

YLNi

20
18

ANNUAL
REPORT

WHOWEARE

Big things are happening in Northeast Indiana. The Young Leaders of Northeast Indiana serve the emerging leaders of our region because we're investing in the future of our community. Using our resources to help young people personally and professionally, our work reinforces connections between the people and communities we support. When people are connected to their communities, they stay and invest their time and talent. YLNI is building a foundation of young leaders who will continue to work for the success of Northeast Indiana.

Led entirely by a team of committed volunteers, YLNI works to build a community where people want to live, work, and play. Our members are entrepreneurs, artists, business people, musicians, accountants, doctors, lawyers, teachers, students, and so much more. Our dedicated volunteers love Northeast Indiana, and their eagerness to share that passion makes our organization successful.



“ Getting involved with YLNI was one of the best personal and professional decisions I ever made. It allowed me to meet new people, continue to grow as a person, and help make a positive difference in Fort Wayne. I can't thank YLNI enough for the opportunities it provided me.

- JOHN FELTS ”

OUR MISSION

To attract, develop and retain emerging leaders through community, professional and social engagement.

OUR VISION

Northeast Indiana is an attractive region influenced by diverse, emerging leaders who are engaged, inclusive and attached to their community.

Board of Directors	PAGE 3	Community Partner Discussions	PAGE 12
YLNI Committee Chairs	PAGE 4	YLNI the VOTE	PAGE 12
Membership	PAGE 5	Power Lunch Series	PAGE 13
General Membership Event	PAGE 5	View From The Top	PAGE 13
Leaders Roundtable	PAGE 6	Leadership Institute	PAGE 14
Living Fort Wayne	PAGE 7	High School Leadership Institute	PAGE 15
Communications	PAGE 8	YLNI Hot Spots	PAGE 16
Fund Development	PAGE 9	LFW Concert Series	PAGE 17
YLNI Farmers Market	PAGE 10	A Note From Our President	PAGE 18
Community Engagement & Advocacy	PAGE 11		

OUR BOARD

YLNI relies on generosity, passion, and commitment. Our Board of Directors consists of people passionate about their community, while volunteering their time in an organization with a mission and vision that they all believe in. These volunteers live and work in Northeast Indiana, and believe in the power of investing in the community. The Board of Directors is the governing body of YLNI. Their big-picture approach is to guide the organization to fulfill our mission. The day-to-day happenings include approving activities, securing funding, and being strong advocates for our demographic. The Board meets formally once a month, and welcomes your input.



Savannah Robinson
PRESIDENT



Sarah Verpooten
VICE PRESIDENT



A.J. Stites
SECRETARY



David Curry
TREASURER



Patrick Florea
DIRECTOR AT LARGE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



John Hudson
VP COMMUNITY IMPACT



Brandon Noll
DIRECTOR AT LARGE
COMMUNITY IMPACT



Kourtney Teegardin
VP MEMBERSHIP



Katie Robinson
VP COMMUNICATIONS



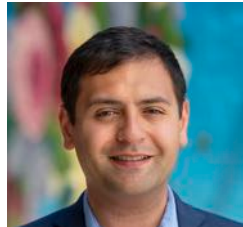
Britny Berndt
VP SOCIAL



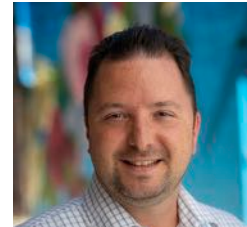
Justin Hayes
VP LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



Rena Burden
DIRECTOR AT LARGE
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



Tim Zink
DIRECTOR AT LARGE
LIVING FORT WAYNE



Chris Reeve
VP FUND DEVELOPMENT



Chris Polhamus
VP TECHNOLOGY

Community Engagement and Advocacy (CEA)

NICK DARRAH & JOE KIEL

Fund Development

CLARISSA REIS

High School Leadership Institute

STEPHANIE TAYLOR

Hot Spots

DIEDRE MATHENY & JOSEY SEABOLT

Leadership Institute

NICOLE SATALINO & JUSTIN HAYES

Living Fort Wayne

ALEX MODARRESSI

Living Fort Wayne Concert Series

MEGAN GRIMES

Membership

HANNAH HEWES

Power Lunch Series

KEVIN CAHILL

Social

LEAH DENNISON & PAIGE DOELLMAN

Technology

MARLIES ZWEPINK

View From The Top

JASON VILLARREAL

YLNI Farmers Market

ASHLEY WAGNER

YLNI the VOTE

MONICA CASANOVA

YLNI's 18 Committee Chairs volunteer their time to help execute programming under our Board of Directors. Each of them represents what it means to be an emerging young leader and are making a difference in Northeast Indiana.



