



The Founder Fire 2019



"My own self, At my very best, All the time"

Aspire Nobly, Adventure Daringly, Serve Humbly

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A letter

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Anna Kay Vorsteg

Shared Visions Realized

This past June as I made my seasonal trek from Merrowvista to Miniwanca, braving delays induced by a bit of early season weather, I felt a mix of pressure and excitement. I was flying, driving, and in the final stretch running, to catch a moral reasoning training led by Dr. Andy Cullison and Emily Knuth of DePauw University's Prindle Institute for Ethics. After learning about their vanguard work in the field of moral reasoning and ethics education, I had invited Prindle to partner with the American Youth Foundation as we seek to bring new practices to our work of helping youth explore and develop their mental capacities. I anxiously wondered, would this prove a good partnership?

I quietly entered a full Assembly building and sat amongst the hundred plus second year students attending the AYF's National Leadership Conference. Most were recent graduates of high schools across the country, each possessing a unique perspective. From go, the Prindle team and the NLC participants engaged in a rich dynamic that did not disappoint. Andy introduced carefully designed tools and the students eagerly put them to their intended use. All were animated, at times urgent, always respectful and curious.

Those present were not prescribed answers, but rather were invited to the work of developing thoughtful frameworks that guide their thinking when answers aren't simple. Participants practiced shifting away from conflict and into healthy dialogue and ultimately towards the "most right" solutions and actions that result in a more just society. Couldn't we all benefit from educational methods that teach us how to discuss the critical issues of our time in a deliberate way? This was for me, one of the many highlights of this rich program season. I was learning, AYF was learning and all the while our mission and our participants were being better served. My anxiety was relieved as I saw the depth of this work unfold.

That passionate session provided evidence that our youth are not only able but raring/eager/impatient to expand their skills of moral reasoning as they seek to become their best selves. It also rekindled my believe that as we seek to teach youth the multiplying powers of working in team, we need as an organization to work in team too, seeking expertise from others as we work to increase the reach and relevance of AYF's programs.

And as you will read in this edition of the Founder Fire, our work with the Prindle Institute is only one of many important partnerships that shaped us this year. AYF continues to benefit in countless ways from our shared programs with Zebra Crossings, Kids4Peace, Loyola Academy, and many more.

Many of you partnered with us in the In Motion, On Mission campaign and helped in very real ways to upgrade our campuses, restoring and enhancing buildings and spaces that will stand beautifully in the service of youth for decades to come. You powered a wave of youth through our camps and many of you have already pledged resources that will fuel the future. Your actions communicate in concrete ways that you have embraced your roles as stewards guiding us toward our best.

We are profoundly grateful to the many individuals who rose to share their gifts to advance our organization this year. Several are shared in these pages, all are reflected in our continued success. So thank you partners, one and all, for the coaching, the feedback, the in-kind donations, the thousands of hours of volunteerism, the opening of doors and the forging of new relationships. Thank you to the youth and adults who trust us and evolve us daily in the learning labs of Miniwanca and Merrowvista. And I welcome those of you who will help us to form new partnerships down new pathways, that will advance this mission into its next 100 years.

I have witnessed the magnificent, in the form of individuals, teams, communities and organizations coming together, multiplying their super powers to advance good causes with and within the American Youth Foundation. While we, as the AYF, often find ourselves on the giving end of providing program experiences, it feels important to note that we are coming off of an abundant season of receiving from others, and as a result our organization has been reinvigorated. I dare say, with a kick in my step, I see more bold positive action is in our shared future. I am profoundly grateful, exceedingly hopeful.



Celebration & Recognition

On Sunday, May 5, 2019, friends and supporters of the AYF community gathered for a dinner to kick off the 18th annual Donald Danforth Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament. During the evening program, we presented three awards of recognition to members of the founder family and organizations who have advanced the AYF mission.

VISIONARY



Kelly Tyson

LEARN Charter 6

The Visionary Award is given to an individual whose work has not only had a powerful and positive impact on youth, but has helped to shape the professions of education and positive youth development.

Kelly is a passionate educator and school leader committed to serving children and families from under-resourced communities. As principal of City Academy in St. Louis, under the leadership of Donny Danforth, Kelly supported students who had the opportunity to attend AYF camp and Leadership Conference programs through a scholarship partnership. In 2013 Kelly became the Principal of LEARN, a newly opened charter elementary school in North Chicago, where she initiated a new partnership that has brought over 350 LEARN Charter School students to Miniwanca. Kelly brought about a turnaround for her school and was named the Illinois Charter School Principal of the Year. We recognize Kelly for the work she has done seeing the light and the potential in every one of her students and we honor her for the steady and bold ways she is transforming educational institutions, including the AYF.

ENKINDLED SPIRIT



Vanette McKinney

Active volunteer and
former Girls Camp Director

The Enkindled Spirit Award recognizes an individual who has given their best self back to the American Youth Foundation, and through their unwavering support, has shown that the AYF motto is a way of life.

Vanette's history with the AYF spans over 50 years – from her arrival with new husband Thearon to serve as the Boys Camp secretary, to the leadership and coordinating roles she filled in camps and conferences, and to her role as Girls Camp Director from 1997-2004. To know Vanette is to feel the buzz of her energy, the constant engagement with the world around her, the desire to ask what needs to be done, and then to be about it, jumping in to the task. For the past 15 years, Vanette has returned to Miniwanca as the ringleader of a spirited group of volunteers known as “80 Bay” who make Miniwanca Magic happen. Vanette is a force of nature who leads from a place of humble service, always focused on the goal of giving young people the tools and the power they need to move ahead in this world.

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT



Standard Process

Charlie DuBois,
President

The Community Empowerment Award is given to an organization whose humble service to the American Youth Foundation has helped fuel its mission.

Standard Process is a company founded with a mission much like that of the American Youth Foundation: advancing health and changing lives. As a third generation, family-owned company, Standard Process uses sustainable, organic farming practices to produce nutrient rich supplements and whole food nutrition. Since 2014, Standard Process has partnered with AYF to provide experiences at the National Leadership Conference to the children of their employees. To date, they have provided over 70 scholarships to AYF programs. Charlie continues to lead the way by acting on his inspiring vision, demonstrating how a company can support the growth of employees and their families, and as result grow and strengthen the broader community – all while remaining profitable. Charlie has created a company culture focused on growth and positive development – inspiring employees and their families to live at their best by giving back to their communities.

Nestlé Purina PetCARE PRIDE DAY



Nina Leigh Krueger, President, Nestlé Purina PetCare; Anna Kay Vorsteg, President, AYF; Lyda Krewson, Mayor of St. Louis; Joe Sivewright, CEO Nestlé Purina PetCare.

On Tuesday, May 21st, St. Louis based Nestlé Purina staff participated in PetCare Pride Day, giving their time to local non-profits. The AYF was selected as a partner organization, welcoming a group of twenty Nestlé Purina volunteers to the AYF Advancement office. Volunteers packed Camper Care and Trail Kits full of gear into duffels which were donated to camper families. Nestlé Purina generously donated the entire cost of the gear, which included rain jackets, sleeping bags and thermal layers and many other necessities for our scholarship campers.

After a morning of high energy work, our AYF team followed the volunteers back to Checkerboard Square where Anna Kay Vorsteg spoke in the PetCare Pride Day closing ceremonies. Her words focused on the interconnection of our two organizations, describing how William H. Danforth's and Nestlé Purina's success helped fuel the birth of the AYF. "We are your little sibling," she said, explaining that AYF was "brought into



this world because of the success of Nestlé Purina." Building on the common ground of Danforth's inspirational leadership, AYF continues to benefit from the generosity which grows from our shared legacy. As Anna Kay explained, "We've grown up on Monday Morning Messages, we've grown up on dares and challenges to be our best, and to unleash our best into a world that desperately needs it."



