



ANNUAL

2019

REPORT

Who we are



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 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.

“Joining YLNI remains one of my smartest decisions as a newly relocated, young professional in Fort Wayne! Ultimately, I was motivated to join YLNI because of the opportunities for networking, leadership development, and community impact. This organization sets the standard for my demographic in the greater Fort Wayne area and I knew that becoming a member would allow me to be a part of the local and regional momentum and affect change as a young professional.”

Jessica Morales
YLNI High School Leadership Institute chair

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.

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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



AJ Stiles
Vice President



David Curry
Treasurer



Sarah Verpooten
Secretary



Chris Polhamus
Director at Large,
Executive Committee



Brandon Noll
Vice President,
Community Impact



Justin Hayes
Vice President,
Leadership Development



Craig Fischer
Vice President,
Membership



John Hudson
Vice President,
Fund Development



Katie Robinson
Vice President,
Communications



Britny Berndt
Vice President,
Social Programming



Patrick Florea
Director at Large,
Community Impact



Tim Zink
Director at Large,
Communications



Marlies Zwepink
Director at Large,
Technology



Ian Broad-White
Director at Large,
Leadership Development



Nicole Satalino
Director at Large,
Fund Development

Our Chairs

YLNI's 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: Josey Seabolt, Britney Breidenstein, Clarissa Reis, Ryan Powell, Giang Petroviak, Jessica Morales, Joe Kiel, and Rena Shown.

Community Engagement and Advocacy (CEA)

Joe Kiel

Fund Development

Clarissa Reis

High School Leadership Institute

Stephanie Taylor & Jessica Morales

Hot Spots

Josey Seabolt & Rachel Batdorff

Leadership Institute

Kellie Warner & Kristin Conley

Living Fort Wayne

Alex Modarressi & Britney Breidenstein

Living Fort Wayne Concert Series

Kara Hawley

Membership

Anna Baer

Power Lunch Series

James Couchman

Social

Giang Petroviak & Ryan Powell

Technology

Aaron Prentice

View From The Top

Rena Shown

YLNI Farmers Market

Su Vongphachanh

YLNI the VOTE

Monica Casanova

Next Gen Leadership Institute

Morgan Ferguson & Jennifer Simmons

MovedIN

Sarah Coletta & Amanda Drakeford

Leaders Roundtable

Giang Petroviak

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.



240
Dues Paying
Members

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 2019 event took place at the Botanical Conservatory, with close to 100 emerging leaders in attendance, the Board of Directors unveiled the new YLNI website.



“I joined YLNI to learn more! I have had the opportunity to learn more about my community at View from the Top and to learn more about myself at Leadership Institute. It has been great to learn more about new people and hear their experiences at Hot Spots. It was also an absolute blast to learn a new skill while participating in Dragon Boat races. There are so many different events and committees that I still have many new learning opportunities ahead with YLNI!”

Anna Baer | YLNI member

Leadership Roundtable

In 2019, we continued our Leadership Roundtable where we hosted 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.

The development of the new MovedIN committee focuses on recent transplants to northeast Indiana and is a direct result from feedback from the Roundtable events.



	26 Community Leaders
8 YLNI Board Members	

March 2019

Kent Castleman | Lasting Change/Lifeline
Niyoki Chapman | Unity Performing Arts Center
Ron Dick | Design Collaborative
Amanda Drakeford | SCAN
Sherry Fincher | Shadow for Success
Beth Goldsmith | North Eastern Group Realty
Jim Johnson | 3 Rivers Federal Credit Union
Matt Kelley | One Lucky Guitar
Pat Pasterick | Design Collaborative
John Sampson | Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership
Carla Simpson | Indiana Michigan Power
Chris Stine | Design Collaborative
Toby Thomas | Indiana Michigan Power
Kate Virag | Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership
Bob Vitoux | Ambassador Enterprises
Irene Walters | community leader
Jonathon Wattley | Shadow for Success

June 2019

Greg Barnes | STAR Bank
Kathy Callen | Old National Bank
Amanda Drakeford | SCAN
Christine Hootman | Baden Gage & Schroeder
Jim Johnson | 3 Rivers Federal Credit Union
Jim Marcuccilli | STAR Bank
Kyler Mills | Baden Gage & Schroede
Tom Nowak | Katz Sapper & Millerr
Barry Schrock | Greater Fort Wayne

LIVING FORT WAYNE™

Living Fort Wayne (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 a name and location – 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 Living Fort Wayne along for the ride!

In 2019, Living Fort Wayne developed a new Living Fort Wayne 360 steering committee in preparation for a future revamp of the brand in 2020.