Left to Right - (Front Row) Stephanie Taylor, Diedre Matheny, Josey Seabolt, Kara Hawley (2019 LFW Concert Series Chair) and Monica Casanova. (Back Row) Joe Kiel, Kelli Warner (2019 Leadership Institute Co-Chair), Kristin Conley (2019 Leadership Institute Co-Chair) and Jason Villarreal.



Being the Chair of the High School Leadership Institute has been one of the most life changing experiences. I am grateful to have the opportunity to provide the youth in our community the opportunity to learn, explore and network with current leaders.

- STEPHANIE TAYLOR
High School Leadership Institute



MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Committee works to increase member participation and engagement in our organization. From planning the annual General Membership Event, to surveying members on programming decisions, the committee ensures that all members get the most out of their investment in YLNI. We believe an investment in YLNI is an investment in our community and the many programs we coordinate.

Membership Committee: Hannah Hewes (*Chair*), Danielle Falk, Jon Kruse, Jessica Lopez and Kourtney Teegardin.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP EVENT

The General Membership Event is designed to connect current and prospective YLNI members to our Board of Directors and community leaders. The event acts as a celebration of the growth within our community, and the accomplishments of our organization throughout the year. The June 2018 event took place at Three Rivers Distilling Company. With nearly 100 emerging leaders in attendance, the Board of Directors debuted a promotional video, showcasing the reasons YLNI members stay engaged with the organization.



Three YLNI members were recognized for their efforts: Stephanie Veit was given the Dedicated Service Award for her past board service and continued dedication to the organization; Pone Vongphachanh was given the Exemplary Service Award for her outstanding service and performance through her six years as a board member; and Tim Zink was given the Most Volunteer Time Award for giving the most time to the organization.

LEADERSROUNDTABLE

In October, we held our inaugural Leaders Roundtable where we hosted thirteen community leaders for an intimate and open discussion. They provided feedback on what being a leader truly means, and gave their thoughts on how YLNI can best serve the organizations in our region with their talent attraction, development and retention. This was the first time we've held this type of event, and we weren't sure how it would go. That being said, to say our expectations were exceeded would be an understatement. President Savannah Robinson wrote a blog after the event that perfectly summed it up. Here are a few quotes from her blog that summarize the event.

13

Community
Leaders

8

YLNI Board
Members

“

Our conversation was dynamic, engaging, connective and exciting! During our roundtable discussion we defined, as a group, what true leadership means. This is not the “climb over other people just to get to the top” idea of leadership. No, that's not how any of us in that room define it. Leadership is not being the loudest person in the room; it isn't being the biggest extrovert on the team; and it certainly is not being a person who exerts influence solely based on a position of power.

”

Community Leaders

Marshall White UNITY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Aaryn Eady UNITY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Nelson Peters ALLEN COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Ron Dick DESIGN COLLABORATIVE

Ronald Elsenbaumer PURDUE FORT WAYNE

Ryan Fox ASH BROKERAGE

Jeanné Wickens PARKVIEW

Mark Robison BROTHERHOOD MUTUAL

Mike Galbraith NORTHEAST INDIANA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

Mike Cahill RUOFF MORTGAGE

Bob Vitoux AMBASSADOR ENTERPRISES

Julie Inskeep JOURNAL GAZETTE

John Hopkins SWEETWATER SOUND

“

Going into last night, I knew that the twenty-one of us there had a common interest, but I did not know that all of us would become a team. The passion for this region, our talent, developing leaders, and making Northeast Indiana a place where people want to be bonds us. We still don't have all the answers, but what we do have is a team of leaders who exhibit humility, vulnerability, courage, and accountability. My expectations run high - stay tuned for what's next!

”

LIVINGFORTWAYNE

LivingFortWayne.com is your go-to for information on all things that keep our vibrant city buzzing. We strive to offer so much more than just what a place is called and where it's located – we want you to know about the atmosphere, the history, and the people that run our local businesses and events.

