

Students from District 742 were recognized as *Stars of the Community* on Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at United Way of Central Minnesota's YOUTH AS RESOURCES celebration held at Riverside Park.

Youth as Resources is a service of United Way of Central Minnesota that encourages youth leadership and involvement by providing funding for youth-initiated, youth-led service projects that creatively address community needs through volunteer projects.

Youth as Resources offers grants up to \$1,000 for youth ages 5-21 who want to make a difference in their community. In order to receive funding, the students are responsible for writing and submitting their grant request.

District 742 was well-represented at this year's celebration where the students were honored for their service projects. Please see the attached list of projects which highlights the service completed by our elementary through high school students. Photos of the celebration are also attached for your viewing.



**Youth as Resources Allocations**  
**United Way of Central Minnesota**  
Year 7 (July 1, 2006- June 30, 2007)

**(\$300) Newcomer Appreciation Day**

The Center for Service Learning & Social Change was the host agency in a project led by current YAR member Reiko Koyama, which educated students on immigrant and refugee issues in a hope to bring understanding to an issue that is often misunderstood. They showed a documentary on Farmingville, NY dealing with tensions between local citizens and incoming immigrants and refugees, followed with an interactive discussion on issues facing immigrant and refugee students and their families here in St. Cloud.

**(\$1,000) Area Learning Center Youth Service Project**

In its 13<sup>th</sup> year, this program connects at-risk youth with St. Cloud veterans in an effort to encourage successful youth. The youth decorate areas of the hospital for various holidays and play bingo and visit with the veterans.

**(\$250.50) Gifts for Children at Gillette Children's Hospital**

A 5<sup>th</sup> grade class at Foley Middle School assembled and distributed gift boxes for children suffering with serious illnesses at Gillette Children's Hospital. The project was initiated by a fifth grade student that put together the proposal in memory of his friend who lost his long battle with cancer. His hope was to bring comfort and smiles to children at Gillette's.

**(\$350) Alternative High School Students reading to Elementary Students**

This program runs throughout the school year and encourages mentoring connections between high school and younger students, while fostering a fun learning environment to improve reading skills.

**(\$500) Discovery Elementary Operation Clean-Up**

With the help of a new garbage can and an organized clean-up day, students will help keep their playground and school clean and learn the importance of a safe and clean environment.

**(\$345.62) Best Lunchtime in the Nation**

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students at Discovery Elementary offered a solution to a discipline problem at their school by adding programming that includes playing soft music, fun contests, and gifts of appreciation to staff members during their lunchtime. The program encourages good behavior of students and makes lunchtime more fun at their school.



**(\$600) Swing project for children with disabilities**

Students at Sartell Middle School installed a swing for children with disabilities to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to interact with students and enjoy outdoor fun. They hoped that the swing would decrease discrimination towards children with disabilities and encourage fair opportunities for all.

**(\$395) Care Packages for Anna Marie's Alliance**

Care packages were created for 15 children at Anna Marie's Alliance, a battered women's shelter. The packages included a hand-tied fleece blanket, a stuffed animal, and crayons among other items. The care packages provided comfort and warmth in the winter to children at Anna Marie's.

**(\$250) Girl Scouts Girl GROWTH gift baskets for senior citizens**

Approximately 20 baskets which included items such as flowers, playing cards, and hand-made cards were made by Girl Scouts Girl GROWTH, a program that breaks down barriers that might otherwise keep girls from participating in Girls Scouts. The girls delivered the baskets to local nursing home residents to bring a bit of happiness and fun to the residents.

**(\$200) Holiday Crafts and Activities for Youth at Anna Marie's Alliance**

Students from the Tech High School Youth Service Club made crafts and did activities with children at Anna Marie's Alliance before Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter. The students that planned this project hoped that this activity would not only benefit the children but their parents as well.

**(\$500) New Beginnings Welcome Baskets**

Pregnant women arriving at New Beginnings, a home for pregnant women and their babies, each receive a basket from other residents filled with basic necessities that will help them feel welcomed into their new environment. They hope that the baskets will improve the self-esteem of the women and encourage more healthy life styles, as they prepare for the birth of their child.

**(\$250) Project Linus**



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Girl Scout Troop 368 made fleece, tie blankets for children whom are seriously ill, traumatized or are just otherwise in need of a warm, cozy blanket. The girls wanted the blankets to provide the children with a sense of security, love and comfort, and help them through difficult times.

**(\$750) Social Justice Conference for Youth**

Offered youth opportunities for youth to learn more about a variety of social justice issues including discrimination, environmental concerns, violence, and many others. 350+ area students were able to attend 3 workshops of their choice and hear Jessica Lax of The Otesha Project speak as the keynote address. The Conference taught youth practical ways they can be involved to make a positive impact in their community.

**(\$300) Yes I Can!**

The program encourages relationships between Tech High School students both with and without disabilities. Students meet bi-weekly for about an hour and engage in a variety of activities including decorating shirts, frosting cookies, watching movies, and doing crafts. Yes I Can! is sponsored by the St. Cloud State Student Council for Exceptional Children, which develops friends and increases self-esteem of local students.