We look forward to continuing the collaboration as Nestlé Purina has announced that it will fund a scholarship program for employees' families to attend AYF programs. We are grateful for this renewed connection and look forward to our shared commitment to supporting all young people who seek to live at their best and to make a difference in their communities and beyond. As Anna Kay shared, "There is a call and a need for all of us to rise and to celebrate the diversity in our communities, and the American Youth Foundation is working hard, with your help, to bring up the next generation of young people from every walk and every way, to unleash their best on this world."



Summer Seminars for Women

DARE TO LEAD:
DARE TO KNOW AND BRING
YOUR OWN BEST SELF
TO YOUR LIFE
AND OUR WORLD





In July, fifty women gathered on the Miniwanca sand dunes for the 31st annual Summer Seminars for Women. In less than five short days, this group of women ranging in age from 29 to 90 came together from 21 states and became Summer Sisters bonded and refueled by Miniwanca Magic. Under the sun and warmth of spectacular, quintessential Michigan summer days, the group came together to focus on leadership in their lives and communities.

Each morning a seminar on this year's theme Dare to Lead, planted the seeds of deep conversations and self-reflection. The opening seminar introduced the tool of Clifton StrengthsFinder which illuminated each person's unique combinations of strength. Sessions went on to explore emotional intelligence and personal leadership stories.

"I loved how the presenters had hands-on, interactive sessions within their topics. It helped to bring the topics 'home.'"

Afternoons at SSW were 'choose your own adventure' time including boating, crafts such as kumihimo weaving, beach walks, book discussions, meditative doodling and even naps. Following fun and energetic dinners with Girls Camp, including Flash Mobs and Founder Hearts, the evening programs brought laughter, discussion, reflection, and remembrance.

On Friday night, the group gathered in the renovated Kinji Shrine for the "Celebration of Exceptional Women" lighting candles in memory of inspiring women in their lives.

Each night wrapped up with small group conversations in Touchstone Groups and stunning sunset views during Evening Reflections. "My favorite experience was the last Touchstone group, when all of my group members leaned in, gave me advice and shared their amazing stories and experiences."

At the final Evening Reflection, the closing reading prepared the women to head back to their lives, "Here's a test to find whether your mission on earth is finished: If you're still alive, it isn't." (*Illusions*, by Richard Bach)



**JOIN US ON THE DUNES FOR THE NEXT
SUMMER SEMINARS FOR WOMEN,
TO BE HELD JULY 29–AUGUST 2, 2020.**

WHERE DID YOU IGNITE YOUR SPARK?

RESTORATION AND NEW BUILDING IN ACTION FROM THE GENEROSITY
OF THE IN MOTION, ON MISSION CAMPAIGN



by Sarah Shepherd Browning

In the early 1920's the Founders knew they would need a special place to embolden young leaders. When they laid their eyes upon the dunes, the woods, the waters and the mountains, they knew the 960 acres of Miniwanca and Merrowvista were the place where the tiny sparks would light into bold leader flames. They dreamed the building and structures would serve as the launching ground for the leaders of tomorrow.

With your generous support, we are grateful to report that your In Motion, On Mission campaign gifts have been invested widely across the Miniwanca and Merrowvista properties. Your incredible outpouring of generosity has ensured our facilities and all of their magical spaces and places are ready to serve the next many generations of leaders. Over five hundred thousand dollars of In Motion, On Mission campaign funds were invested in restoration and structural upgrades to more than one hundred different buildings and places at both Miniwanca and Merrowvista. Thanks to you and the many contributions received, we are happy to report the construction of all Phase One projects is complete and work has begun on many additional goals.

At Miniwanca, structural upgrades and restoration were completed to more than thirteen large facilities including: Assembly Building and Amphitheater, Church of the Dunes, West Council Circle, East Council Circle, Duneview, Creekview, Stony Lake Swim Docks, Waterfront and new Bathhouse, Tipi building and Lodge, Minisino Lodge, Kinji Shrine, Jack's House, plus the 55 rustic cabins throughout Girls and Boys Camp.

American Youth Foundation Director of Operations, Andy Mulcahy shares detailed insight into the upgrades of Miniwanca's Girls Camp Council Circle. "Starting in 1925, the Council Circle was built in several phases starting with wooden benches. In 1928, the first permanent stone structure was completed.



Miniwanca Council Circle after renovations in 2018.



Council Circle circa 1960.

Over the decades, the stone structure had multiple rows added and the tunnel entries extended. Thanks to the successful response to the In Motion, On Mission campaign, donations allowed for a full restoration and preservation of the project which was completed in 2018.”

Andy explains, “Over one hundred thousand dollars of campaign funds facilitated making major repairs including repairing exterior walls, re-tucking all mortar joints, pouring new concrete seating and steps, expanding and securing entryway openings, rebuilding the central fire pit, and adding new stone façade and steel powder-coated handrails.” For more than 90 years, generations of campers have celebrated the community of Miniwanca in the Council Circle by opening each session and sending out bright founder flames into the world at the conclusion of each summer. Your dedication and generosity have secured that tradition for the next hundred years.

Merrowvista’s largest renovations took place on the 3-season housing duplexes, summer staff housing unit, New Hampshire Lodge, installing a new dock system, and land management landscaping. Nearly one hundred and seven thousand dollars were invested in major projects, including building Nesuntabunt village, redesigning the Dan Hole Pond waterfront and docks, upgrading Jefferson village duplexes, replacing windows in Danforth Lodge, and insulating Stockman Lodge.

Andy explains that restoration and rebuilding projects came with their own unique challenges, “Imagine digging in the Miniwanca sand, on a 20-degree day, looking for a building’s footings, only to realize, it had none, just sand! Or working in the mountains of New Hampshire, digging down 4 inches of shallow topsoil to discover the rest is solid granite. Where do you go from there?!”

Andy went on to share that at both Miniwanca and Merrowvista, some of the renovation crew members who poured their talents into the IMOM upgrades have deep connections to the properties through many generations of their own family and friends. “First completed in 1941, the Church of the Dunes, a post and beam wood structure was built by Stony Lake building family, the Burmeisters, who have maintained their ties to the AYF to the present. Back then, the logs were pulled into place with pulleys, horses, and dedication. Around 1951, the vaulted cupola above the stage area was added.”

In Motion, On Mission funds were invested in the project to cover the broad scope of work needed on The Church of the Dunes, including full electrical and lighting replacement, upgraded electrical to support the still working carillon, exterior path lighting, original wood floor restoration, and treatment to eradicate post beetles from the entire structure. Rebuilding the stone stairs leading to the church is planned for 2020.

We thank you bold Founder family. Because of your generous support of the In Motion, On Mission campaign, our Miniwanca and Merrowvista properties remain rooted and grounded, ready to launch the next many generations of sparks, ignited into Founder flames, out to brighten and lead in every corner of the world.



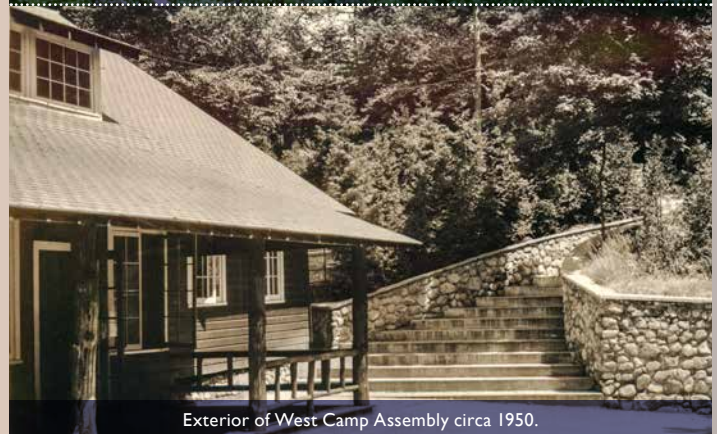
Merrowvista Waterfront Boathouse



Merrowvista Sailboat Docks



Assembly after interior and exterior repairs.