Living Fort Wayne Committee:

Alex Moderessi, Britney Breidentstein, Tim Zink, Stephen J. Bailey, Jesus Rosario, Jessica Morales, Abeer Saaed, Carol John



Most popular Instagram posts on @LivingFortWayne

- Broadway Rail Overpass Sign | Tim Zink
- Zesto Seasonal Opening | Stephen J. Bailey
- Antonuccio's Italian Market | Stephen J. Bailey
- Promenade Park Opening | Tim Zink
- The Landing Opening | Stephen J. Bailey
- West Central Neighborhood | Stephen J. Bailey

Communications and Marketing

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.



1,961
newsletter
subscribers
+379 from 2018

Communications Committee:

Katie Robinson, Tim Zink, Charl Franks,
Ellen Brown, Sierra Grayson, Michael Bianski

YLNI Marketing Lead:

Chris Polhamus



3,652 followers
+210 from 2018



3,834 followers
+61 from 2018



1,345 followers
+230 from 2018



740 followers
+460 from 2018

Followers of YLNI's Instagram account enjoyed photos showcasing community and economic projects in Fort Wayne:

Promenade Park Opening (River) - 122 likes

New Board of Directors - 115 likes

Wells Street Bridge - 109 likes

Promenade Park Opening (Sculpture) - 105 likes

Calhoun Street Alley Porch - 88 likes

Fund Development

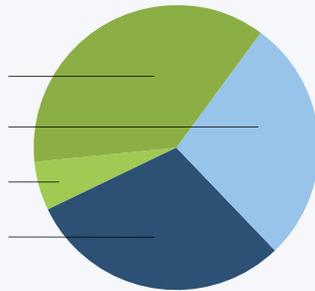


Each of YLNI's committees are self-sufficient and self-reliant. All funding received directly impacts YLNI's programming and initiatives. When you support

YLNI, your financial contribution supports the community, professional, and social development of Northeast Indiana.

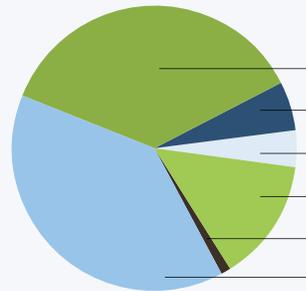
Funding Sources

Grant Revenue 37%
 Program Revenue 33%
 Membership 5%
 Sponsorship Revenue 25%



Funding By Program

Leadership Development 36.5%
 Membership 5.5%
 Social 4%
 General Operating 14%
 Living Fort Wayne 1%
 Community Impact 39%



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.



The Schneider Trust



**COLDWELL
BANKER**

**English, Bonter,
Mitchell Foundation**

Design Collaborative, Dr. Louis & Anne B. Schneider Trust, Edward W. & Mary McCrea Wilson Fund, Faegre Baker Daniels LLP, The Journal Gazette Foundation, Howard P. Arnold Foundation, NIPSCO, PNC Charitable Trusts and Foundations, and Strahm Building Solutions

Fund Development Committee | Clarissa Reis (Chair), David Curry



The YLNI Farmers Market is our organization’s flagship program. Every Saturday from May through September, the Market features over 140 local vendors, non-profits, partner organizations, and musicians. Vendors personally make or grow the products they sell. In 2019, more than 110,000 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 our Market Manager, Ashley Wagner, and our team of volunteers. In 2019, we were proud to continue that service in partnership with The History Center for the 15th season.



Average of **5,550** patrons each week
High of over **10,000**



50 volunteers with over
700 volunteer hours combined



Average of **65** local vendors each week
High of **80**



Hosted **7** food trucks each week

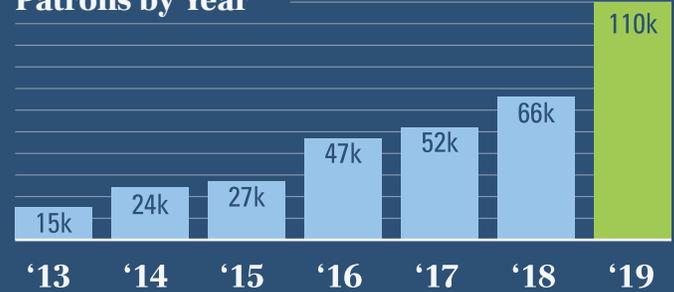


Showcased at least **1** non-profit each week

“I joined the YLNI Farmers Market committee because I was new to town and wanted to jump right into serving and loving Fort Wayne. There is no better way to meet a lot people who care about Fort Wayne than volunteering at the YLNI Farmers Market on Saturdays.”

