



The YLI Leader

October 2009

Learning About Community

On September 18th, YLI students gathered for the Community Engagement class. First on the agenda for the day was an introduction to the United Way and its role in the community. The class then departed for Bidwell Riverside, which provides assistance for homeless women and children and operates a clothing distribution center and food bank. The YLI class toured the facilities and heard from the Executive Director Robert Crandall. Students then visited Hispanic Educational Resources where they



Touring the clothing distribution center and food bank at Bidwell Riverside

learned about how the center focuses on maintaining and valuing both the English and Spanish languages. Students had the opportunity to interact one-on-one with the preschoolers. Next, students travelled to the Salvation Army and met Director of Development Arvid Huisman. Huisman explained the mission of the Salvation Army and explained how thousands of homeless and near-homeless are served breakfast each week by one of the organizations programs. Students then participated in making about 50 casseroles. After lunch, students learned about homelessness in Des Moines from Jim McWeeny of Iowa Homeless Youth Center, and Andrew Allen, who shared his



Lauren reads with a student from Hispanic Educational Resources

personal story of turning his life around to become a highly successful business person working for Principal Financial. Allen invited the students to participate in Reggie's Sleepout, an event that he is heavily involved in that raises awareness and money to address the critical problem of youth homelessness in Central Iowa. To finish the day, students visited Freedom for Youth Ministries where they toured the vocational training facilities and joined youth served by the organization for an ice cream social. One student commented about the day, "It was very positive in teaching about our community. I learned about a lot that I never even thought about before."



Julie and Alex work at making casseroles at the Salvation Army

Stay Connected to YLI Through Facebook

Stay on top of what's new with the Youth Leadership Initiative through our Facebook pages. YLI has a secure group designed for our students and alumni to interact with each other and see upcoming events. The group is only accessible to YLI students, mentors, and alumni. For those interested in the program but not eligible to be in this group, please become a fan of YLI using the instructions on our website to keep up to date with what's new around YLI. You can find out more information and link to YLI on Facebook from the YLI web page (youthleadershipdm.org) under the "This Year's Class" tab. If you are having trouble logging in or using the group, please contact Program Director Tim Rittgers and he will be glad to help you out. Questions? Need help? Scared of the Internet? Get all of the free technical help you can shake a stick at by contacting us by phone or email!



YLI Facebook Group

Upcoming YLI Events

Mark these dates on your calendar now!

October 16, 2009	Leadership Style & Vision	7:30 am
October 19, 2009	Business Etiquette Dinner	5:30 pm
November 13, 2009	The Arts	7:30 am
November 16, 2009	Processing Session	5:30 pm
December 11, 2009	Law & Order	7:30 am
	No Processing Session	
January 18, 2009	Diversity	7:30 am
January 25, 2009	Processing Session	5:30 pm

All classes begin and end at the United Way Building at 1111 9th St in Des Moines. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Program Director Tim Rittgers at director@youthleadershipdm.org or by phone at 515-779-0362. All classes and processing sessions are required; please have a parent or guardian notify the Program Director ASAP if you cannot attend a class.

Students must RSVP for the YLI Business Etiquette Dinner by Wednesday, October 14 to 515-779-0362. Please RSVP whether or not you plan on attending.



YLI is sponsored by the United Way of Central Iowa with support from private donations and the Boys & Girls Club of Central Iowa.

The next class is Friday, October 16: Leadership Style & Vision

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