Exterior of West Camp Assembly circa 1950.

Better Together

Our partnership with Zebra Crossings

For almost 100 years, the American Youth Foundation has built and relied upon a community of life-giving partners to ensure the growth and success of our year-round programs at both Miniwanca and Merrowvista. While many of these partnerships span from generation to generation within a single family, others exist between our programs and other youth development organizations.

We depend upon these symbiotic relationships, founded in shared values and similar core commitments, to best serve youth in every phase of their distinctive development. Working together enables us to positively impact a greater number of lives – ultimately, helping us to reach and shape more diverse groups of youth into their own best selves. Collaborating in community with our network of kindred spirits and allies allows the American Youth Foundation mission to flourish.

Since 2011, Camp Merrowvista has walked hand in hand with Zebra Crossings. Just as every child has their own unique finger prints, personalities and needs, no two zebras have the same coat of stripes. Zebra Crossings tailors safe experiential programs for children who have chronic medical conditions. Their programs and camps serve youth who have conditions which include (but are not limited to): asthma, autoimmune disorders, diabetes, epilepsy, heart defects, hemophilia, juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, severe allergies and skin conditions. Every Zebra Crossings program is supervised by medical professionals who acknowledge the needs of each unique child.

For the past 8 years, Zebra Crossings' Camp Blue Sky has offered inspiring weekend retreats at Merrowvista in the spring before summer programs fill the camp property. Camp Blue Sky invites families and their children with Down syndrome to create and celebrate community with other families who are journeying through life with similar experiences and challenges. A grateful Camp Blue Sky parent reflects,

“It is a weekend to connect with people who get you and get your situation and can offer empathy and encouragement.”

Known for their patterned black and white coats, zebras stick out on their own. Yet observed in groups, they are called dazzle – for the visual impact created by their solidarity – zebras blend together. These highly social herd animals create safety and natural camouflage for themselves when traveling in community. Much like zebras in a dazzle, a Zebra Crossings camper shared, “I really like Camp Spinnaker because you get to meet other kids with asthma, and you don't feel, well... lonely. Because sometimes it can be hard to make friends when you have asthma.”





Since 2014, Zebra Crossings has also worked in partnership with Merrowvista to host Camp Spinnaker, a one-week overnight program for children ages 8-12 with asthma. In addition to experiencing the magic of the Merrowvista property, the Camp Spinnaker campers partake in an extensive asthma education program to equip and empower them to manage their own health. "I can control my asthma better and take responsibility for my medications to prevent flair up." says a camper, age 12.

"My daughter went from not wanting to do anything active to participating in dance, track, soccer, racing and swimming and being able to keep up with her peers better" says a parent.

I credit Zebra Crossings' Camp Spinnaker for giving her the motivation to try new things and confidence that her asthma is just a part of her, but it does not define her. *Zebra Crossings camper parent*

Zebra Crossings Founder and Executive Director Astrid Wielens shares that the partnership with the American Youth Foundation works because, "Zebra Crossings program's core values are play, independence, achievement, wellness and community." Astrid's ties to the AYF run deep, as she was a longtime staff member and Director at Merrowvista. As she has developed this powerful community, she has carried forward the mission of AYF with the goal to reach even more youth. She explains, "It comes back to the AYF concept of "your own best self," which is such a simple, yet powerful message. In our community, every child may manage a different chronic medical condition, which poses different challenges every day or week. Just like the AYF, we encourage our participants to focus on inclusion, kindness, and not comparing yourself with others. Participants are encouraged to try new experiences and discover what they are capable of achieving."

In 2019, Zebra Crossings hosted more than 179 participants, from 11 states, involved in 37 program days, while providing on-site medical supervision and activities as individual as each camper's needs and abilities. We are honored to call Zebra Crossings our partner. We look forward to the continued growth of their programs – and ours – as we continue our journeys together, in this dazzle, that is our partnership.



The summer of 2019 featured the launch

of an inspiring initiative that focuses on ascending outstanding youth leaders to positions on our seasonal staff teams. Longtime supporter and Board Member Pat Mulcahy reached out to AYF with the idea of creating a mission advancing program to honor the memory of his late daughter, Elizabeth Mulcahy Telthorst.

Elizabeth was a beloved member of our AYF community who herself ascended from being a Miniwanca camper to an admired organizational leader who served in director roles at Miniwanca, Merrowvista and in St. Louis where she led the advancement team. Elizabeth was actively engaged as a director on the American Youth Foundation Board at the time of her passing in February of 2017.

Pat Mulcahy, himself an AYF alumni, first experienced AYF in his college years in 1965 when he was chosen as a Danny Boy and experienced Miniwanca programs and the dare to live at his best. Pat credits the influence of the AYF program and mentoring staff for shaping his character and giving him the tools to launch a very successful career. He is delighted to help establish a program that will honor his daughter's legacy by helping others now and in the future benefit in the ways he did from involvement in the AYF.

Elizabeth was committed to giving all people access to the programs of the AYF. Thanks to Pat and other friends and family, a fund has been established which will build on the good work Elizabeth began: opening AYF experiences to a wider range of youth, supporting greater equity and inclusion in our programs, and ultimately giving youth the chance to become leaders on our staff and in their communities and the wider world.

The Mulcahy Fellowship is an honor which will be awarded each year to a small group of outstanding young leaders who are nominated by teachers, coaches or AYF directors. Those chosen to receive the award will serve in staff roles, sharing their gifts that will benefit the summer programs at Miniwanca and Merrowvista. The spirit of the fellowship will advance Elizabeth's vision of having a staff that better represents the broadening diversity of the participants in AYF programs and will continue to build on the quality of character that is represented in each one of these individuals. The Mulcahy Fellowship will help the AYF draw, serve, employ and launch a cohort of staff and youth who better reflect the youth of America today.

Mulcahy Fellowship



Each year, the Mulcahy Fellowship will also fund the “Camper Experience Coordinator” position at each camp. This staff member works closely with new campers, as well as campers who have faced greater social or cultural obstacles when making a big transition into the camp community.

During her work in the camps and as NLC Director, Elizabeth was keenly attuned to the experience that new campers had, especially if they came from a background where they didn’t have much familiarity with summer camp. For many of our new campers who come to us through our school partnerships or as sponsored campers, our camps can be a daunting new experience full of unfamiliar culture, food, music, and traditions. The Camper Experience Coordinators give a little extra support to campers on the margins – sometimes offering supportive words, other times, helping to respond in healthy ways to challenges that might arise.

Elizabeth Mulcahy Telthorst



During its first season, the program brought together five Fellows who served on the camp staff teams, with three in Miniwanca Girls Camp, one in Boys Camp and one on the Merrowvista Team. The Fellows’ positive contributions were immeasurable and they made an incredible impact on the summer programs. This year’s tremendous first group of Mulcahy Fellows were: Ambrean Ford, Hanine Alhaydar, Bria Earl, Wilky Joseph, and Salvaryus Partan. We are so proud of all that they brought to our camp communities and excited to witness the powerful ways they will shape their communities beyond AYF.

The Mulcahy fund is both a generous gift and a tall order. It will enable and demand stronger, healthier, more representative program communities. The Mulcahy Fellowship will be an ongoing gift that will help to truly diversify and therefore strengthen our program communities. This program takes a multifaceted approach to addressing the barriers that prevent campers from thriving in the new and sometimes unfamiliar setting of camp, while also supporting staff who bring diversity of life experience and background to the teams. Elizabeth must be so pleased – we certainly are.