Zac Jennings
YLNI Farmers Market committee member

Patrons by Year



Farmers Market Committee

Ashley Wagner, Su Vongphachanh, Hetty Arts, Jessica Hockemeyer, Ruth Koontz, Zac Jennings, Greg Herring, Nicole Jennings, Britny Berndt

Community Impact

YLNI continues to work directly with our community leaders to provide a young leader's perspective, as well as engage in active discussions on a number of issues. We have quarterly meetings with the Mayor and attend city council meetings to stay current on local happenings.



Senate Bill 198:

Indiana was one of 5 states without a hate crimes bill, but in March/April 2019, the Indiana Senate and Governor Holcomb signed Bill 198 into law. The bill refers to Indiana's bias crimes reporting statute that mentions color, creed, disability, national origin, race, religion and sexual orientation, but doesn't explicitly cover age, sex or gender identity. YLNI was asked to speak on the bill and the exclusion of age, sex, or gender identity. After discussion with CEA and the YLNI board, we expressed our support of a hate crimes bill, but we were disappointed in the exclusion of age, sex, or gender identity from the bill.

YLNI Republican Mayoral Primary Debate

In March 2019, YLNI hosted a Republican Mayoral Primary Debate between Tim Smith and John Crawford. The debate was moderated by WMEE's



Andy Beckman and located at Arts United. The event reached full capacity that featured 200 people in attendance and thousands streamed and/or viewed the event. We were highlighted on most local news outlets, including TV, Radio, and Print. Sponsors for the event were Arts United, Ambassador Enterprises, STV, and Reusser Design.



Meet the Candidates:

This event took place close to the local elections. This year we partnered with Greater Fort Wayne, UPSTAR, and the Home Builders Association. This two hour event allows each candidate running for office a few minutes to answer a couple questions. This year we had candidates running for mayor, city or town council, and city or town clerk-treasurer. Over 70 members of the partnering organizations were there.

YLNI Mayoral Debate

Following the success of the Republican Mayoral Primary Debate, YLNI teamed up with College Democrats, High School Republicans, and College Republicans to bring Fort Wayne a Mayoral Debate between Challenger Tim Smith and Incumbent Mayor Tom Henry. The debate was held at the Grand Wayne Center and saw nearly 500 people in attendance, a Fort Wayne debate record! The debate was again moderated by WMEE's Andy Beckman, covered by most news outlets, and the recording was viewed thousands of times.

Community Engagement and Advocacy Committee

Joe Kiel

Mayoral Debate Committee

Brandon Blumenherst, Ashley Martin, Matt Stachler, Ben Vandenberghe, Ryan Powell, Demitra Burns



Leadership Development



Power Lunch Series

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.

2019 Community Leaders

Steve Warner | partner, Katz, Sapper, Miller

John Henry, III | CEO, JH Specialty

Arlan Friesen | president, Ambassador Enterprises

Dawn Rosemond | partner, Barnes & Thornburg

Power Lunch Chair

James Couchman

View from the Top Committee

Rena Shown (chair), Steven Bressler,

Craig Fischer, Justin Hayes, Ian Broad-White

View from the Top

In 2019, YLNI held two View from the Top events. Each featured established community leaders from various professional backgrounds. They shared their journey of professional successes and struggles. Attendees learned from the experiences of the leaders, and were given the chance to ask questions and network with YLNI members. This year, View from the Top focused on entrepreneurial downtown developments.

Discussion on the Landing, Nawa

John Urbahns | Greater Fort Wayne

Zach Benedict | MKM Architecture + Design

Kirk Moriarty | Greater Fort Wayne

Nancy Townsend | City of Fort Wayne

Promenade Park Pavilion

Kelly Lynch | Headwaters Junction

Pastor Donovan Coley | The Rescue Mission

Kristi Sturtz | New Allen Alliance



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 14th program of Leadership Institute had 39 participants representing several 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 teamwork, 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 39 participants celebrated completing the program with a graduation event at the Parkview Field Suite Level Lounge in April.

“The connections and community I found through the institute are just as, if not more important than the material. And the material was great!”

