



# The YLI Leader

April 2010

## YLI Studies Entrepreneurship in March



YLI visits Sticks in the East Village

YLI students climbed aboard the bus and traveled to several locally-owned small businesses in the East Village district of downtown Des Moines to study Entrepreneurship. Students visited four East Village Businesses: Sticks, a local furniture manufacturer;

Raygun (formerly SMASH), a

local clothing retail store; Village Bean, a local coffee shop; and the Grand Piano Bistro, a music and dining venue where the students had lunch and learned about operating a music club. Students also visited Foundry Coworking, an innovative new business on in the Western Gateway devoted to supporting local entrepreneurs. One student later commented that they “have a greater amount of respect for small business owners and maybe someday open my own business.”

## Learning Self-Discipline at Roundkick Gym

The final session of the Entrepreneurship day involved the Roundkick Gym in Urbandale. Students arrived and, after removing their shoes and taking a seat on the padded floor mats, learning about owning and operating a gym from Roundkick’s owners. Students then were treated to a free self-defense workshop designed to highlight the importance of the leadership concepts of Self-Discipline and Commitment. One student assessed the workshop: “I liked the self-defense because its important to know and I otherwise wouldn’t learn.”



Kelsey learns how to subdue an attacker

## YLI Selection Process Complete

The applications have come in and the selections have been made - the YLI Class of 2010-2011 will be announced on our website on Friday, April 16! We have invited students from eleven different schools to participate in our program next year. Students have already received their selection letters and will be attending a Parent/Student Orientation on Thursday, May 27.

We will be recruiting YLI Alumni to come and assist with the orientation, so stay tuned. We hope you can come and help us welcome our newest students to the YLI family!



## YLI Students Deliver Projects in April

In February, the class was split into five groups to complete small group service projects which will be completed in April. These projects will be delivered at our next class on Friday, April 23. All students should be in contact with their group members and group mentor to make sure all components are in place for the class day. Each group will also begin creating a presentation explaining their project at the April Processing Session, which will be showcased during the YLI Graduation.

Also in April, we will be visiting the Federal Courthouse to make up some Law & Order content that was cancelled in December. Students will need to dress appropriately for that portion of the day, so if your project requires you to get a little messy, please come with more professional clothing to change into before we leave for the Courthouse.



## Upcoming YLI Events

Mark these dates on your calendar now!

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
May 24, 2010	YLI Graduation	TBD
May 27, 2010	Orientation for 2010-2011	7:00 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](mailto: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 April you will be completing your service projects, so please dress appropriately for the work you have to do. If you will be wearing work clothes for your project, you will need to bring a change of clothes to change in to before we go over to the Federal Courthouse for the second part of the class day.



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, April 23: Service Project Day / Law & Order