

Youth As Resources (YAR)

A community that invests in its youth solidifies its future vitality. Positive and caring relationships with adults are critical to engaging young people in their communities and helping them become engaged, civic-minded citizens. Through the guidance, coaching and support of adults, youth can develop into strong leaders who will take their communities to even greater heights.

The foundation gives youth a platform to share their voice and begin to make a difference in their community today. Our Youth as Resources (YAR) program sees youth as invaluable community resources and engages them as partners alongside adults to coordinate service projects and solve emerging issues.

PROGRAM >

Local YAR programs, led by a team of youth and adults, provide financial support to allow local youth to design and deliver service projects in their communities. Youth have proposed and carried out a variety of projects, ranging from caring for seniors and promoting literacy and education to crime prevention and raising awareness about environmental issues.

Youth develop leadership skills and a sense of civic responsibility while communities gain:

- Resources to solve critical issues.
- Increased trust between youth and adults.
- Fresh perspectives on local policy making.
- Knowledgeable, civic-minded citizens.
- Training for a new generation of leaders.

PROCESS >

The Initiative Foundation helps communities start their own YAR programs by providing technical support, training and funding to assist with board recruitment, board development and project funding. Participating YAR teams receive start-up grants to coordinate the program and establish a pool of “re-granting” funds. Here’s a look at the steps communities take to implement a YAR program:

- *Recruit a diverse group of youth and adults to serve on the board.*
- *Name a coordinator who assists with day-to-day operations.*
- *Award grants to projects run by youth, ages 5-21 years old.*
- *Identify ways the community can help sustain the program through donations or fundraising activities*

PARTICIPATE >

The foundation is not actively recruiting new YAR teams at this time, but can provide communities interested in learning more about YAR, with information about orientation, training and start-up ideas.