Michael Bianski | 2019 Graduate

Leadership Institute Committee

Kelli Warner (co-chair); Kristin Conley (co-chair); Rena Shown, Heather Leas, Morgan Ferguson, Chris Reeve, Jennifer Simmons and Cory Jenkins

Class of 2019

Andrea Aboufadel
 Stephen Anstett
 Anna Baer
 Samuel Battistone
 Nathan Berndt
 Michael Bianski
 Doug Blomeke
 Tori Bontrager
 Britney Breidestein
 Ian Broad-White
 Haley Chaires
 Julianne Cogley-Pifko
 James Couchman
 Apurva Dubhashi
 Lindsey Dutrieux
 Lauren Elliott
 Craig Fischer
 Mariana Glover
 Jaclyn Goldsborough
 McKenzie Grubb

Randi Harvey
 Joshua Hendricks
 Amy Hetrick
 Trent Hullinger
 Cassie Kurtz
 Rebecca Martin
 Marcus McMillen
 Morgan Olson
 Giang Petroviak
 Megan Posey
 Kristen Powell
 Ryan Powell
 Justin Uffelmann
 Austin Valade
 Jessica Waggoner
 Nicholas Weaver
 Sean Weigand
 Cody Weikel
 Chelsea Wolpert

Leadership Development High School Leadership Institute



The YLNI High School Leadership Institute 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, 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.

13 Graduates

Session Locations

Arts United
Foellinger Foundation
Embassy Theatre
Design Collaborative
3Rivers Federal Credit Union

Local Activities

Tour of Arts United
Tour of Fort Wayne Museum of Art
Fort Wayne Escape Room
Tour of Embassy Theatre
Tour of Parkview Field
Visit with Mayor Tom Henry
Tour of Allen County Courthouse
Visit with Judge Thomas Felts
Tour of Allen County Public Library



Graduate Survey

How would you rate the overall program?

11/13 answered "exceeded expectations"

Did the program have an impact on how you view Fort Wayne and northeast Indiana?

13/13 answered "improved my view"

Has the program impacted the likeliness of you volunteering in the future?

10/13 answered "I plan to volunteer A.S.A.P."

Social YLNI Hot Spots

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 of the month 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

- January - 2Toms Brewing Company
- February - Summit City Brewerks
- March - JK O'Donnell's Irish Ale House
- April - Hop River Brewing Company
- May - Clyde Clubroom
- June - Rudy's Shop
- July - The Philmore on Broadway
- August - Club Soda
- September - Conner's Rooftop Bar
- October - 07 Pub
- November - Nawa

Program Chairs

Josey Seabolt, Rachel Batdorff



Social: LFW Concert Series

The Living Fort Wayne Concert Series rocked Downtown Fort Wayne for its seventh and final summer, with over 500 people attending to hear live music and eat local food! We featured two amazing, free concerts at Headwaters Park West in July and August with local musicians, beverages from the Brass Rail, and local food trucks. In July, Pat Donley opened for the Legendary Trainhoppers. In August, Alyssa Enright opened the evening followed by the Hubie Ashcraft Band.

LFW Committee

Kara Hawley (chair), Megan Grimes, Britny Berndt





A Note from our President

When I reflect on YLNI and our accomplishments over the last year as an organization, the first word I think of is courage. Vulnerability is courage and courage is a prerequisite of leadership. Leadership isn't about a title or power. It's an action, and the best leaders step into action. They show up and know their worth. Leaders are called to see opportunities when others see obstacles. Good leaders lead by influence, not control, and great leaders are intentional about empowering the right people. YLNI embodies this, and over the last year, we leveled up.

I will proudly say our status quo was incredible, and humbly say it could be better. We can all always improve, and to do so, we must step into the arena of discomfort and the unknown. We must be courageous. Last year, we could have easily maintained our programming and stayed comfortable, but instead we forced ourselves to stretch outside our comfort zone.

We stretched our leadership development programming and added a Next Gen Leadership Institute to focus on college students and young entrepreneurs; this addition rounds out our leadership programming. Now we have the High School Leadership Institute, Next Gen Leadership Institute and our traditional Leadership Institute program.

We stretched our community engagement and advocacy efforts. We hosted the our first-ever general election mayoral debate, not because we are a political organization (we aren't), but because we care about our community. Politics is a part of our community, and we want everyone, especially young people, to be educated.

We expanded our social programming by adding Social Meetups to our roster of events, added the MovedIN committee that focuses on helping transplants settle in to our city, and stretched our relationships with community leaders by hosting quarterly round table discussions.

These are just a few examples of how we endeavor to be better. I believe who we are is how we lead. YLNI is an organization made up of bold, courageous young leaders making an impact in this community. As we look forward, we will continue to be courageous, strive to grow and stretch this organization. We hope to do it with you by our side.

I'd like to thank our sponsors and grantees for supporting us and our mission; the community leaders who believe in and support our organization; our board of directors, committee chairs, members and volunteers for helping to make our mission a reality.

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

Savannah Robinson

President

Young Leaders of Northeast Indiana



YLNI.org



@YLNI.org



@youngleadersnei



@YLNI



Young Leaders of
Northeast Indiana