



YUNI

2017

annual report

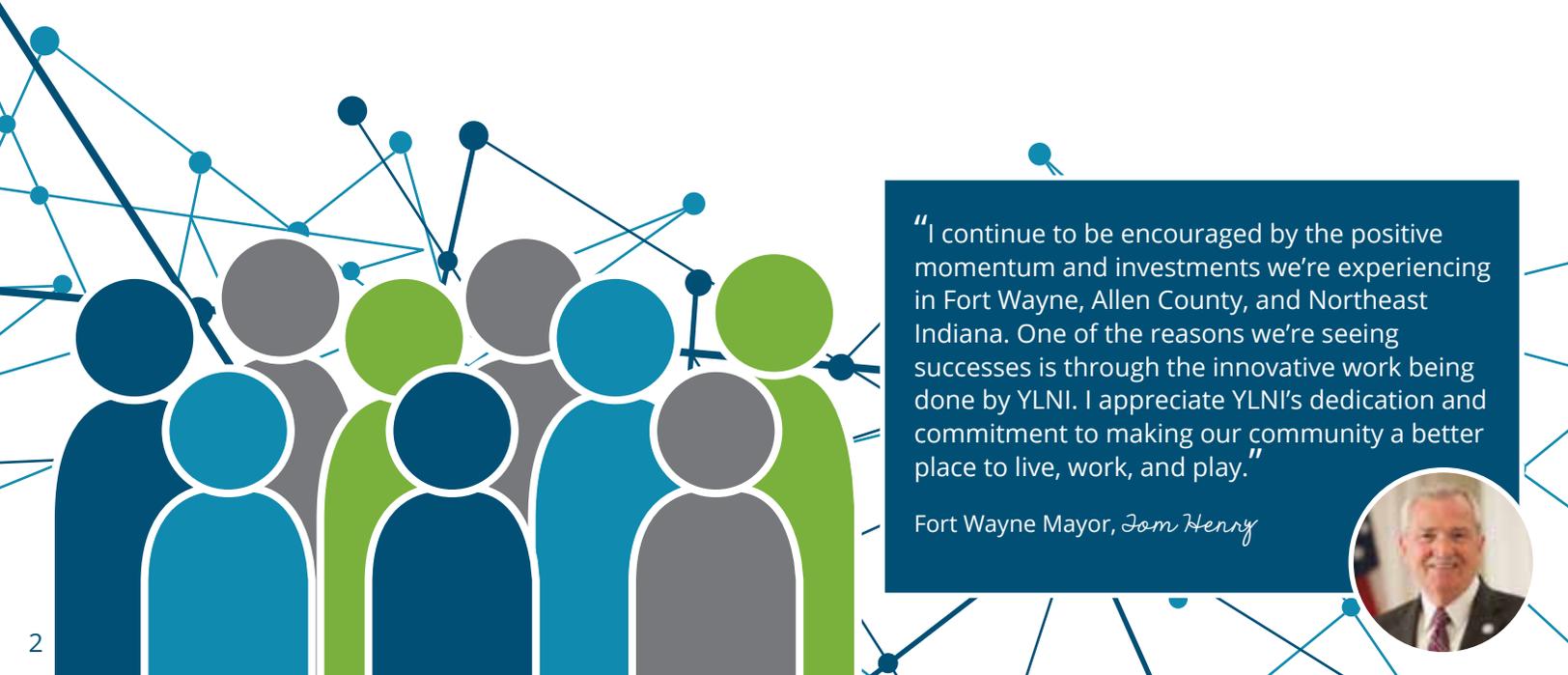
Who we are.

OUR INVESTMENT IS TO ENGAGE AND EMPOWER EMERGING LEADERS

Big things are happening in Northeast Indiana. YLNI serves the emerging leaders of our region because we're investing in the future of our community. By 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 talents. 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, Young Leaders of Northeast Indiana has been building a community where people want to live, work, and play. Our members are entrepreneurs, artists, business people, musicians, accountants, doctors, lawyers, teachers, students, and everyone in between. Our dedicated volunteers love Northeast Indiana, and their eagerness to share that passion makes our organization successful.



"I continue to be encouraged by the positive momentum and investments we're experiencing in Fort Wayne, Allen County, and Northeast Indiana. One of the reasons we're seeing successes is through the innovative work being done by YLNI. I appreciate YLNI's dedication and commitment to making our community a better place to live, work, and play."

Fort Wayne Mayor, *Tom Henry*



Meet the Board.

2017/2018



Ryan Krueckeborg
President



Savannah Robinson
Vice President



Sarah Verpooten
Secretary



David Curry
Treasurer



Patrick Florea
Executive Committee
Director at Large



Pone Vongphachanh
VP of Community Impact



John Hudson
Director at Large
Community Impact



John Felts
VP of Communications



Kourtney Jeegardin
VP of Leadership
Development



Rena Burden
Director at Large
Leadership Development



Chris Reeve
VP of Fund Development



John Foxworthy
Director at Large
Fund Development



Abigail Zimmer
VP of Membership



Kelly Prentschler
VP of Social



Jim Zink
Director at Large
Living Fort Wayne



Chris Polhamus
Director at Large
Technology

Our organization relies on *generosity, passion, and commitment*. YLNI doesn't have a payroll — volunteers manage every single one of our projects and initiatives. Our volunteers live and work here, 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 all members welcome your input.

Meet the Chairs.

2017/2018



We currently have 24 Chairs who volunteer their time to help execute programming under our Board Members, each of them with the passion to represent emerging leaders and make a difference in our growing community.

"Fort Wayne and Northeast Indiana are growing socially, economically, and culturally. The members of YLNI contribute mightily to our growth through their advocacy, philanthropy, and volunteerism. From coordinating farmers markets and outdoor music concerts to spearheading discussions about diversity and quality of life, YLNI is an essential part of our community's leadership."

President of Arts United, *Susan Mendenhall*



Communications Chair
Katie Robinson

YLNI Farmers Market Chair
Ashley Wagner

Community Engagement & Advocacy Co-Chairs
Joe Kiel & Nick Larrak

YLNI The VOTE Co-Chairs
Sam Dickinson & Monica Casanova

Candidate Bootcamp Co-Chairs
Melissa Beber & Lisa Starks

Fund Development Chair
Clarissa Reis

View From the Top Chair
A.J. Stites

Leadership Institute Co-Chairs
Nicole Satalino & Justin Hayes

High School Leadership Institute Co-Chairs
Stephanie Jaylon & Stephanie Veit

Power Lunch Co-Chairs
Eric Frappier & Kevin Cahill

Living Fort Wayne Chair
Ryan Dollens

Membership Co-Chairs
Nick Munson & Hannah Hewes

Social Chair
Beth Bright

Hot Spot Co-Chairs
Britny Berndt & Diedre Van Straten

Living Fort Wayne Concert Series Co-Chairs
Megan Strimes & Andrea Miles

our mission

YLNI's mission is 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.