Whether you already live in the city, are planning to make the move soon, or just love to visit, bring LivingFortWayne.com along for the ride! Our writers share the experiences they've had around town and keep you posted on the latest people, places, and happenings in Fort Wayne!



Social
Media
Followers



7,137 Followers



9,777 Followers



5,588 Followers

3 MOST POPULAR **20**
BLOG POSTS IN **18**

“Próximo - the Future of Downtown Dining is ‘Next,’”

BY RENETA THURAIRATNAM

“Nawa - A New Beginning on the Landing,”

BY RENETA THURAIRATNAM

“2 Toms Brewing Company,”

BY KAT ERICKSON

102
Blog Posts
in 2018

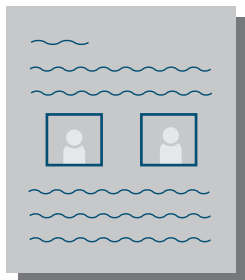
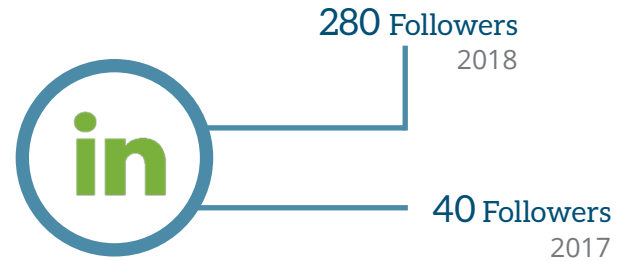
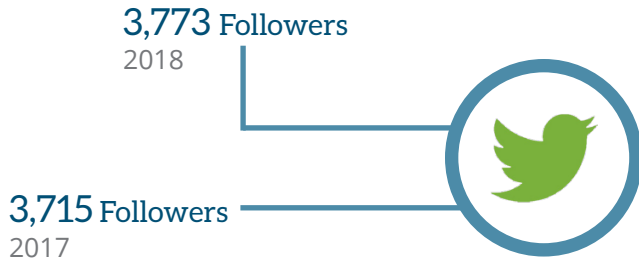
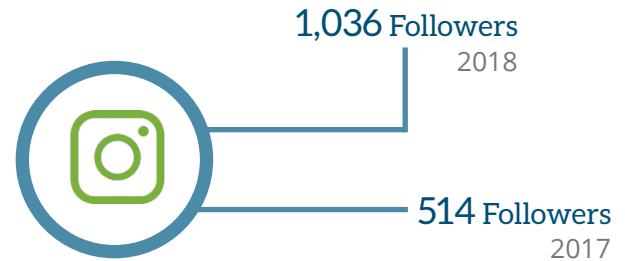
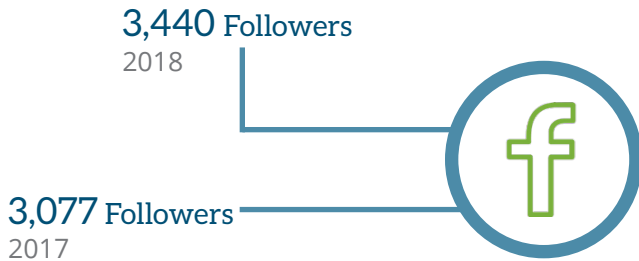
2018
Site Views
61,138

LIVING FORTWAYNE™

Living Fort Wayne Committee:
Alex Modarressi (*Chair*), Tiana Maclin,
Cole Trammell and Tim Zink.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Committee is in charge of keeping our members, area community leaders, and local media informed of all things YLNI. Communications oversees our social media pages, press releases, media relations, and much more – operating as the outward voice of the organization, and internally supporting the programs and committees dedicated to attracting, developing, and retaining emerging leaders.



Newsletter Subscribers
1,617



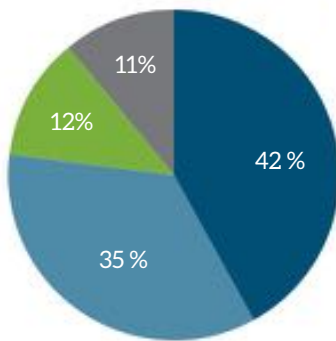
Email Communications Sent
52

FUNDDEVELOPMENT

Each of YLNI's committees are self-sufficient and self-reliant. All funding received directly impacts YLNI's programming and initiatives – not administrative costs. When you support YLNI, your financial contribution supports the community, professional, and social development of Northeast Indiana.