All are welcome to contribute to the Mulcahy Fellowship Endowment. If you would like to support this initiative and honor Elizabeth, please contact our Advancement office for more information.

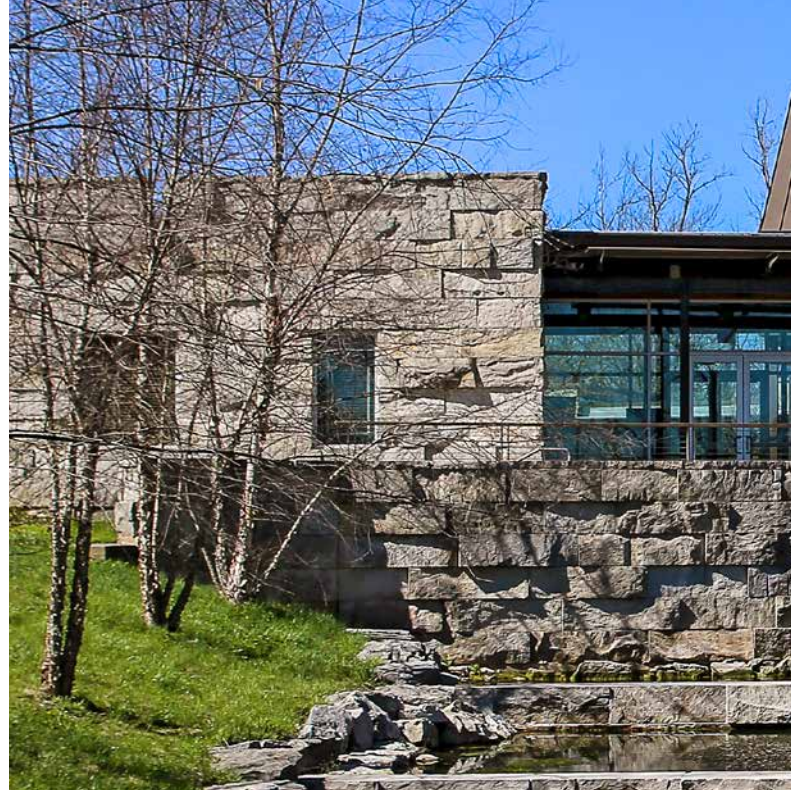


Ethics in Action with The Prindle Institute

Members of the National Leadership Conference Second Year class

sat in small groups, listening intently as Dr. Andrew Cullison, Director of the Prindle Institute for Ethics at Depauw University, explained a complex scenario. “You’re high school students and you learn that a good friend of yours admitted to being guilty of posting hateful graffiti in another student’s locker. What do you do?” NLC participants embraced the challenge, exploring the complicated ethical and moral questions at the heart of this dilemma. For the next hour, they learned to identify systems of moral reasoning that can be used as a pathway through the difficult and conflicting decisions they will make. Small groups talked and created lists of approaches to the issue. Rather than seeking a single solution, the workshop introduced ways of thinking that fully engaged all of their capacities around what AYF calls the “M-Fold” or the mental fold.

This summer saw the launching of a new partnership with the Prindle Institute which brought a college professor and staff to NLC to facilitate a series of moral reasoning workshops. “I was so energized by witnessing the passion that the NLC participants brought to these sessions,” said Matt Loper, Director of AYF Programs who attended the sessions. “They were all in, completely engaged in looking at the really complicated ideas, such as implicit bias, which are constantly in play as each of us moves through the world.”



The idea for AYF’s partnership with the Prindle Institute came from longtime Miniwanca camper and staff member Emily Knuth, who now serves as the Institute’s Assistant Director of Events and Engagement. While at Miniwanca dropping off her children at Girls Camp and Boys Camp, she was struck by the continuity of the mission of both organizations. “It makes perfect sense to bring these organizations together as they’re both looking at supporting youth in finding their capacity to act on their values,” said Knuth.

To see the partnership in action at NLC, it’s clear that the Prindle Institute staff are bringing a deep and passionate understanding of complex ideas that are a part of the mental fold. For the 2nd year participants, these sessions with the Prindle faculty gave them the chance to wade into some of the most complicated dilemmas they will face as leaders and a chance to refine their capacity to lead, grounded in their deepest held values.

In a follow up session the next day, Dr. Cullison offered to reflect upon any ethically “charged” questions they had on their mind and thereby providing more examples of using moral reasoning in the face of highly complex situations. The participants were practically tripping over one another in



“I WAS SO ENERGIZED BY WITNESSING
THE PASSION THAT THE NLC PARTICIPANTS
BROUGHT TO THESE SESSIONS”



order to bring their own real life ethical quandaries in the spotlight for a few minutes. They asked questions ranging from the deeply personal: “What are the ethical obligations of friends of those who use, abuse, or are addicted to drugs?”; to the larger societal wrestles of the day: “When is it appropriate for a nation to close its borders to refugees?”; to ones in which they were seeking more support and guidance for whatever may come their way: “What if you just don’t know what to do in a tough situation?” and “Is it even possible to have an unbiased reaction?”

The Prindle Institute’s approach to grappling with moral reasoning is to focus on the eight most common moral frameworks that people use when making difficult decisions. By learning to name the systems in place, NLC participants got in touch with their individual values, beginning to feel which of these are in motion in their own lives. By focusing closely on the ethical issues that are woven into contemporary life, they learn how to move with agility through competing values and claims.

The second session with Dr. Cullison was meant to run an hour, and it ended up taking up the entire three hour morning block that day. NLC’s young leaders brought a palpable energy to the session, diving deep into questions that deeply matter in their daily lives. Their insightful questions revealed their sincere desire to lead toward a better future; looking for new ways to understand the issues that are impacting modern generations –

climate change, racial bias, inequity in education, activism and capitalism, among others. As their experience continued, they began to realize that the practice of moral reasoning doesn’t offer easy answers – instead it asks them to engage with their full hearts and minds, ready to grapple with their beliefs and their peers and to come to the “most right solution” to the challenges they face.

“Seeing energy and enthusiasm in today’s youth to grapple with critical ethical issues is one of the most rewarding aspects of this work,” said Dr. Cullison, “I was blown away by the depth of thought they were bringing to the table. NLC lit some kind of fire in these students that I hope never burns out, and it feels really good to partner with an organization like AYF to develop the next generation of morally thoughtful leaders.”

The AYF looks forward to continued partnership with the Prindle Institute in future summers. Plans are underway for a return to next year’s National Leadership Conference as well as a new opportunity for Prindle Interns to serve on the summer camp staff at Miniwanca. Sharing best practice and engaging in the complexities of moral reasoning are a vital addition to our ongoing work of inspiring youth to reach for their best.

These young people of the AYF strive to be at their best. They continue to discover more about themselves and passionately pursue projects that serve their communities. They are *enkindled spirits* – glowing embers that inspire others to action.

Enkindle



SIDNEY KEYS III

Sidney is an eighth grader at Loyola Academy of St. Louis who attends Miniwanca each fall with his entire school. Throughout his experiences at Miniwanca, he has demonstrated excellent leadership and an inspiring energy in our community. He truly personifies what it means to be his own best self, and he inspires his classmates to do the same. Sidney is playful, kind, and passionate. These qualities enable him to make positive connections with the younger Loyola men, as well as his fellow eighth graders. One of the most incredible examples of Sidney's leadership is the book club he founded when he was only ten years old. Books N Bros creates an environment where young African American boys can come together to read and connect over literature and positive community. Sidney's group focuses on literature by and about African Americans, and strives to combat the statistic that says black boys are at lower literacy rates than other groups.