COMMUNITY

Living Fort Wayne - 6 & 7

YLNI Farmers Market - 8 & 9

Advocacy & Education
Sessions - 10 & 11

Candidate Bootcamp - 12 & 13

My City Summit - 14 & 15

PROFESSIONAL

Leadership Institute - 16 & 17

Power Lunch Series - 18 & 19

View From The Top - 18 & 19

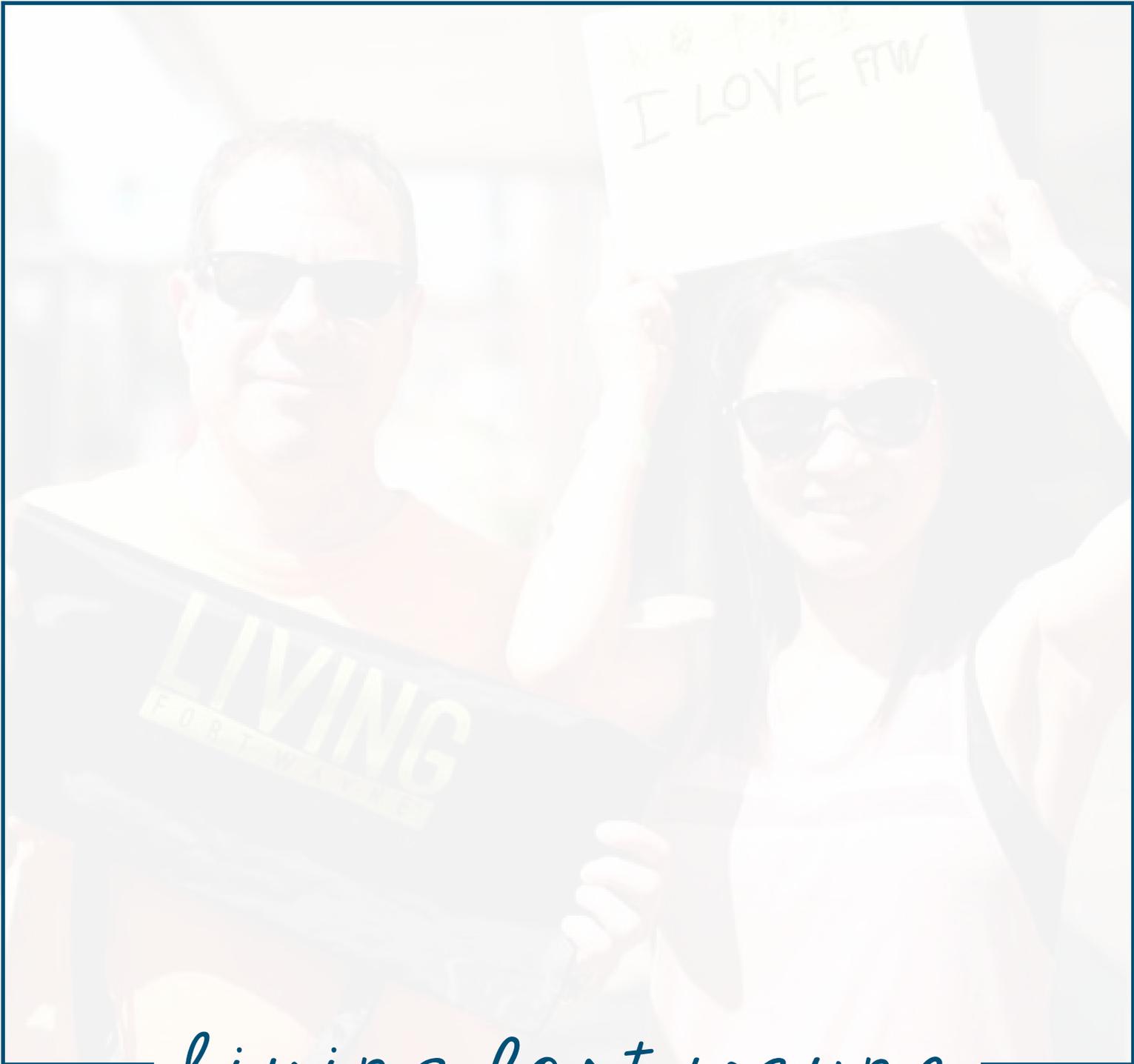
SOCIAL

YLNI Hot Spots - 20 & 21

LFW Concert Series - 22 & 23

Masquerade Ball - 24 & 25





living fort wayne

Living Fort Wayne is your one-stop shop 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! We share the experiences we've had around town and keep you posted on the latest people, places, and happenings in Fort Wayne.

LIVING FORT WAYNE™

What We Love About Fort Wayne



Site Traffic

7,530 Visits Per Month | 249 Visits Per Day

Blog Posts

140 Blog Posts in 2017

Social Media

5,046 Facebook Likes | 6,486 Twitter Followers | 8,018 Instagram Followers

3 Most Popular in 2017

"Just Cream: Ice Cream Boutique - One Sweet Boutique!" by Reneta Thurairatnam

"Pumpkin Patches, Corn Mazes and Fall Farm Fun" by LFW Team

"Umi Fort Wayne - This is How They Roll" by Reneta Thurairatnam

Program Chair: Ryan Dollens

Committee: Tim Zink, Victoria Sarjeant, Alexander Modaresi, Susan Tsai, Brittany King and Tiana Maclin

Contributors: Sarah Verpooten, Stephen J. Bailey, Ashley Clauss, John Foxworthy, Reneta Thurairatnam, Kat Erickson, Kurtis Gelwicks, Alex Wulpi, Casey Suthers and Erica Visocky



— YLNI *farmers market* —

The YLNI Farmers Market is our organization's flagship program. From April through September, the YLNI Farmers Market features over 100 local vendors who personally make or grow the products they sell. In 2017, more than 28,500 people visited the market to pick up groceries and other artisanal goods on Saturday mornings. It also serves as a special destination where community members and guests can find a new favorite local vendor or unique item while live music and children's activities round out the experience. The YLNI Farmers Market is completely organized and run by our volunteers. This year, we were proud to continue that service in partnership with the History Center for a 12th season.