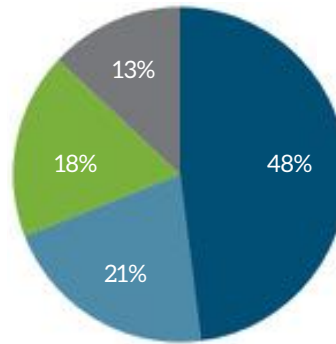
FUNDINGSOURCES

- Private Sponsors 42%
- Foundation Grants 35%
- Event Admissions 12%
- Membership Dues 11%



FUNDINGBYPROGRAMS

- Community Impact 48%
- Leadership Development 21%
- Membership 18%
- Social 13%



Fund Development Committee: Clarissa Reis (*Chair*), David Curry, Chris Reeve and Kelly Rentschler.

Thank you to all of our sponsors for supporting our efforts to attract, retain, and develop talent in our community. Your contributions have provided YLNI with the ability to continue to grow as an organization, and to have a louder voice within our community and region.



English, Bonter, Mitchell Foundation; PNC Charitable Trusts and Foundations; Journal Gazette Foundation; Fort Wayne Metals; Wilson Foundation; AARP; Strahm Building Solutions; Arnold Foundation; Barnes & Thornburg; Northwestern Mutual; JH Specialty; Ash Brokerage; Coldwell Banker Roth Wehrly Graber Realtors; Three Rivers FCU; Downtown Improvement District; Ruoff; Brass Rail; I Do Crew DJs; Image Real Estate; ONE; Greater Fort Wayne; and OmniSource

YLNIFARMERSMARKET

The YLNI Farmers Market is our organization's flagship program. Every Saturday from May through September, the Market features over 100 local vendors who personally make or grow the products they sell. In 2018, more than 65,500 people visited the market to pick up groceries and other artisanal goods. It serves as a special destination where community members and guests can find a new favorite local vendor or shop for a unique item, with live music and children's activities rounding out the experience. The Market is organized and run entirely by our volunteers. In 2018, we were proud to continue that service in partnership with The History Center for the 14th season.



AVERAGE OF **3,250** PATRONS EACH SATURDAY
HIGH OF OVER **5,300**



40 VOLUNTEERS WITH OVER
700 VOLUNTEER HOURS COMBINED



AVERAGE OF **61** LOCAL VENDORS EACH WEEK
HIGH OF **74**



HOSTED **5** FOOD TRUCKS EACH WEEK



SHOWCASED AT LEAST **1** NON-PROFIT EACH WEEK

Market Committee: Ashley Wagner (*Chair*), Hetty Arts, Britny Berndt, Ann Carmen, Jessi Ferry, Greg Herring, Jessica Hockemeyer, John Hudson, Zac Jennings, Ruth Koontz, Pone Vongphachanh and Mike Weber.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & ADVOCACY

Electric Works

The year began with a major community focus on the Electric Works project. YLNI's Community Engagement and Advocacy committee conducted research and a survey into the issue in January and early February. From 194 respondents, 191 (99%) supported the redevelopment of the campus. Of those surveyed, 60% supported the proposed \$65 million in local government investment. Our Board of Directors supported the local funding ask in February with a press release and letters to City Council.

Throughout the year, we monitored the ongoing discussion of community leaders and continued to support and advocate for the project as funding requests made their way to various community entities for approval. In early November, the last piece of the local public funding was put into place to keep the \$248 million project on track.

North River Property

YLNI's Community Engagement and Advocacy committee conducted a survey on the North River Property in January and early February

2018. The survey collected demographic feedback on the desired use of the land purchased by the City of Fort Wayne at the end of 2017. In August 2018, the YLNI Board of Directors sent a letter to the members of Fort Wayne Community Development at the time that developer proposals were due. YLNI continues to monitor the discussions on the property.

Paid Parental Leave Ordinance

In July 2018, the Fort Wayne City Council discussed an ordinance that would have provided Paid Parental Leave to the non-public safety employees of the City of Fort Wayne.

After research and discussion by the Community Engagement and Advocacy committee and the YLNI Board, the Board issued a statement supporting our City leaders in engaging in the discussion on parental leave. While the Fort Wayne ordinance did not pass in July, it was included as part of the 2019 City budget. Additionally, neighboring Columbia City passed an ordinance in October 2018 to provide paid parental leave benefits to its city employees. We applaud our city leaders in taking steps to help attract and retain talent in northeast Indiana.