After a visit to EyeSeeMe, an African American children's bookstore in St. Louis, Sidney was inspired by the idea of bringing together a group of boys to talk about books. He picked a book and set a date, and Books N Bros began with just seven participants. Today the group has grown exponentially and has received national recognition, continuing to grow under Sidney's leadership as the founder and "Head Bro in Charge." He has spread his passion for reading through interviews with CNN, Steve Harvey, and he even received a shout out from Oprah Winfrey. Since its inception, Books N Bros has continued to grow as more and more boys experience the joy of reading. The program now incorporates mentorship, team work, and community building as his peers come together. Sidney is an excellent example of an enkindled spirit, sharing his gifts with others as he makes a positive difference in the community.



GRADY CORCORAN

Grady Corcoran is a Boys Camper from Miniwanca who made a huge impact in the community as a member of the Avail program. Grady could be seen around camp lifting up those around him, celebrating growth and accomplishments, and improving our site through service work. As a member of the Avail community, Grady was a leader for younger campers in the Beaches, sharing his spirit and enthusiasm for friendly competition. He was passionate about the community service projects in Avail, working on construction on Creekview cottage and projects in Boys Camp.

In his home community, Grady lives the mission by having a service mindset; this year he and his lacrosse teammates participated in Soldier Box Day, packaging supplies for more than 250 Marines serving at sea as part of the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit. Grady is a sophomore at Gonzaga College High School in Washington DC, a Jesuit all boys school where the motto "men for others" is the culture. He is excelling at school and embracing the call to serve others and make a positive difference in his community. He also finds balance at school, participating in Chorus and recently winning a school-wide chess tournament.

Grady's experience at Miniwanca is the continuation of a family tradition – his mom, Stacey MacIlwaine Corcoran was a six year YG camper in the 70's and 80's. He and his older sisters Delaney and Cami have grown up with the values of best self at the core of their family, and Grady continues to show his passion for living at his best and inspiring those around him.

ed Spirits



LEXIE HILL

Lexie has grown up at Miniwanca, returning each summer to Girls Camp and the National Leadership Conference and completing the Odyssey cycling trip from Michigan to New Hampshire in 2019. She has been a leader in every stage of her camp experience, inspiring her peers with gentle enthusiasm and a positive outlook. Lexie's great-grandfather, James H. Woods, was a colleague of William H. Danforth and an early supporter of the camps, and she has continued the family tradition along with many of her cousins. We've seen her boldly conquer each stage of the camp experience, and even outside of camp, Lexie has shown the spirit to "adventure daringly" to pursue her academic and personal goals.

After her first year of high school at home in Boulder, Colorado, Lexie realized that she wanted to make a change, seeking more rigor and a deeper sense of connection in her school community. Her search led her to The Northwest School in Seattle, a boarding and day school which focuses on academic rigor as well as social justice and environmental sustainability. Lexie made the move out to Seattle to become part of this values-driven community for her sophomore and junior years of high school.

Her experience at Northwest School opened the way to another educational adventure. Lexie was nominated to attend United World College in Mostar, Bosnia for her senior year and a gap year. This program is a two-year intensive study of peace and sustainability in an intercultural setting of 200 students total from around the world. Lexie was one of only two students from the United States who were nominated. Lexie is an enkindled spirit who pursued her goals in order to become her best self and to engage in the process of working for peace and social justice in an international setting.



WILKY JOSEPH

Wilky's AYF journey began at Merrowvista when he was a 9th grader at Codman Academy. In the first days of forming their new school community, Codman students came to Merrowvista as a part of our longtime Community and School program partnership. Wilky returned to Merrowvista each year of high school, gaining a deeper connection to his Codman classmates while developing the shared values of an intentional positive community.

Making the leap into a staff role, Wilky became a specialist at Merrowvista summer camp. He quickly connected with campers and became an inspiring role model and mentor. After two summers at Merrowvista, Wilky answered the call to fill the newly created role of Camper Experience Coordinator at Miniwanca Boys Camp, applying his exceptional knowledge and insight to the role of helping campers achieve their best.

Wilky has also embraced great adventures in his life beyond AYF – excelling as a high school student and gaining acceptance into the highly competitive (MS)2 Program, Mathematics and Science for Minority Students offered through Phillips Academy Andover. Wilky is now in his senior year at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, where he is pursuing double major in American Studies and anthropology. Last spring, one of his professors nominated him for a five week archeological service trip the Alaskan village of Togiak.

At each step in his journey, Wilky has been open to new experiences, always moving with great respect and curiosity. We are grateful that his enkindled spirit has brought light to both of the AYF camps, and we look forward to seeing him continue to soar with great achievements while inspiring and supporting others.



Avengers Assemble!



Excerpts from NLC Opening Assembly Speech by Shayan Raza

Shayan Raza is a youth leader working for peace across the divides of race and religion. He first encountered the AYF at Merrowvista where he was part of the Kids4Peace program which brings Christian, Muslim and Jewish youth together for intercultural understanding and dialogue. Shayan addressed the National Leadership Conference in June. Here are excerpts from his speech:

AVENGERS, ASSEMBLE! Seems like many of you have seen the new Avengers movie? The Avengers, for those who don't know, are an ensemble of comic book superheroes, from Iron Man, to the Black Panther, to the Hulk... I love superhero movies. I'm marveled by the storylines. I feel a sense of urgency with their conflicts. We cheer for the heroes and boo against the villains.

But In this day and age, it seems like many of us in society have internalized this "us versus them" mindset, in other words, in some of the most extreme ways of thinking, a sociological concept called xenophobia. According to NYU psychologist Jay Van Bavel, xenophobia, the fear or hatred of "the other", was an essential survival instinct in prehistoric times. Those who looked like us were equated with safety and those who didn't were often perceived as a threat to our safety. For example, Mr. Rogers in his warm fuzzy sweater... good! Vladimir Putin... in your living room... shirtless... bad. In modern times, though, it seems there are no opinions or conflicts which are not extreme, and xenophobia is what nudges us toward hostility and, eventually, violence.

According to a 2018 Pew Research Center survey, ideological polarization among Americans has increased almost two-fold in the last decade and, more shockingly, more than half of the general public sees those with opposing views as a fundamental threat to democracy, and it's this subverted view of the "other" that often brings out the worst of humanity. From the Rwandan genocide to the Ku Klux Klan to the Holocaust. This divide, however, manifests in our everyday lives, deteriorating our ability to collaborate and compromise in every aspect of our lives. We have turned our conversations into battlegrounds and our words into bullets, and as a Muslim American, I am now on the front lines of the battle almost every day. It is crucial that we turn the page from a cutthroat culture to a new storyline by which we can all thrive together. Because, while we may not be dealing with supervillains, it's time for us all to stand up and be a hero.

How do we reduce xenophobia if it is an instinct that appears to be an inherent part of our lives? Well, according to psychologist Gordon Allport, reducing prejudice towards others begins simply by exposing yourself to those whom you consider as the "other." After the election of President Obama in 2008, psychologists discovered a profound shift in perceptions of racial minorities in the United States. They attributed this trend solely

to the fact that millions of Americans were now exposed to a black man, who didn't fit racist stereotypes, on their TV screens at home! Instead of the racist depictions of thugs, gangs, or prisons, our association of a black man in America began to align with Harvard graduate, family man, and President of the United States. Reevaluating what we think we know about others can result in a near paradigm shift in our attitudes towards them. Just like being afraid of the dark, sometimes all it takes is for one person to shine a light in order to realize that there is nothing there for us to fear in the first place. It's time to stand up to an "us versus them" construct and this doesn't require superpowers. It takes heroes like the late-Senator John McCain, who, during his own Presidential rally, defended opponent Barack Obama from racist attacks by his own supporters. It's time to redefine a hero not only as someone who is willing to take a bullet but as someone who is willing to take a stand.