Foot Traffic

Average of 3,000 Patrons Each Saturday

Vendors

Average of 57 Local Vendors Every Week | High of 72 Vendors

In Addition

Hosted 5 Food Trucks Each Week | Showcased At Least 1 Nonprofit Organization Weekly

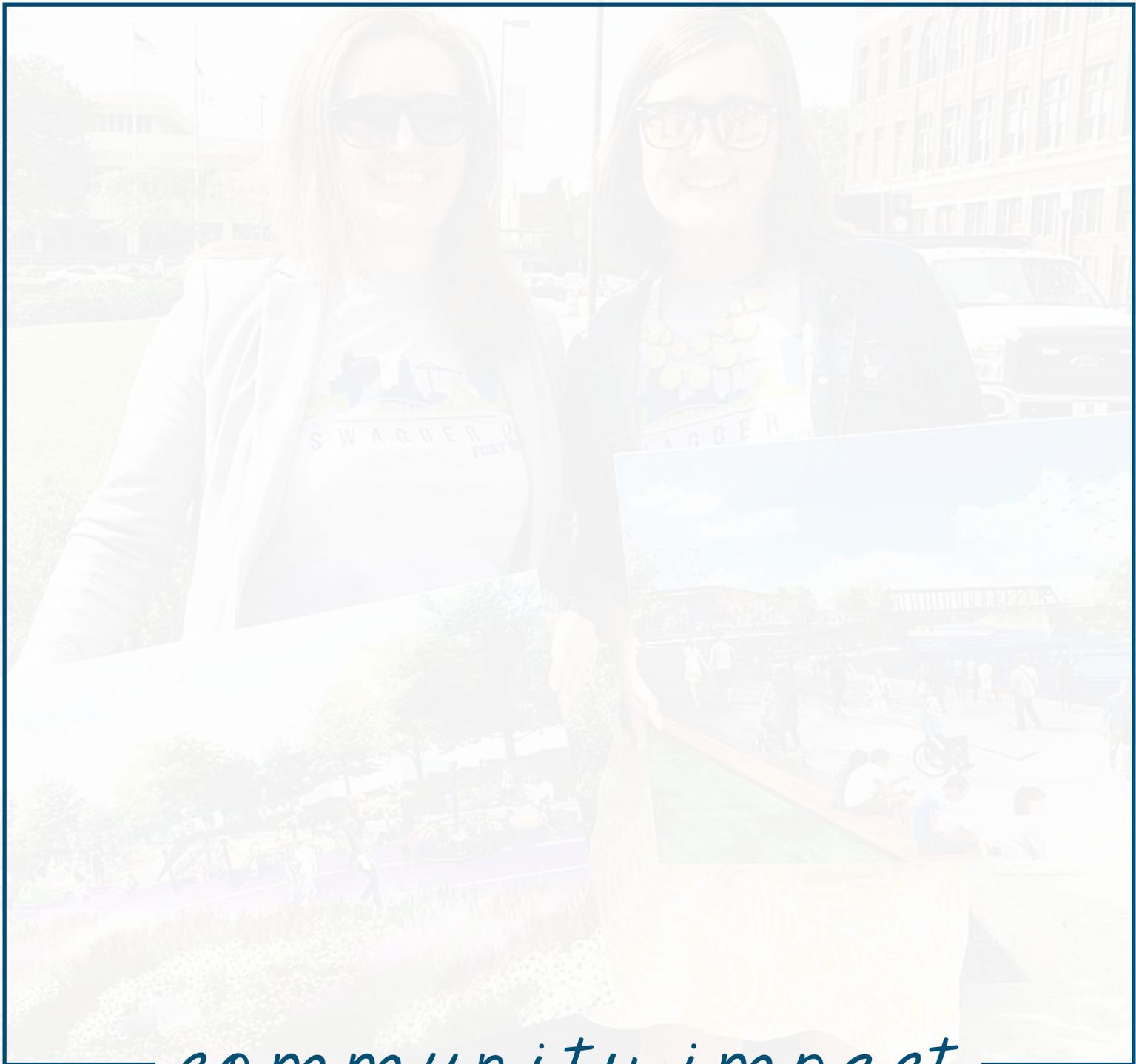
Volunteers

65 Volunteers With Over 700 Volunteer Hours Combined



Program Chair: Ashley Wagner

Committee: Pone Vongphachanh, Mike Weber, Ruth Koontz, Jessi Ferry, Hetty Arts, Jessica Hockemeyer, Ann Carmen, Greg Herring, Zac Jennings, Britny Berndt



community impact

Local Income Tax

YLNI strongly supported the increase in the Local Income Tax because it would fund the riverfront development and neighborhood infrastructure. In every survey we have conducted in the last five years, riverfront and community connectivity came out top of the list. Increasing quality of place will help attract and retain talent in our community. This initiative is and will continue to be our top priority.

We worked collaboratively with other community organizations to reach out to our councilmembers to voice our support. We also had members from our organization testify before council and share information within our network. We hosted a public educational session to learn about the various tax options that local government could levy.

Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne

We did not take a position on the separation at IPFW, but we felt strongly about sharing accurate information with our demographic. We hosted an educational session for our members to learn about how Indiana University and Purdue University will continue their presence in Fort Wayne.

City of Fort Wayne Budget

During the adoption process for the City of Fort Wayne's 2018 budget, we voiced opposition to several cuts proposed by councilmembers. We opposed the cut to Fort Wayne United, funding for economic development initiatives, and riverfront development.

Fort Wayne United serves as an important initiative to our community's efforts to enhance opportunities, advance youth advocacy, and help create a safer city for everyone, especially for black men and boys. This combination aligns with YLNI's mission to attract, develop, and retain emerging leaders.