Community Engagement and Advocacy Committee:
Nick Darrah (*Co-Chair*), Joe Kiel (*Co-Chair*), Melissa Beber,
Stephanie Crandall, John Hudson, Brandon Noll,
Lisa Starks, Nikki Quintana and Pone Vongphachanh.

COMMUNITY PARTNER DISCUSSIONS



YLNI continues to work directly with our community leaders to provide a young leader's perspective, as well as to engage in active discussions on a number of issues. At the final City Council meeting of 2017, members of council passed a resolution of support for YLNI's Inclusivity Pledge. Additionally, YLNI Board Members regularly sit down with Mayor Henry and members of City Council to discuss what is happening within the community and provide demographic feedback.

YLNITHEVOTE

In October, YLNI the Vote co-hosted a Meet the Candidates Night with Greater Fort Wayne Inc., UPSTAR, and HBA. The event brought 13 candidates from Federal, State, and local elections to share their thoughts and meet over 70 members of the partnering organizations. The event was recorded and distributed within partnership with Access Fort Wayne.

Additionally, YLNI the Vote produced a non-partisan election brochure that included candidate responses to survey questions. The brochure was distributed in hard copy by partners at local libraries, higher education institutions, and community organizations. An electronic version was available through the YLNI website.

A coordinated social media push helped promote voter registration, the Meet the Candidates Night event, the candidates' brochure, video of Meet the Candidates Night, and efforts to get voters to the polls. The committee looks forward to incorporating the use of technology to a greater extent as we prepare for the 2019 local elections.



YLNI engaged in discussions with the new administration and departments at Purdue Fort Wayne to work on building stronger connections. A strong and vibrant higher education community is important to the attraction, development, and retention of talent for our region. YLNI looks forward to seeing these relationships strengthen in 2019.



YLNI works diligently to engage with county officials on pertinent issues. We meet with County Commissioner Nelson Peters quarterly. YLNI President, Savannah Robinson, was featured in a video with other valued community leaders on the importance of strategic planning at the county level. We continue to work with the county to further engage young leaders.



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

POWERLUNCHSERIES

The Power Lunch Series aims to put young leaders in the room with influential community leaders for an intimate discussion. During the Power Lunch program, groups of five selected YLNI members had the unique opportunity to meet with a specific community leader for an informative and interactive lunch. This personal interaction provides the leaders with an opportunity to candidly share experiences, while YLNI members are able to ask questions and develop a relationship with a local leader.

2018 Community Leaders

Dan Copeland PUBLISHER, BUSINESS PEOPLE MAGAZINE

Joe Jordan PRESIDENT AND CEO, BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF FORT WAYNE

Jessica Henry EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALLEN COUNTY SPCA

Christina Hootman CPA, MANAGING DIRECTOR, BADEN GAGE AND SCHROEDER LLC

“ There’s no better opportunity to get valuable, real world advice and make personal connections with local leaders who have created their own success. ”

- JASON VILLARREAL
Power Lunch Series

VIEWFROMTHETOP

In 2018, YLNI held four View from the Top events. Each features established community leaders from various professional backgrounds. They share their journey of professional successes and struggles. Attendees learn from the experiences of the leaders, and are given the chance to ask questions and network with YLNI Members. This year, View from the Top focused on entrepreneurial downtown developments.

2018 Speakers & Locations

Brendon Maxwell

UTOPIAN COFFEE

Paris McFarthing, Ben Jackson & Perry Leavell (STAR Bank)

HOP RIVER BREWING COMPANY

Nick & Jenn Ladig

HT2

Brian Hench

Teds Market



LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

YLNI's Leadership Institute uses hands-on instruction, small group activities, and personal reflection to help participants develop the skills needed to advance in their careers and our community. The 13th program of Leadership Institute had 40 participants representing different sectors, including for profit and non-profit organizations. Over six day-long sessions from January to April, participants learned from regional leaders. Topics included team work, behavioral assessments as individuals and as team members, diversity in the workplace, developing a work/life balance, the responsibilities of board service with the option to join a local nonprofit board as an intern, communication, and public speaking. All 40 participants celebrated completing the program with a graduation event at the Parkview Field Suite Level Lounge in April.