During my time at Merrowvista, the one quotation that has always stuck out to me has been, "one enkindled spirit can set hundreds on fire." As you go forward this week, I ask you to remember these words. Because all it takes are a few people to change their actions. Suddenly, a few people become a group and a group becomes a movement, and movements change societies and make history. I dare you all today to be part of this movement. This is a time for heroes, and each and every one of us can easily be a superhero. It does not involve wearing capes, but it does require us to stick to our shared values, stand up to bullies, and treat others with respect. This is a time for heroes and we need to stand up to hatred and allow civility to prevail regardless of the side from which it comes. This is a time for heroes, and for us to be the enkindled spirits in our lives and in our communities. This is our time! So Avengers, assemble!



Join us in May for a Golf Tournament to Support our Youth

We are proud to continue to honor the legacy of one of the great leaders of AYF through the Donald Danforth Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament. This event has been the signature fundraiser for the American Youth Foundation, and has raised over \$1.5 million dollars for youth to experience exceptional programming at Miniwanca and Merrowvista. The funds generated through the tournament are used to provide financial assistance to inspire more than 6,000 youth each year to discover their best selves.

The 19th Annual Donald Danforth Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, May 4, 2020 at Meadowbrook Country Club in St. Louis, MO.

We would love for you to join us for a fun day celebrating the mission of the AYF, so mark your calendars. For more information or questions, please contact Annie Devereux Oliverio at aoliverio@ayf.com or 314-719-4343

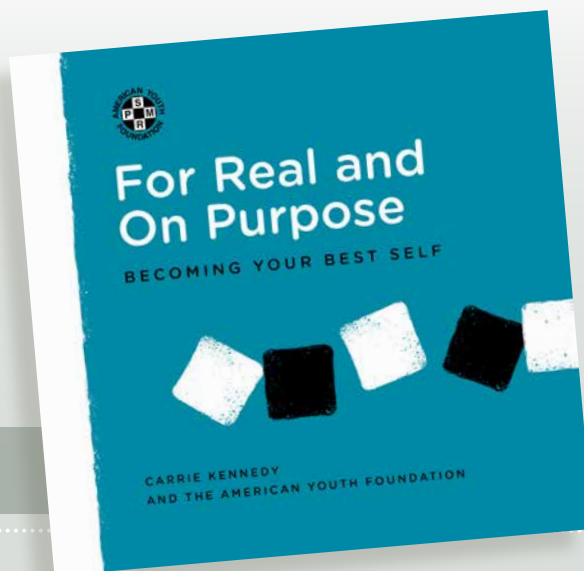
Now Available:

For Real and On Purpose: Becoming Your Best Self

Written by Carrie Kennedy and the American Youth Foundation

Discover the key concepts of AYF programs shared for today's youth audience. Just published in June, 2019, this book makes a perfect gift for the people in your life who want to share in the philosophy of best self and balanced living.

Order your copy today at www.ayf.com.



A Spirited Life in Service to Others

REMEMBERING MARIE PRANGE OETTING

Marie Prange Oetting passed away on Tuesday, October 9, 2018, at the age of 91.

Marie had a life-long involvement with the American Youth Foundation and embraced the timeless mission of balanced living and best self as an integral part of her life. Her first experience was as an Older Girls camper at Miniwanca from 1943 to 1946 and as a leader from 1945-1948. Marie returned to join the Older Girls staff in 1965 and 1969. She remained closely connected to the AYF throughout her life, most recently serving as an advisory member of the Board of Directors.

If you were lucky enough to know Marie, you know she never met a stranger. She had an amazing curiosity and a genuine interest in learning about others. Marie had a wonderful gift of making people feel comfortable, indeed, like they were the only person in the room. She had laser focus and a keen memory. She could recall details about others' lives and families in a phenomenal way.

Marie was also an extraordinary storyteller who could find humor and hope in even the most difficult of her personal experiences. In the last months of her life, Marie felt strongly that she had some important things that she wanted to share about Camp Miniwanca. She was pleased to have us record her stories so that we could capture them in her own words. It was our immense privilege to spend those hours with her as she recounted very special memories, thoughts, ideas, and directions for the future. Here are some of Marie's insightful reflections:

"I was supposed to go away to college. My mother said if I went away to college I couldn't go to camp so I went to Washington University. It all turned out how it should." – Marie reflecting on her life choices.

Marie went on to graduate from Washington University in 1949 with a degree in Economics. Crowned Homecoming Queen her junior year, Marie was President of the Mortarboard Society, President of the Panhellenic Society, Freshman Orientation Co-Chair, President of the Women's Athletic Association and Member of Delta Gamma Sorority. Marie remained an active and passionate member of the Washington University community throughout her lifetime, receiving several Distinguished Alumni Awards and honors.

Marie's life was about giving to others, a value that she developed while at the Older Girls at Miniwanca. Marie reminisced about "Meager Meals," a project at Miniwanca where each Sunday hundreds of campers chose to eat a "sacrificial meal" and donate the 52 cents their regular meal would have cost to feed the hungry through Mary

McCalley's missionary work in India. "I'm here and I'm so lucky. I get to be a part of how you can help starving people and how you can still care."

Marie went on to explain that this experience was the first time in her life that she really understood what it meant to be charitable. She had been involved in many philanthropic activities before with family, church, and community. But as she recalled, "It had always been easy to be charitable when I was giving something "extra" away but this was the first time that I had really been part of something that caused me to sacrifice something for the benefit of someone else. It changed how I viewed charity and generosity for the rest of my life." Marie was a curious and engaged citizen in every community she graced. Her appetite to learn was driven by her desire to improve her condition, but most importantly, the condition of others.

Marie was sustained by her deep faith throughout her life and was an active member of Ladue Chapel. She recalled the lifetime impact that evening "Vespers" at Miniwanca had for her. "I can remember my own Vespers talk like it was yesterday. There was nothing profound about it, but for me to develop that when I was 17 or 18... and all of the other people, it was just an amazing thing I have a memory that I was on top of the world. It was like living on another planet. We all couldn't wait to get up there and get started. It seemed like it never rained. Every night that's all I remember. All of the sunsets, never the rain. Once you hit this place in the dune, everything from there on is silent except hymn singing and prayer... Nothing I ever heard was as quiet as this with only the wind blowing and the sun shining. Now that's a picture you can take with you!"

One of Marie's most evident qualities was her incredible sense of humor. She was able to weave wit and humor into many of her stories. One of the best was when Marie happily reminisced about a conversation with her mother about Wajepi's famous phrase, "It is a mark of leadership to adjust."



"My mother said to me "What is so "mark of leadership" about sleeping for 2 weeks when you get home from camp?" Marie recalled how many moments and decisions in her adult life were shaped by the guidance of that particular phrase, "It is a mark a leadership to adjust."

The common threads weaving her stories together were the importance of gratitude, faith, hard work, leadership, love, charity, humor, friendship, and family.

Marie leaves behind her sons, David Prange Oetting (Mary) and James William Oetting and grandchildren Jonathan Oetting (Katie) and David Oetting Jr. Marie was the daughter of Hilda and Elmer Prange and was married to her loving husband William J. Oetting for 44 years until Bill's death in 1994.

Marie was truly a compass-bearer for the American Youth Foundation. Thanks to her generosity, dozens of youth became campers or attended the National Leadership Conference. Marie left an indelible mark on the AYF community in her lifetime. We will sorely miss her bright light, her zest for life, and the joy and hope she exuded. We are grateful for the many ways she shaped and inspired the work of the American Youth Foundation.



Remembering ou

J. Kenneth Bryant Jr.

Ken Bryant passed away at the age of 81, on January 18, 2017. Ken first became involved with the AYF in 1966, beginning as a Younger Boys Camp Director. He worked at both Miniwanca and Merrowvista until 1976, when he became the Director of Merrowvista. In 1980 he became the Director of AYF and remained in that role until 1985.