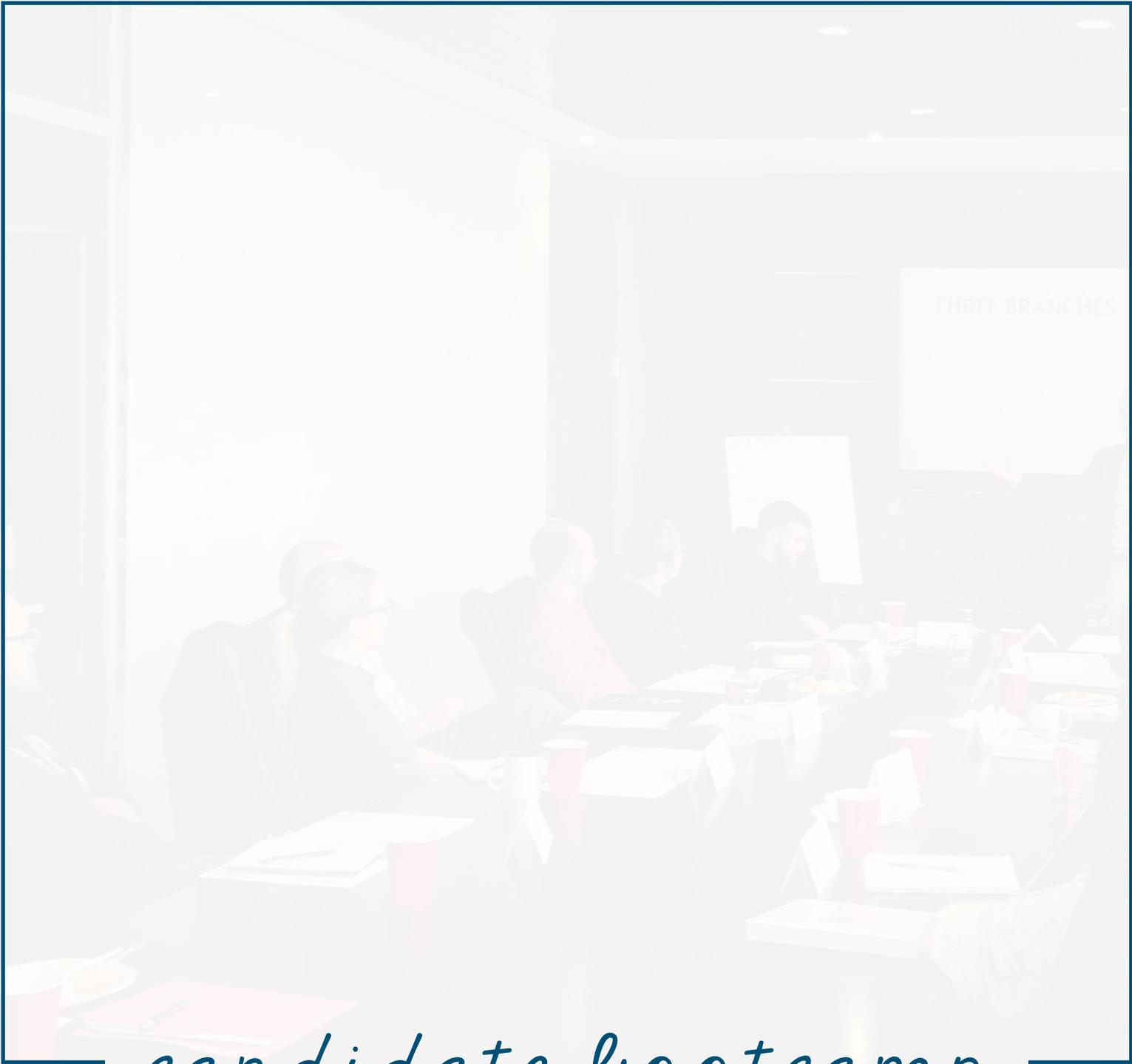
Riverfront Fort Wayne

Riverfront Fort Wayne is not only an asset for Fort Wayne, but for our entire region. Our rivers have once again become a point of destination in downtown Fort Wayne, and we must continue to offer programming and events to attract residents and visitors.

Educational Sessions

Local Income Tax & Regional Development Authorities - Michael Galbraith, Director of the Road to One Million with the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership, and Pone Vongphachanh, Public Affairs Officer with Upstate Alliance of Realtors, conducted a panel discussion and presentation. Topics included the RDA and its structure and responsibilities as well as the local taxes. Sixteen YLNI members attended.

Future of IPFW - Andy Downs, Associate Professor at IPFW, lead a discussion on the future of IPFW. Downs presented on the structure of IPFW and how it has changed and will continue to change after the realignment. Specific topics included academics control, degrees, and IU and Purdue's presence in Northeast Indiana. Eleven YLNI members attended.



candidate bootcamp

YLNI Candidate Bootcamp is designed to encourage Northeast Indiana's young leaders to think critically about public service. For those who had an interest in volunteering as a civic duty, running a political campaign, or being a candidate for public office, this program offered many opportunities to engage and learn more about public service.

Session Topics

Government 101

What it's Like to be a Candidate and Elected Official

Platform Development

Campaign Plan Development

Budgeting and Fundraising

Media Relations

The Candidate Bootcamp afforded participants valuable opportunity to connect with proven community leaders to gather insights into what it takes to be a successful public official. This year's successful Candidate Bootcamp had fourteen participants. The participants heard from over fifteen community leaders and public officials throughout the sessions.

Program Co-Chairs: Lisa Starks and Melissa Beber

Committee: Pone Vongphachanh, Adam Welch and Andy Downs

Partnership With the Mike Downs Center for Indiana Politics

"I so appreciate the work that YLNI - a grassroots, volunteer organization - has done in helping to attract and retain our talented young people to this region. It is extremely important to have an organization that offers social activities, leadership development training, advocacy opportunities, and community projects so that emerging leaders can find a connection to other people who have similar goals and values and thus develop friendships. YLNI has become a vital and valued part of our community, recognized for playing an important role in the retention of our talented young people, and in enhancing the quality of life in our area."

Community Ambassador, *Shene Walters*



A photograph of a diverse group of people at a summit, with some individuals clapping. The image is overlaid with a light blue tint and a dark blue border.