2018 Leadership Institute Class

Allison Acosta
Tyler Bearman
Steven Bressler
Joe Burtnette
Monica Casanova
Kristin Conley
Paige Doellman
Nate Edgington
Danielle Falk
Morgan Ferguson
Kristin Giant
Adam Hall
Ashley Harman
Greg Hetrick
Hannah Hewes
Samantha Jacobs
Cory Jenkins
Jon Kruse
Justine Kuzniar
Tyler Lantz

Simone LeClear
Dana Lorber
Jackie Martinez
Luke Mungovan
Erin Okeson
Aaron Prentice
Steven Putt
Carrie Reeb
Sarah Rodriguez
Gabrielle Sherbondy
Haylee Shirkey
Meghan Short
Jennifer Simmons
Thomas Starks Jr.
A.J. Stites
Ryan Tuttle
Jason Villarreal
Kelli Warner
Marshall Weadick
Taylor Yoder

“ The YLNI Leadership Institute was an excellent opportunity for myself and other young professionals to learn about one's strengths and how to leverage them into leadership skills in the workplace. I have a new perspective on effective communication and a better understanding of the many different personalities present at work. I'm proud to have taken part in this program and to be involved in an organization that is empowering professionals of Northeast Indiana. ”

- STEVEN PUTT

Leadership Institute Committee:

Justin Hayes (*Co-Chair*), Nicole Satalino (*Co-Chair*), Rena Burden, Adam James, Heather Krebs, Heather Leas, Chris Reeve, Stephanie Taylor and Kourtney Teegardin.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

HIGHSCHOOL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The YLNI High School Leadership Institute celebrated its inaugural year in 2018, and was created based on the experiences and programming of the established YLNI Leadership Institute. YLNI reached out to local high schools all over Allen County to share information about the inaugural program. Select students who were interested in learning more about personal leadership, expanding their knowledge about behavioral styles, and community involvement and volunteerism were encouraged to apply for the program.

The YLNI High School Leadership Institute provided hands-on instruction, small group activities, and exposure to community assets. Personal reflection and sharing was also encouraged to help participants develop the skills needed to make a positive impact on their community as they consider their next steps after graduation.



Session Sponsors

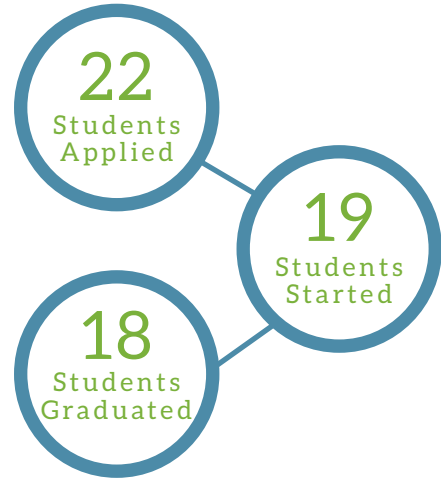
Design Collaborative

Indiana Michigan Power

Arts United

Turnstone

Cinema Center



Local Activities

Met With Mayor Henry

Toured the Allen County Courthouse

Took Part in an Escape Room Challenge

Toured Parkview Field, Home of the Fort Wayne TinCaps

Toured the Historic Embassy Theatre

Toured the Arts United Campus, Including the Fort Wayne Ballet and Civic Theater

Learned About Goal Ball at Turnstone, Where Paralympic Medalists Demonstrated the Sport



This program gave me a much better picture of everything important that happens here in Fort Wayne. It truly surprised me to see everything we have going for us. It made me even prouder to live here.

- RACHEL KITZMILLER



High School Leadership Institute Committee:
Stephanie Taylor (*Chair*), Rena Burden, Ryan Dollens,
Sam Graves, Kourtney Teegardin, Austin Valade and
Stephanie Veit.

YLNIHOTSPOTS

YLNI Hot Spots are a monthly networking event that invites new, current, and interested members to learn about our organization, meet new people, and find ways to get involved in Fort Wayne and Northeast Indiana. These events occur monthly and fall on the third Thursday from 5:30pm-7pm. Each month, nearly 50 emerging leaders attend Hot Spots held at different locations around town, giving YLNI an opportunity to show off all that our diverse community has to offer. In addition to networking, Hot Spots often bring us the ability to partner with local non-profits to present information on their agencies, as well as to assist with some of their specialty needs, such as the children's coat drive YLNI has assisted with over the last couple of winters.