Jay W. Buchta

Jay passed away on May 12, 2018. He and his brothers, Mark and Todd spent many happy summers at Miniwanca in the '70s. He is survived by his wife, Laurie and their two children, Emma and Will, who have also been Miniwanca campers for many years. Jay's mother, Lora Lee (Player) Buchta also attended Miniwanca in the '40s and '50s

Helen Crawford

Helen Crawford passed away on January 17, 2017. During her time at Miniwanca from 1956 through 1974, she spent many wonderful years at the aquatic director. She is missed by the many campers and staff that she so positively influenced.

Joan C. Ganley

Joan Campbell Ganley, Miniwanca Girls Camper, and leader from 1945 through 1949 passed away at the age of 89 on May 23, 2017. Joan is predeceased by her sister, Helen Campbell Johnson, also a Miniwanca camper for many years

Lois Good

Lois Good passed away on February 3, 2017, at the age of 98. Lois first came to camp at Miniwanca as an Older Girl's Leader in 1951 and continued spending her summers working as the Camp Dietitian through 1957.

Nancy Eshmeyer Gorbics

Nancy Eshmeyer Gorbics passed away on December 5, 2017. She began attending camp at Miniwanca, along with her sister Donna, in 1946 and continued as a camper and then a leader through 1952. Nancy was the daughter of the Reverend and Mrs. R. E. Eshmeyer, who served as summer faculty at Miniwanca from 1945 through 1975.

Mary Ellen Haan

Mary Ellen Haan passed away on June 19, 2019, and was a camper, staff, and Advisory Council member at Miniwanca for many decades. She first attended Miniwanca Older Girls camp in 1945, graduating in 1948 while also being a part of the work staff during those summers. Throughout her life, she shared her deep love for camp with generations of youth and made a lasting impact on our AYF community.

Kyle Joseph Hegarty

Kyle Joseph Hegarty passed away unexpectedly on July 14, 2018, at the age of 23. Kyle was a camper at Merrowvista from 2008 through 2011, completing Voyageur. Merrowvista was life-changing for him and wonderfully influenced the person he came to be.

Keith V. King

Keith V. King, known as KV, passed away on September 25, 2019, at the age of 92. KV was a larger than life figure who guided AYF's work in experiential education beginning in the 1980s. He led the construction of high challenge courses at both Miniwanca and Merrowvista. He continued to stay connected with AYF, in recent years donating his labor to build boats at Merrowvista

Virginia Wagner Lupfer

Virginia Wagner Lupfer passed away on November 6, 2018, at the age of 83. She is survived by her husband William. Ginny attended Miniwanca as a Younger Girls camper from 1948-52, and a YG Leader and OG camper in 1953. She and her husband Bill had five children; Elizabeth, William Jr, David, Melinda, and Tom who all attended Miniwanca and Merrowvista during the 1970s and '80s.

Barbara McCain Martin

Barbara McCain Martin, died on Oct. 21, 2018, at the age of 94. Barbara attended Camp Miniwanca from 1940 through 1945. She was married to John Martin for 63 years. Both of their sons, Christopher and Meade, as well as two grandchildren, have attended camp.

John Sterling McCarthy

John Sterling McCarthy, passed away on March 26, 2018, at the age of 96. John was a Miniwanca camper and leader, along with his wife Mary Ellen (Schatz) McCarthy, who passed away in 2014, for many years throughout the 1930s and '40s. John was joined at camp by his sister, Mary Ann (McCarthy) McAlister, who also attended

We are seeking to share memorials from our AYF community.
We apologize for any accidental oversight or errors. Please share stories of your loved ones with us for publication in future editions of the Founder Fire.

A background image of yellow lilies with green stems and leaves, slightly out of focus.

r Founder Family

Miniwanca OG Their daughter, Mary Lou, and son, David, as well as their grandchildren, have all attended.

Steven R. Meadows

Steven R. Meadows passed away on January 20, 2017. He first attended NLC at Miniwanca in 1989 and returned as a leader through 1995 along with his future wife, Julie (Palomaki). He is survived by his wife and sons, Owen and Finn who have grown up as AYF campers.

Stephen West Osborn

Stephen West Osborn, age 87, passed away on Sunday, September 3, 2017. Steve first came to Miniwanca in 1949 for Older Boys camp, graduating in 1953. Steve was truly dedicated to serving others and volunteered at Miniwanca throughout his life, sharing his love of nature, art and the outdoors.

Marlene Morgan Pierce

Marlene Morgan Pierce, of Stony Lake, MI and Green Valley, AZ, passed away December 17, 2017. Marlene came to Michigan one summer to work as a nurse at Camp Miniwanca where she met her husband, Don Pierce, who was the Director of Operations, Grounds, and Work staff. Marlene and Don raised three daughters; Vanessa, Nanette, and Pamela. Marlene served as the head of all the nursing and health at Miniwanca for over 20 years.

Allison Bailey Reed

Allison Bailey Reed, of Webster Groves, Missouri, passed away unexpectedly on January 29, 2019, age 26. Allison enjoyed many happy summers on the shores of Lake

Michigan at Camp Miniwanca where she attended from 2005 through 2007. Allison's brother, Charley, also attended Miniwanca Boys Camp from 2004 through 2007.

Elizabeth "Betsy" Drake Roarty

Elizabeth "Betsy" Drake Roarty passed away on November 19, 2017. Betsy was a camper in Girls Camp at Miniwanca beginning in 1974 and she continued at Miniwanca, becoming a leader in 1978. Betsy loved her time at Miniwanca and her daughters attended as well. Betsy will be deeply missed by her husband, Mike and their four children and grandchildren.

Jay W. Sexton II

The Honorable Jay W. Sexton passed away on August 20, 2016, at the age of 74. Jay attended Miniwanca as a camper and then as a leader from 1958 through 1962. Jay later served on the Miniwanca Advisory Council. He is survived by his sisters, Mary Elizabeth and Carolyn Ann, who both attended Miniwanca in the '60s. He is also survived by his daughter, Andrea Sexton Weiss.

Brodus Smith

Brodus Smith passed away, at age 80, on November 29, 2018. He is survived by his wife, Mary (Whitescarver) Smith, who was a Miniwanca Older Girls camper in 1959. Brodus generously donated many of his summer vacations to completing needed plumbing at Miniwanca.

Peggy Ann Studer

Peggy Ann Studer passed away on August 26, 2019. Peggy attended Miniwanca Older Girls camp from 1976 through 1978. Peggy is remembered in love by her sister, Judy, who attended MW Older Girls camp from 1977-1978 and her brothers, Larry and Bruce, who attended MW Older Boys camp in the '70s.

Ryan Thomas

Ryan French Thomas, 22, passed away unexpectedly on April 16, 2018. Ryan began attending Miniwanca in 2006 and completed Odyssey in 2013. He followed in the Miniwanca footsteps of his Great Uncle, Grandmother, Aunt, and Uncle. Ryan's mother, Bets Wissman Thomas, also attended Miniwanca for many years as a camper, summer staff, and volunteer. Ryan will also be deeply missed by his brothers, Adam and Jack, who also grew up spending their summers at Miniwanca.

Marilyn "Lynn" McCuskey Wermuth

Marilyn "Lynn" McCuskey Wermuth, born in 1928, passed away on March 15, 2019, in Milwaukee. She began attending Miniwanca Girls Younger Girls camp from 1943 through 1945, graduating from Older Girls camp in 1950. She also served as a YG leader during several of the years she spent in OG. She and her husband John raised five children; Robert, Bruce, Doug, Andy, and Ann "Marty". Their children spent many summers as campers and leaders from the late '60s through the mid-'80s, with Lynn and John's grandchildren also attending camp.