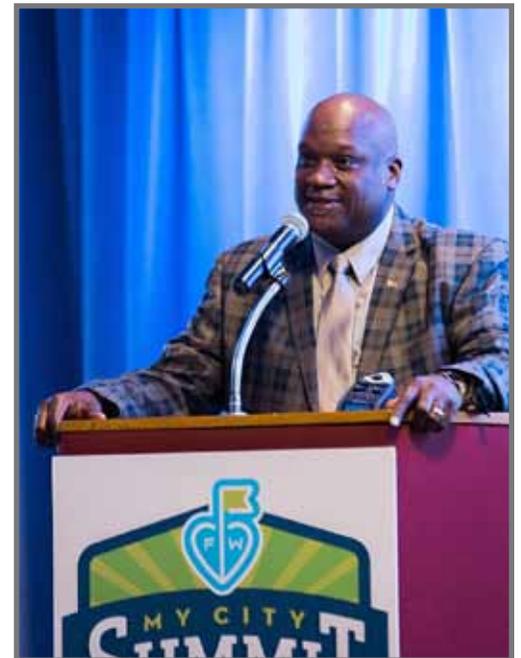
my city summit

On January 24, YLNI welcomed more than 300 emerging leaders, business leaders, and community supporters to the 4th annual My City Summit at the University of Saint Francis Performing Arts Center in downtown Fort Wayne. The theme of the Summit was emphasizing diversity, community strength, big ideas, solutions, and actions. Local radio personality Amber Stone served as emcee of the event.



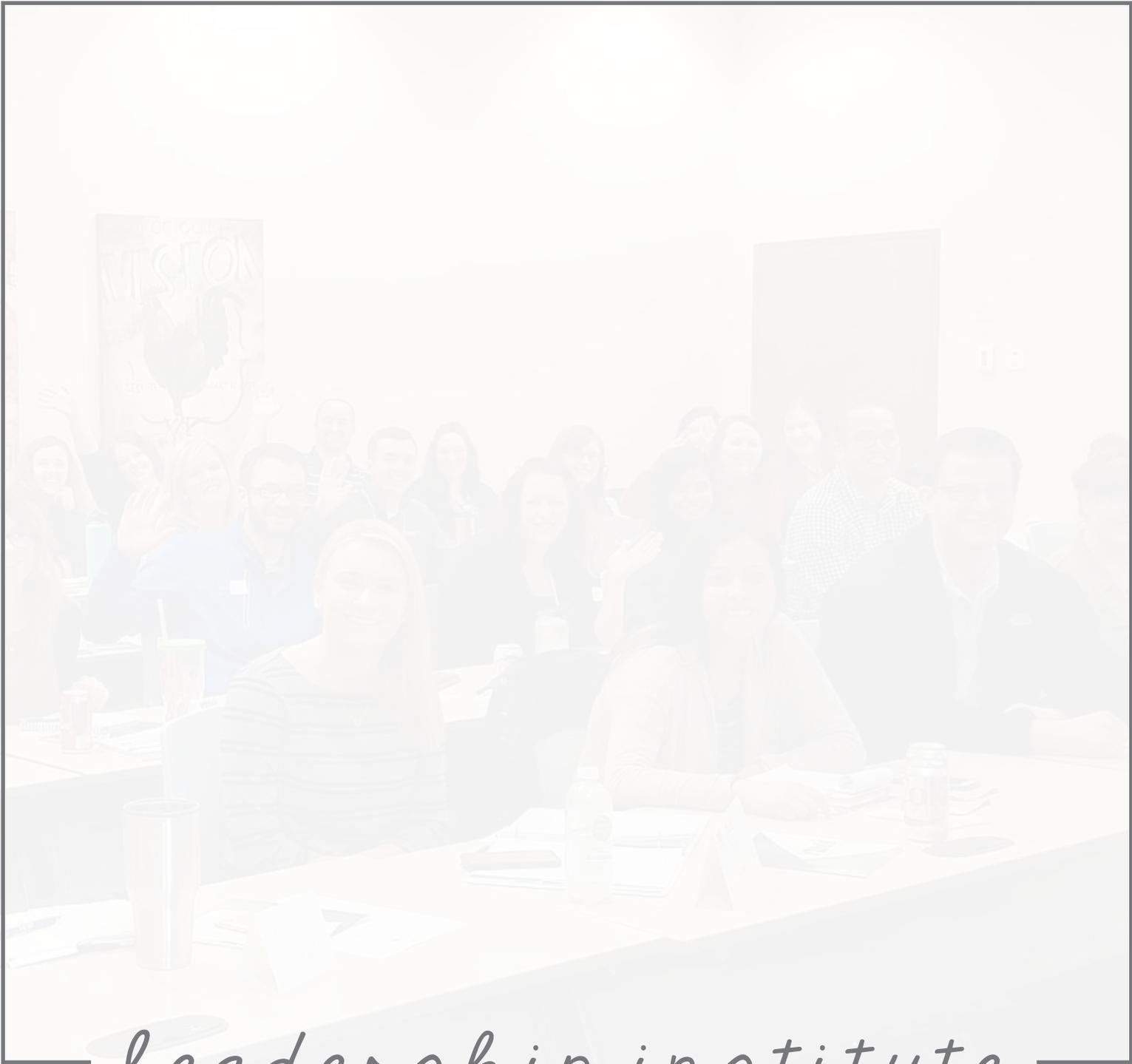
Community advocates Courtney Tritch and Allison Green opened the program with a discussion on the importance of diversity in economic development strategies and the state of social climate in Northeast Indiana. Rich Benjamin, a critically-acclaimed author, speaker, and political and cultural analyst, served as the keynote speaker, and delivered a powerful presentation on his experiences of living and working America's rural areas. CEO and Founder of Unity Performing Arts Foundation, Marshall White, was honored with the Ian Rolland Courageous Leadership Award, while Manchester University Graduate, Tiana Maclin, earned the Emerging Leader Award.

Since the Summit, YLNI has taken action to support diversity and inclusion initiatives in our community by launching a community wide diversity and inclusion pledge campaign and supporting the efforts and mission of Fort Wayne UNITED.



Program Co-Chairs: Jordan Lepper and Stephanie Veit

Committee: John Felts, Dan Kennedy, Ryan Krueckeberg, Jake Pickett, Nicole Satalino, Tim Spradling and Shaquan Walker



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 12th program of Leadership Institute had the largest class to date, with 40 participants. Over six day-long sessions from January to April, participants learned from nine 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 ethics, and public speaking.

Through the program, over 50% of the participants chose a board internship! All 40 participants celebrated completing the program with a graduation event at the Parkview Field Suite Level Lounge on April 20th.