Hot Spot Locations

Columbia Street West

Dash In

JK O'Donnell's

07 Pub

HT2

Three Rivers Distilling Company

Pedal City

Club Soda

Kekionga Cider Company

Trubble Brewing

Sweet Lou's Pizza



Hot Spots are an important part of YLNI because they provide a place to network with other young leaders in a low-key setting on a monthly basis. Hot Spots encourage relationship building among individuals as they maintain a consistent time to network and socialize. Young professionals who may have just heard about YLNI or want to check out our organization can do so in a relaxed atmosphere by chatting with others who have been with YLNI for years, committee members, and board members.

- DIEDRE MATHENY

LFW CONCERT SERIES

The Living Fort Wayne Concert Series rocked Downtown Fort Wayne for the fifth summer, with nearly 1,000 people attending to hear live music and eat local food! We featured two amazing, free concerts at Headwaters Park West in June and August with local musicians, beverages from the Brass Rail, and local food trucks. In June, Hazensol opened for Unlikely Alibi. In August, My Soul's Revolution opened the evening followed by Jen & the Foggy Creek Band. Food trucks participating were Bravas, Whip and Chill and Sol Kitchen.



“ These concerts are a great, family-friendly event in downtown that showcase both the music talent and parks we have here in Fort Wayne. ”
- GRANT DAILY



Living Fort Wayne Concert Series Committee: Megan Grimes (*Chair*), Britny Berndt, Kara Hawley, Kelly Rentschler, Krystal Smith, Patrick Ventura and Sarah Verpooten.

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Wow! That's the first word that comes to mind when I think about my personal YLNI journey, where we were as an organization when I joined in 2013, where we are today, and where we are headed in the next year. Five years ago, YLNI became a part of who I am; I live and breathe all things YLNI. I sing the praises of this organization, the volunteers who run it, and the community leaders who support it. I like to have constant feedback on how things are going, how I can improve, how my personality type interacts with others, how I can be a better person...basically, I'm the opposite of most people who just want to hear that things are going well and status quo is good enough. I think we all have room for growth and can all improve. That's why I joined YLNI. I wanted to challenge myself, expand my knowledge on leadership, and most importantly, impact this community in a meaningful way.



I am a firm believer in thinking deeply enough to have a vision and thinking bigger than your circumstance. I believe happiness is a choice and success is a mindset. In 2013, during a meeting with then VP of Membership, I decided I would be President of YLNI. My vision was strong; my timing was off. After less than a year as Board Vice President, I was quickly shifted to interim President in April 2018 and then to President in July 2018.

Here's the behind the scenes: during the last five years, I've had four job offers in four different states, spent about two years residing in both Fort Wayne and Chicago only to turn down the opportunity to move to Chicago full time at the risk of my career. Fast forward to learning I would be interim President. I was in the busiest season of my career, sitting on four other boards and traveling on a weekly basis with no idea how I would make this work. But, I held onto my vision and maintained an attitude of gratitude. I was determined to not only lead this organization, but to lead it with a female Vice President by my side.

I chose Fort Wayne because of YLNI. It gives young leaders an opportunity to connect with and engage long-standing community leaders, have a voice in community development, and a seat at the proverbial (and quite literal) table. It is also responsible for so many of my closest friendships. YLNI gives young leaders the ability to make an impact in our community, and for that, I will forever be grateful.

I am proud to say during my time as President, YLNI has become more agile and louder in our advocacy efforts, unified our marketing strategies to better tell our story, strengthened and streamlined our internal processes, and continue to evaluate our programming and its impact on our mission. We were able to focus on these initiatives as a result of a grant from the Foellinger Foundation which allowed us to engage in market research on peer organizations and execute a strategic planning process with tangible objectives. We will continue to focus our efforts here while also working on a new partnership with Farnsworth Fund and Start Fort Wayne, thanks again to a grant awarded to us by the Foellinger Foundation to enhance entrepreneurial opportunities in our community, specifically as they relate to our younger talent.

I'd like to thank our sponsors and grantees for supporting us and our mission; the community leaders who believe in our organization through continued support; our Board of Directors, committee chairs, members, and volunteers for making our programming possible.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Savannah Robinson'.

Savannah Robinson
President



@YLNI.org



@youngleadersnei



@YLNI



Young Leaders of
Northeast Indiana

www.ylni.org