AYF

BY THE NUMBERS



In 2018, AYF served

6,553

people

from

37

states, Washington D.C.,

and

13

countries

at Miniwanca,
Merrowvista
and St. Louis.

72% of AYF campers and **41%** of National Leadership Conference participants received financial aid assistance and/or discounts through our scholarship funds.

MV

MERROWVISTA

SUMMER:
541 Campers

CSP:
2,269 Participants
in 48 Programs

NLC

**NATIONAL
LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE**

264 Participants

NLA

**NATIONAL
LEADERSHIP
AWARD**

895 Participants

MW

MINIWANCA

SUMMER:
763 Campers

CSP:
1,821 Participants
in 31 Programs

Thank you for continuing to support and share our mission with others.

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As a nonprofit organization, the American Youth Foundation depends on the generosity of our alumni, families and friends. We are so grateful for the support of the many volunteers and donors who give their time and resources to help move our organization forward.

Your commitment allows thousands of young people to experience the core values of four-fold balanced living every year, and it enables the AYF to continue to build toward the future, creating important foundations that ensure the health of our organization for years to come.

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Amy Campbell

Gretchen Clayton

Chandlee Dickey

John Drew

Katie Lemaire

Astrid Wielens

ADVISORY MEMBERS

Kay Bell

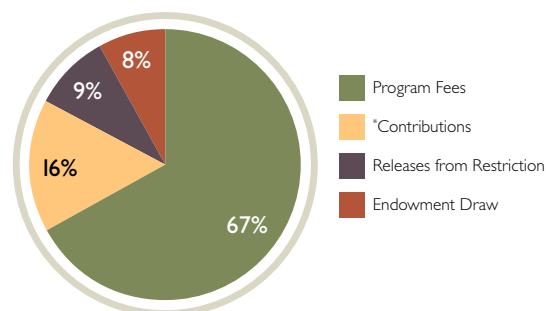
J. Patrick Mulcahy



REVENUE

Program Fees (Camps, Conference, Schools)	\$ 4,846,365
*Contributions (Grants, Donations & Other)	\$ 1,126,435
Releases from Restriction: Construction	\$ 687,514
Endowment Draw	\$ 612,255
TOTAL REVENUE, SUPPORT & DRAW	\$ 7,272,569

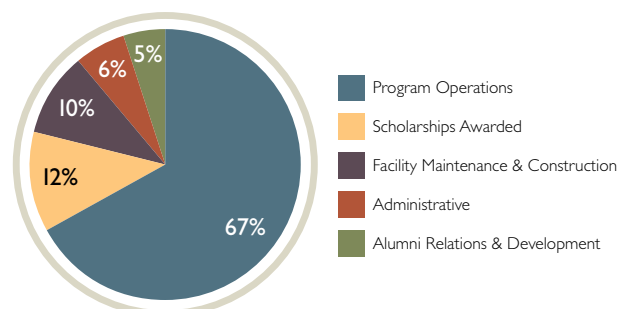
Breakdown of 2018 Revenue



EXPENSES

Program Operations	\$ 4,880,181
Scholarships Awarded	\$ 846,588
Facility Maintenance & Construction	\$ 744,898
Administrative	\$ 435,859
Alumni Relations & Development	\$ 365,043
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ \$7,272,569

Breakdown of 2018 Expenses



*The above numbers do reflect all activities related to the IMOM Campaign.

For more information about our financial statements, including our annual audit, and annual IRS Informational Return Form 990, please visit ayf.com/publications.

The American Youth Foundation extends our deepest gratitude to the following individuals, corporations and foundations for their generous support of our programs and the children we serve.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. Please accept our sincere apologies for any errors or omissions.

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(\$10,000+)

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Gretchen and Jay Clayton

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Ms. Elizabeth G. Danforth

William H. Danforth, MD

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Lois Good

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(\$500+)

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Cherry Point Farm and Market
Chicago Prohibition Tours
Contemporary Art Museum
St. Louis
CSz Theatre Chicago
Cyclebar
David and Christina Danforth
The Daniel & Henry Company
Glenn and Susan Davis
Devin and Beeni DeStefano
Dewey's Pizza

Dragonfly Fitness and Training
Mark and Katie Drew
Drury Inns, Inc.
Embassy Suites
Energizer Holdings, Inc.
Extra Virgin, An Olive Ovation
The Gateway Arch
Go Ape Zip Line and
Treetop Adventure
Mimi S. Holmes
Hycl Retail Group
Kansas City Zoo
Kauffman Center for the
Performing Arts
Kennelwood Village Inc.
Kent Precision Foods Group
Jo Kincaid
Knollwood Lane
The Magic House
Meadowbrook Country Club
The Melting Pot
Michael Genovese,
Diamond & Estate Broker
Larry and Dee Miller
Missouri Botanical Garden

Missouri History Museum
Lynn and Dave Morris
Mr. Guy
The Mulcahy Family
JoAnn P. Mulcahy
The Muny
The National World War I
Museum
Niche Bistro
Edward and Nancy O'Leary
Sarah Forbes Orwig
PepsiAmericas, Inc.
Pi Pizzeria
Pinot's Palette
Sasha's On Shaw
Schlafly
Deborah A. Seidel
Shedd Aquarium
The Sheldon Concert Hall
Silver Maple Pet Center
Christopher and Lisa Spiek
St. Louis Cinemas
St. Louis City Museum
St. Louis Symphony
St. Louis Zoo

Stanley Cigar Company and Lounge
Strauss Peyton Portrait Studio
Summit Distributing
Three Kings Pub
Tilford Restaurant Group
Tower Tee Golf Center
Trailhead Brewing
Treehouse Private Brands
Uptown Underground
Urban Chestnut Brewery
Diane and John Verhoff
Vie
Steve Walden
Gail and Randy Weller
Westrich Photography
Westwood Grocery Store and
Catering
Winslow's Home
Woodard Cleaning &
Restoration Services



2020

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH

27-29

Merrowvista
Living the Mission
Retreat



APRIL

24-26

Miniwanca
Volunteer Weekend

MAY

4

St. Louis
Donald Danforth Jr.
Memorial Golf Tournament

15-17

Merrowvista
Volunteer Weekend

JUNE

12-20

National Leadership
Conference

28

Miniwanca
Summer Camp begins

28

Merrowvista
Summer Camp begins

JULY

29

Summer Seminars
for Women begins

Summer Camps
Continue



AUGUST

2

Summer Seminars
for Women ends

7

Miniwanca
Summer Camp Ends

12-15

Miniwanca
Alumni and Family
Camp

13

Merrowvista
Summer Camp Ends

SEPTEMBER

4-7

Miniwanca
Girls Camp
Labor Day Reunion

OCTOBER

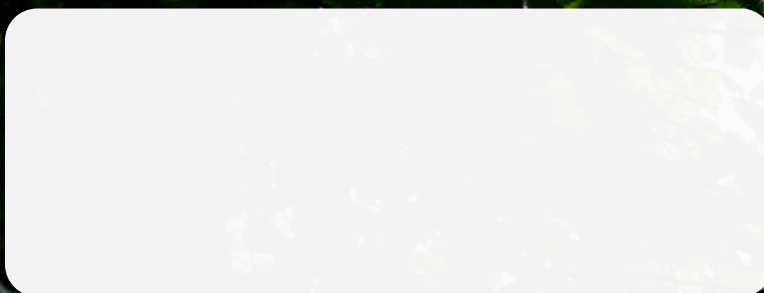
9-11

Miniwanca
Living the Mission
Columbus Day
Weekend

These dates are for Open Enrollment
Camp, Conference and Alumni programs.

AYF programs run year-round on our
campuses and in your communities. If you
would like to discuss booking a program
for a school or community group in your
area please contact us at www.ayf.com.

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