2017 *Leadership Institute Class*

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Ashley Adamson | Heather Krebs |
| Krithika Arasu | Heather Leas |
| Britny Berndt | Erin Oberlin |
| Anna Bobrowski | Todd Petelle |
| Jessa Campbell | Nicholas Podlaski |
| Amber Coleman | Bryan Putt |
| Mark Coleman | Nikki Quintana |
| Zac Compton | Chelsey Reber |
| Bethany Copperidge | Clarrisa Reis |
| David Curry | Nicole Satalino |
| Morgan England | Landon Scott |
| Scott Grover | Ashley Spranger |
| Joshua Hale | Jennifer Sylvester |
| Brad Hartman | Stephanie Taylor |
| Justin Hayes | Mindy Torres |
| Heather Heal | Olivia Valencic-Miller |
| Adam James | Diedre Van Straten |
| Jayaprada Kasaraneni | Mauricio Vergara |
| Nickita Klingerman | Eric Wilson |
| Kayla Konger | Marlies Swepink |

Program Co-Chairs: Chris Reeve and Kourtney Teegardin

Committee: Austin Allen, Mark Bains, Chelsea Beaman, Tai Felger, Audrey Gilbert, Amanda Ladig, Kara Miller, Justin Ramsey and Sonya Snellenberger-Holm



leadership development

Power Lunch Series

The Power Lunch Series takes place once a month over four summer months. A group of five YLNI members had the unique opportunity to meet with one community leader for 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.

2017 Community Leaders

Tim Ash - CEO, Ash Brokerage

Don Banowetz - Senior VP, Frontier Communications

Don Cates - CEO, 3 Rivers Federal Credit Union

Jeannè Wickens - CFO, Parkview Health

Program Co-Chairs: Kevin Cahill and Eric Frappier



View From the Top

In 2017, two View From the Top events took place. Each event 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. The events are open to members and non-members. This year, View From the Top focused on entrepreneurial downtown developments.



James Khan - Owner of Hoppy Gnome
& BakerStreet Steakhouse



Cari Bean & Leah Kenna - Owners of JK O'Donnell's
Henry Najdeski - Attorney for JK O'Donnell's

Program Chairs: Kara Miller (spring) and AJ Stites (fall)



YLNI *hot spots*

The YLNI Hot Spot is a 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. Each month, an average of 50 emerging leaders attend the Hot Spots held at different locations around town, giving YLNI an opportunity to show off all that Fort Wayne has to offer.



Hot Spot Locations

Club Soda | CityScape Flats | Bahn Mi Pho Shop | Rudy's Shop | Summit City Brewerks | The Hoppy Gnome
Champions Sports Bar | Umi | DeBrand Fine Chocolates | Parkview Field | Skyline Park at Ash Brokerage





LFW *concert series*

The Living Fort Wayne Concert series has once again rocked downtown Fort Wayne with nearly 1,000 people coming out to hear live music! This year, we featured three amazing, free concerts at Headwaters Park West amphitheater throughout the summer with local musicians, children's activity areas, river boat rides, a beer garden from the Brass Rail, and food trucks.

The House Band from School of Rock Fort Wayne opened up each show followed by our headlining acts, which included The Legendary Trainhoppers, The Freak Brothers, and The Jon Durnell Band.



Program Chair: Megan Grimes
Committee: Sarah Verpooten, Kelly Rentschler, John Foxworthy, Mark McKibbin, Kara Hawley, Krystal Smith and Patrick Ventura



masquerade ball

The 13th annual Masquerade Ball was an event to remember held in the newly renovated Ballroom at the Embassy Theatre. This Mardi Gras themed gala included a DJ, Little Vegas, complimentary beer and wine, and customized New Orleans food from Catablu. Local radio personality, Amber Stone, was our special event host. The Ball certainly went out with a bang, as it was our last year hosting this memorable event.



Program Co-Chairs: Allison Hanford and Mark Lash
Committee: Kelly Rentschler, Sarah Verpooten and Whitney Thorpe

communications

Whether it's weekly e-newsletters, website, social media, media relations, flyers, or brochures, our Communications Team is in charge of keeping YLNI members, community leaders, and the local media informed of what's happening within our organization.

Facebook



2016 = 2,492 Likes
2017 = 3,077 Likes

Twitter



2016 = 3,471 Followers
2017 = 3,715 Followers

Instagram



2016 = 0 Followers
2017 = 514 Followers

Email Subscribers

2016 = 1,840 Subscribers
2017 = 1,990 Subscribers



Email Newsletters



2016 = 44 Sent
2017 = 68 Sent

Program Chair: Katie Robinson
Committee: John Felts, Dan Kinnaley, Joel Crandall,
Jasmine Bejar and Sarah Dove

strategic planning

In early 2017, YLNI was graciously granted money from the Foellinger Foundation to pursue setting a long-term vision for our organization. With this funding, we contracted the Nichols Company to perform a market research study on peer organizations and to obtain community perspectives on YLNI. Both our YLNI Board and YLNI Foundation Board were then guided through long-term strategic planning sessions by Linda Buskirk to plan for the future success of our organization.

We want to thank all the Board Members and Chairs who gave extra time and effort into this process. Our results will continue to guide the direction of this organization for years to come.



YLNI will undertake strategies that:

Are consistent with YLNI's mission.

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

Build on or reinforce YLNI's competitive advantages.

- Our leadership is made up of the demographic we represent.
 - Our programming fills a need in our community.
- Advocate independently for our demographic's best interest.

Move us toward our vision.

