



The YLI Leader

February 2010

YLI Studies Age Diversity at Wesley Acres



Sharing laughter at Wesley Acres

In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, YLI students came together for the Diversity class. The day began exploring what the topic of diversity encompasses, and students were challenged to think about the issue as a larger subject than race or ethnicity. First stop on the

agenda was Wesley Acres, a retirement community in Des Moines. Students were placed in small groups and had the opportunity to dialogue with a pair of senior citizens about their lives, how aging affects them, and what life is like in a retirement community.

YLI Students Experience Culture

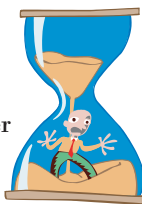
Next, students traveled to First Christian Church of Des Moines, host for the next activity for the day. Students participated in workshops highlighting Asian Indian cooking with Saima Siddiqua (where students prepared their own lunch), Mexican Mariachi music with RJ Hernandez, and Animal Therapy with Rhonda Crane and Faith Jones (plus Cooper, Jeep, and Hemi, the Golden Retriever stars of the show). For the final portion of the day, students returned to the United Way and participated in activities with the "Welcome to My World" program presented by Central Iowa Center for Independent Living, using wheelchairs and completing various simulations to experience the challenges of living daily life with a disability. One student commented that because of the class they planned to "try and understand others more before I pass judgment."



Simulating blindness with CICIL

Individual Service Projects Due in February

YLI students are required to complete an individual service project before the Processing Session on February 22nd. You can find out more information about the Individual Service Project component and download a form suitable for printing from the Youth Leadership website under "This Year's Class." For more information about individual service projects or project ideas, contact Program Director Tim Rittgers at 779-0362 or by email at director@youthleadershipdm.org.



Deadline for Applications March 5

Do you know a freshman or sophomore in the Des Moines metro area who has not had the opportunity to reach their full leadership potential? Encourage them to apply today! Students may submit their applications online, download the PDF version from the website and submit by fax or mail, or request an application from Program Director Tim Rittgers at: 1350 E Washington Ave, Des Moines, IA 50316. Visit www.youthleadershipdm.org for more information. Applications and references must be submitted by midnight on March 5, 2010.



Upcoming YLI Events

Mark these dates on your calendar now!

February 19, 2010	Greater DM Leadership	7:30 am
February 22, 2010	Processing Session	5:30 pm
March 5, 2010	Entrepreneurship	7:30 am
March 8, 2010	Processing Session	5:30 pm
April 23, 2010	Service Project Day	7:30 am
April 26, 2010	Processing Session	5:30 pm
May 14, 2010	Creative Problem Solving	7:30 am
May 17, 2010	Processing Session	5:30 pm

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

In February we will be interacting with the adult class from the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute, so please wear clothing that you would want a future employer to see!



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, February 19: Greater Des Moines Leadership

1350 E Washington Ave • Des Moines, IA 50316-2449 • 515-262-5695 • www.youthleadershipdm.org