**(\$330) Elementary Family Night**

The annual Annandale Bendix Elementary Family Night, hosted by Annandale NHS and Youth First, brought families together and gave a chance for children and parents to interact and have fun together. The evening provided an environment for older and younger students to interact, and helped build stronger familial relationships within the Annandale Community.

**(\$260) Distraction Bags**

The St. Joseph's School Student Action Committee made "distraction bags" for children patients at the Short Stay unit at the CentraCare Health Plaza. The bags included pinwheels, crayons, paper, activity pads, and a stuffed animal. The bags will help entertain the children during the visit while allowing their parent to focus on their child's medical treatment.

**(\$1000) Refurbishing Bathrooms**

The Youth Service Club at Technical High School helped to refurbish bathrooms in the Housing Coalition's Casa Mia- a transitional housing



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shelter. The bathrooms were very old, with repair needing to be done, and new appliances needing to be installed. The youth researched the items that would be needed and were connected with students at St. Cloud Technical College to help with repairs. The students were able to make a difference in the lives of the individuals living in transitional housing by making their environment more comfortable

**(\$470) Our Voice and Power to Strive**

The National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) held a teen panel addressing the stereotypes impacting Asian American and Hapa teenagers. It was part of a larger conference put on by NAPAWF that focused on human trafficking and other social issues. St. Cloud area high school students were able to attend the conference and learn about issues on discrimination and racism.

**(\$375) May Day Sharing Baskets**

2<sup>nd</sup> graders at Westwood Elementary School made and delivered May Day baskets for residents of Sterling Park Nursing Home. The children spent time playing games and singing songs with the residents and brought smiles and laughter to each of them. The baskets included: stress balls, fluffy chickens, folding fans, combs and fruit snacks.

**(\$260) Care Packages for Anna Marie's Alliance**

Studio 2B made care packages that provided toiletries and other necessities for the women staying at Anna Marie's battered women's shelter. They also made care packages for the children staying at Anna Marie's that included games, activity books, cards, towels and other things depending on the age of the child.

**(\$800) Volunteer Field Trip to Kids against Hunger**

The North Junior High Social Justice Group packaged 1000 meals at Kids against Hunger. They presented their project to other 8<sup>th</sup> graders at North to show the importance of fighting world hunger.

**(\$490.17) Book Buddy Self Esteem Skit**

5th graders at Sartell Middle School performed a skit encouraging good self-esteem, and being a positive role model for 3 & 4 year olds. They also included an activity book, a bouncy ball, magnet craft and bubbles for the kids, and provided healthy snacks like apples, bananas, apple juice and fruit snacks to encourage healthy eating habits.

**(\$500) Care Kits for children at the Children's Hospital**



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The girls of Junior Girls Scout Troop 720 made 120 age appropriate care kits for children at the Children's Hospital. They made the bags to help keep children's minds occupied while they are at the hospital and help them feel better faster. The care kits included: games, books, activity books, notebook, and pen, among other items.

**(\$1000) Playground for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Primary School**

Boy Scout Andy Reisdorf installed new playground equipment at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Primary School for his Eagle Scout project. The old equipment was 15 years old and needed updating. This new playground will help students build upper body strength.

**(\$375) Spring Carnival**

An advisory team at Rocori Middle School raised money for the American Cancer Society by holding a carnival for the students of St. Boniface. Students run a carnival game, design posters to advertise the game and explain the directions for the St. Boniface students.

**(\$300) St. Cloud Apollo SADD Mock Car Crash**

Members of Apollo's Students against Drunk Driving facilitated a mock car crash at Apollo High School to demonstrate the dangers of drinking and driving to fellow students. The demonstration included a real car, police, a helicopter and the fire department.

**(\$96) Heifer Carnival**

Youth from Holy Myrrrhbearers Orthodox Church hosted a children's carnival to benefit Heifer International, a non-profit organization that provides needy families with a source of income and food through the gift of a domestic animal. The carnival promoted the acceptance and interaction between people of different ethnic backgrounds and to help families around the world become self-sufficient.

**(\$1000) Baby Starter Packages**

Girl Scouts provided 10 pregnant teenagers with necessary items to help them care for their newborn babies. The packages included items such as: diapers, wet wipes, bottles, a thermometer, parenting information, etc.

**(\$980) Support Our Troops & Military Families**



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Girl Scout troop 896 hosted an event in honor of the military and their families. During the event members of the community assisted the Girl Scout in assembling gift packages for both soldiers abroad and their families here at home. The packages for the soldiers included: a pillowcase, personal & food items, and handwritten letters.

(\$720) **Stability Ball Project**

The Target Group at Lincoln Elementary School purchased Stability Balls to help students with ADHD/ADD concentrate better in school. The balls not only help with concentration but also help build stronger back and stomach muscles, relax muscles, expend excess energy and also store easily. The students' goal is to purchase enough balls for every student grade 3-6 that need extra help.

(\$300) **Peace Week**

The Youth Progressive Partnership at Tech High School organized a Peace Week to offer new perspective on the issue of peace and how it affects everyone. Each day of the week focused on a different aspect of peace: peace within yourselves, peace within our schools and community, peace with the environment, and peace within the world.