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

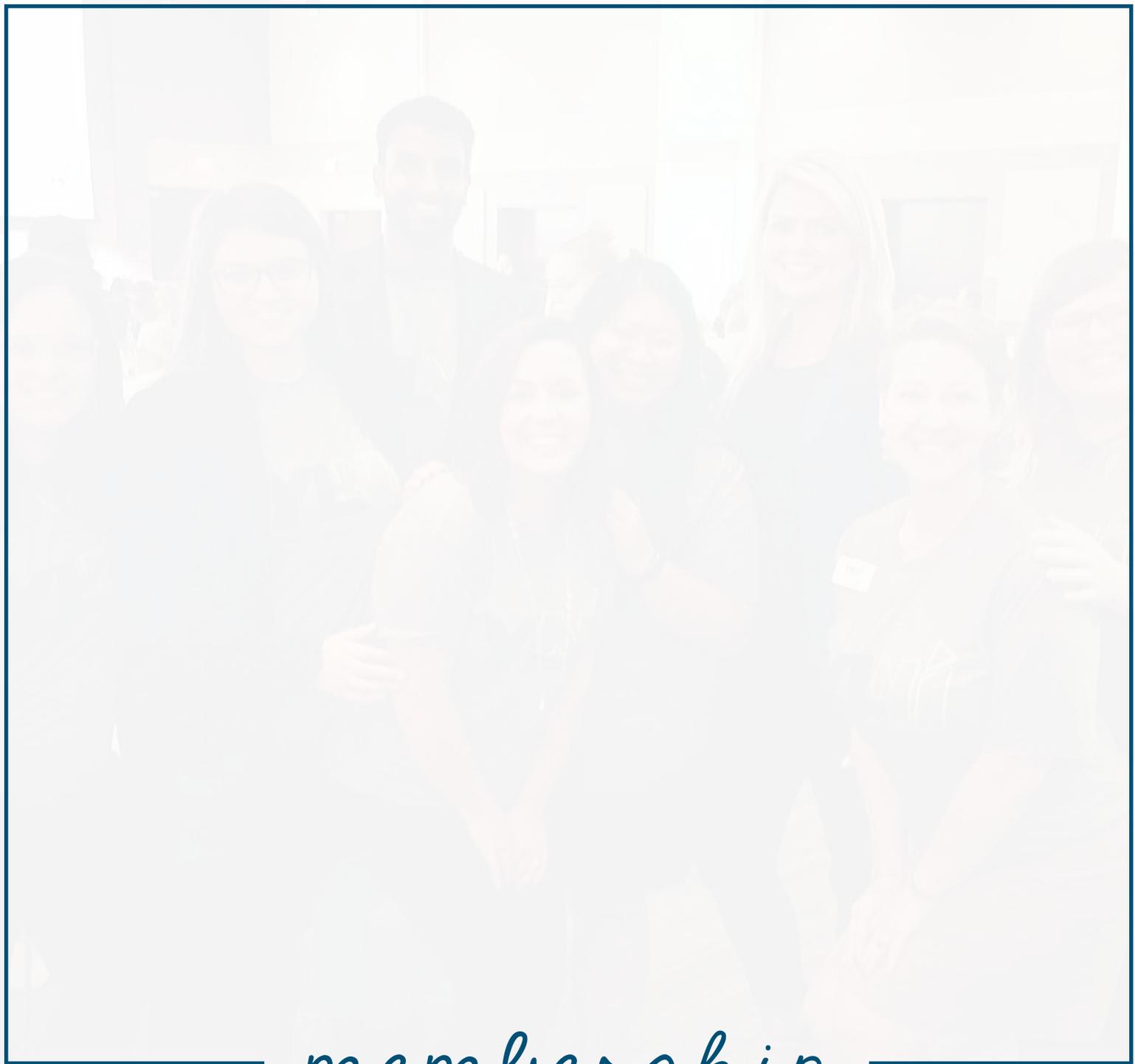
Affirm, support or reinforce what we value about our organization.

- YLNI's ability to attract and maintain a large number of people who are engaged and invested in YLNI.
 - YLNI is volunteer based.
 - YLNI programming that develop emerging leaders.
- Excellence in the execution of our programs and activities.
 - Foster civic engagement.

"YLNI is an invaluable asset to the Fort Wayne business and cultural communities, offering a variety of programs and other opportunities for Young Professionals to connect and thrive!"

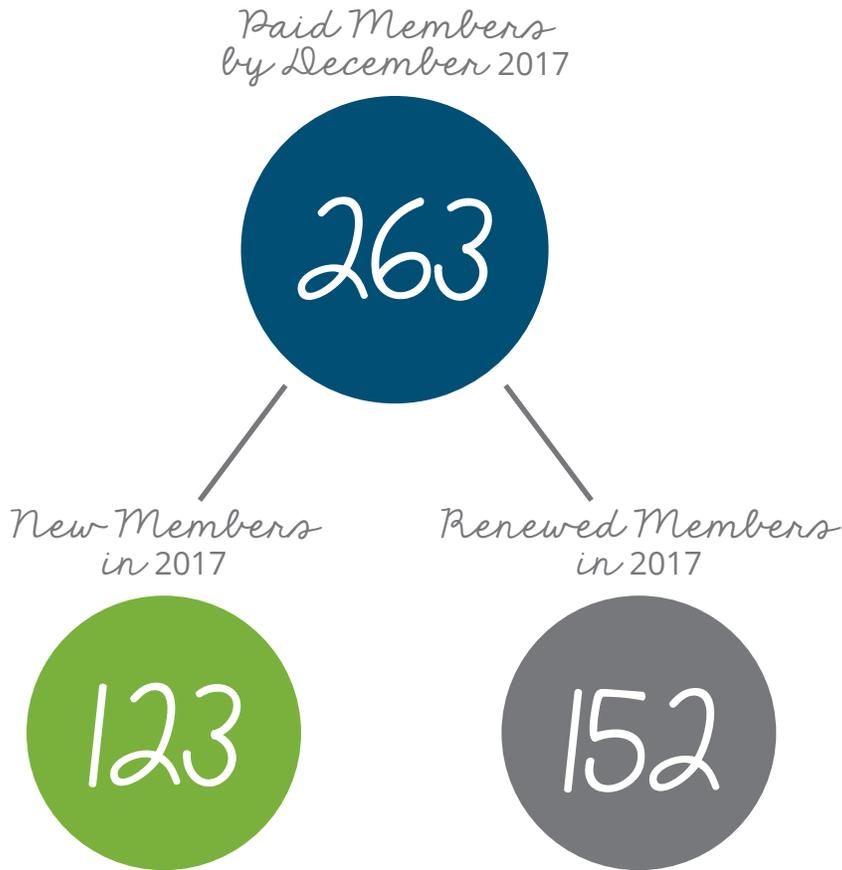
CEO of Sweetwater, *Chuck Surack*





membership

The YLNI Membership Committee works to increase member participation and engagement in our organization. From planning the General Membership Event to surveying members on programming decisions and advocacy positions, the committee ensures all members receive value in their investment in YLNI. We believe an investment in YLNI is an investment in our community.



"YLNI holds this community accountable to the be best version of itself. As such, the organization, with its transformative leadership, is critical to the success of our tomorrow."

