School District – Middleton High School Composter
- Milestone Democratic School – Youth Glow Up & Accessibility
- Funny Characters LLC – K.I.T (Keepin’ It Together)
- Middleton High School – Black Student Union (BSU) and Latino Student Union (LSU) Confidant Society
- School District of Belleville – Homework & Mentor Project
- East High School – Each One Teach One
- Verona Area High School – Black Student Union (BSU) Historically Black Colleges & University Tour
- East High School – MENA Institute for Education and Self-Determination
- Warner Park Community & Recreation Center – Kids Need Opportunities at Warner (KNOW)
- La Follette High School – Black Student Union (BSU) and the Restorative Operation Solution Specialist
- Lussier Community Education Center – Youth Action Summer Internship (YASI)

- Memorial High School – Latinx Student Union’s (LSU) Latino Festival
- GSAFE/Youth Activist Council – Supplementary Mental Health Curriculum in Schools

When asked what they were most proud of in participating in the funding selection process, one BYFY youth committee member said, “Navigating issues that youth encounter can be difficult and often overlooked because adults are not running them. BYFY gives youth a chance to make their own proposals, and will actually take what they’re passionate about seriously, which is so important. I’m so proud I got to help along this process.”

2021-2022 By Youth For Youth Committee Members

Rafay Adnan	Madison Country Day School	Senior
Alexa Garber	Middleton High School	Sophomore
Lily Greisch	Monona Grove High School	Junior
Bridget Helland	Edgewood High School	Junior
Eva Hernandez-White	Madison Country Day School	Junior
Thavida Johnston	James Madison Memorial High School	Senior
Nathan Kwon	Middleton High School	Sophomore
Paloma Martinez	Madison West High School	Sophomore
Christine Negovani	James Madison Memorial High School	Sophomore
Aurora Ross	Madison East High School	Junior
Rose Ryan	Middleton High School	Senior
Alex Steckelis	Belleville High School	Senior
Victoria Zagal-Pfefferle	Madison East High School	Senior

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About United Way of Dane County:

For 100 years, United Way of Dane County has mobilized the caring power of our community to create lasting change for multiple generations. With a mission to unite the community to achieve measurable results that change lives, we are committed to being a catalyst for inclusion and systemic change – working collaboratively with local nonprofits, businesses, community leaders, donors, volunteers and families to solve big-picture issues no one person or organization can address alone. Together, we are The Power of Many. Working for All. And we invite every Dane County resident to be a part of the change we all wish to see. Visit www.unitedwaydanecounty.org to learn more.

About By Youth For Youth:

The By Youth For Youth (BYFY) committee for 2021-2022 is a volunteer committee of 13 Dane County high school students that makes investment decisions in youth-led programming. With oversight and support from United Way of Dane County and UW-Extension Dane County, the BYFY program provides youth the opportunity to identify needs and issues that are important to them and direct funding to address those needs through projects developed and implemented by youth to serve youth. BYFY provides a meaningful leadership and volunteer experience for both youth participating on the committee, as well as for youth who apply for and implement projects for the organizations they serve. The sponsors providing funding are United Way of Dane County, Dane County Youth Commission and the City of Madison Community Development Division.