Director of Diversity, Professional Development, and Inclusion, Barnes & Thornburg, *Lawn R. Rosemond, Esq.*





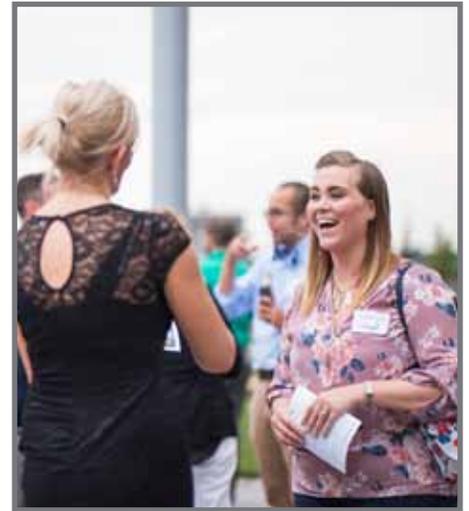
general membership event

This year's General Membership Event, presented by Barnes & Thornburg, was reinvented and renamed to encompass our mission to "attract, develop and retain emerging leaders through community, professional and social engagement" in just one powerful word — EMERGE. This annual event is where current members, potential members, and established community leaders come together to celebrate the growth of our community and the accomplishments of our organization in the past year.

emerge

YLNI GENERAL MEMBERSHIP EVENT

We were thrilled to have Stacey Holifield, owner of Levitate and boundary pusher, as our Keynote Speaker. With over 80 emerging leaders in attendance, Stacey shared her entrepreneurial lessons and the story of how she found her way back to Fort Wayne. Our past Board Treasurer Grant Daily was awarded with the 2017 YLNI Exemplary Service Award for his outstanding service and performance during his time as a board member, committee leader and mentor for countless emerging professionals. The event took place at the beautiful Skyline Park at Ash Brokerage where food, live music, yard games and good company were all enjoyed!

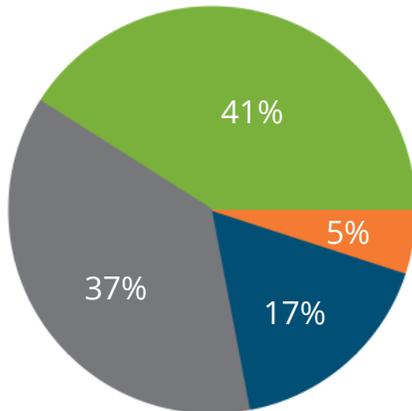


Committee: Savannah Robinson,
Abigail Zimmer, Kelly Rentschler
and Sarah Verpooten

fund development

YLNI's committees are self-sufficient and self-reliant. All the funding we receive goes directly into YLNI initiatives — we have no administrative costs. If you support YLNI, your backing directly supports the community, professional, and social development of Northeast Indiana.

YLNI Funding Sources



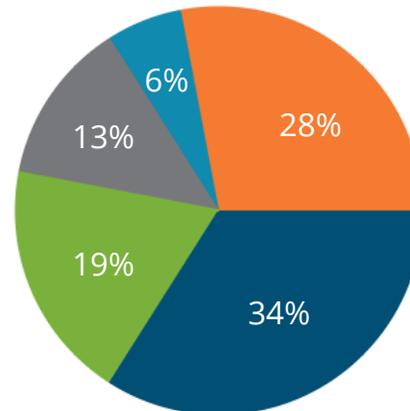
Private Sponsors - 41%

Event Admissions - 37%

Foundation Grants - 17%

Membership Dues - 5%

YLNI Funding by Programming



My City Summit - 34%

Community Impact - 28%

Leadership Development - 19%

Social - 13%

Membership - 6%

Program Chair: Clarissa Reis

Committee: Chris Reeve, John Foxworthy and Cara Wentland

"YLNI's willingness to take stands on important issues is paying big dividends for our community. It's clear that their members have the leadership skills necessary to build a nationally recognized economy here in Allen County."

CEO of Greater Fort Wayne, Inc., *Eric Doden*





Thank you to all of our sponsors who have supported us, not only throughout this past year, but during our twelve years as an organization. It is with your help that our organization is able to continue growing and become a larger voice in our community and our region.

PNC Charitable Trusts and Foundations
Greater Fort Wayne, Inc.
Fort Wayne Metals
Wilson Foundation
Strahm Building Solutions
Waterfield Foundation
Old National Bank
Northwestern Mutual
Arnold Foundation
Downtown Improvement District
JH Specialty

Crowe Horwath LLP
English, Bonter, Mitchell Foundation
Ash Brokerage
Heritage Food Service Group
Coldwell Banker
ONE
Star Financial Bank
MKM Architecture
One Lucky Guitar
PHP
OmniSource



LEARN. GROW. LEAD.

Emerging leaders start here.



president's letter

I like to think of myself as a proven case study on the impact that Young Leaders of Northeast of Indiana can have. I can honestly say that before graduating Leadership Institute in 2013 and getting involved in YLNI and my community, I had no intentions of remaining in Fort Wayne. Before YLNI, I wasn't volunteering, my job at Lincoln Financial was a stepping stone until I moved, and I really didn't care what was going on in the community. Now, I serve on multiple non-profit boards and committees, focusing on anything from economic development to arts and culture. I'm preparing to celebrate my 10-year anniversary at Lincoln, and I have met a ton of people who have gone on to become some of the best mentors, colleagues, and friends that I know. I give YLNI credit for that.



This past year as YLNI Board President has been the most challenging, and the most rewarding. Through a grant from the Foellinger Foundation, we engaged in market research on peer organizations which led to strategic planning with real, tangible results. As a result, we have outlined strategic objectives for the next several years. Some of the things we will be pursuing are:

- Being more agile and louder in our advocacy.
- Unifying our marketing strategies to better tell our story.
- Strengthening and streamlining our internal processes.
- Evaluating our programming and its impact to our mission.

These things, and more, are going to help energize the momentum of our region. YLNI plans to be centrally involved. We plan to be at the table for these conversations to make sure that our emerging leader demographic is represented.

Over the course of my involvement in YLNI, I have seen this organization, our city, and our region grow. These things don't happen organically. They happen through the grit and hard work of people dedicated to see our community thrive. I am proud to be involved in that growth, and proud of each volunteer, Chair, and Board Member that has given up time and resources to contribute. It is up to us to make our region and our city the best it can be.

I'd like to formally thank our sponsors and grantees for supporting us and our mission. I'd like to thank the community leaders who have believed in this organization and continued to support us through your advice and mentorship. Finally, I'd like to thank our members whose volunteer hours and paid membership supports all the programming we provide.

Ryan Krueckeberg
President
Young Leaders of Northeast Indiana



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twitter.com/YLNI



@youngleadersnei



www.ylni.org

