

Lynn Heil Named New Youth Action Council Coordinator



Lynn Heil has been named the new Youth Action Council Coordinator at the Midland Area Community Foundation. Lynn comes to the Community Foundation from Michigan Technological University where she served as the Youth Programs Coordinator.

Lynn's new position at the Foundation will entail managing both the Gladwin and Midland Youth Action Councils for the Midland Area Community Foundation. She will be assisting youth with the grant making process, helping them select volunteer and community involvement opportunities and coordinating events planned by the Youth Action Council.

"We are so pleased to have Lynn here," said Jan McGuire, President and CEO of the Midland Area Community Foundation. "She came highly recommended and her enthusiasm for the youth in our community is fantastic. We feel we've found the best possible match for this position."

Previous to her position at Michigan Technological University, Lynn has served as the Dow College Opportunity Program Director at the West Midland Family Center, and has been a teacher and a mentor for teens. "I am very excited to start in this

new position to help teens adopt the spirit of giving and to gain leadership skills to become future community leaders," said Lynn.

The Youth Action Council in Midland County started in 1992 and the Gladwin Youth Action Council started in 2004. Both groups consist of teens interested in volunteering, getting involved in their communities and learning about non-profit work. Teens in the Youth Action Councils participate in community events, manage two grant cycles a year and attend monthly meetings.

Lynn is currently studying for her Masters of Science in Administration and enjoys hiking, biking, backpacking and reading in her free time. She encourages anyone seeking more information about the Youth Action Council Program to contact her at lheil@midlandfoundation.org or 989-839-9661 ext. 34



Lynn Heil, new Youth Action Council Coordinator

Michaele Malecki, Youth Action Council Volunteer : *Making a Difference*

I joined MACF because I love what they do, and the projects they support. I have kids in middle school and high school, and as they become more independent, I have more free time to pursue other volunteer opportunities. Working with Lynn and MCYAC, I am impressed with skills these teens are learning, and amazed with the personal responsibility and commitment they have shown toward their community.

My hobbies include skiing, quilting, reading and travel. I also volunteer in school and church activities.

I graduated from U of M with a Bachelor of Science in dental hygiene. I am currently retired.



Michaele Malecki, Youth Action Council Volunteer

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MCYAC

By: Nathan Pastuzyn, Public Relations Chair

Midland County Youth Action Council (MCYAC) is an opportunity to give back to the community. Many people talk about what they want to change, but rarely get around to actively pursuing that goal. MCYAC gives community youth the ability and responsibility to improve the county we live in. This teaches the members of MCYAC a crucial set of skills that allow them to improve the communities they will live in as adults. It also gives them crucial leadership experience that will allow them to survive in the world beyond middle school and high school.

I joined MCYAC at the request of one of my friends who was already in the group. At our very first meeting, we cleaned and renewed a public park that many children would use throughout the year. This was just the beginning of the positive effects I was able to experience firsthand as a member of MCYAC. We gave grants to community service projects, giving us the ability to see and support the projects that would really impact the community the most. We also volunteered with the projects we funded, allowing us to see exactly how we had helped the community. This ability to directly influence the well-being of

my community is what convinced me to stay in the group.

This year, we hope to have more community impact than ever before. We've set out in search of new members, to expand our group and obtain a better sense of the county's opinion. We're also trying to help raise awareness of the other charity groups in town. On October 21, 2008, MCYAC worked to raise money downtown during Mannequin Night; proceeds will benefit the Women's Shelter House.

MCYAC gives every youth in the county the ability to change Midland for the better. It allows their voice to be heard, and also brings serious help to those who need it. It's a truly youth-led group, with very wide reaching impacts.



Nathan Pastuzyn,
Public Relations Chair

MCYAC and GladYAC Attend Their First Regional Orientation

By: Lynn Heil, Youth Action Council Coordinator



Annually, GladYACers and MCYACers kick off the new school year with an orientation for their own group members. This year, they joined forces for the first time with YACers from Bay City, Clare and Saginaw for a Regional Orientation.

On a Saturday in September, 50 youth and supportive adults gathered at the Carriage House in Midland's Heritage Park to learn what it takes to be a strong member of a Youth Action Council. As the teens mingled with those from other YACs,

they learned about the different ways they are all making their communities stronger. Mike Goorhouse, a Youth Philanthropy Associate for the Council of Michigan Foundations facilitated the workshop, and led the youth through exercises about increasing diversity in their groups and proactive granting. The event was a huge success and the groups will be working together in the future.



Volunteering with GladYAC

By: Joyce Swartzmiller, GladYAC Advisor



Joyce Swartzmiller, GladYAC
Volunteer

In 2004, a friend called and asked if I was interested in helping him with a new project. He said it was “right up my alley!” He told me it involved my volunteering to work with young adults and money. He then described an opportunity for me to volunteer with students from grades 6 to 12. I had an opportunity to teach young people about getting involved within the community in which they lived by giving back to a community where they work and/or play.

As an avid volunteer, I jumped at the chance to work with young people. I was right, it was a great opportunity. Not only are the students smart, witty, caring and giving, they are creative and innovative. We were able to review grants and give money back to the community. The YACers

were great. They took charge and reviewed the grants, making calls to the grantee to clarify information and they came back with suggestions on what to do with the money. Did I say they are caring and giving? We have also completed some hands-on projects. For several years, we have completed a coat drive for the Dept. of Human Services (FIA), we have raised money (through a pop bottle drive) for a Christmas Adopt-A-Family project, we have purchased toiletries for a teen project, sleeping bags for needy campers and the list goes on. Did I say that it is a pleasure to work with these wonderful young adults? Did I say that this is the best program for our youth to find out about giving money back to their community and what a great feeling it is to help people in need? This is a great program and the students are great to work with. I would suggest to anyone wanting to know what the Gladwin Youth Action Council is doing, to stop in at a meeting or look for us in the community. I’m sure you will find us there. This has been a very fun and rewarding four years for me and very beneficial for the community.

Big Plans for GladYAC This Year

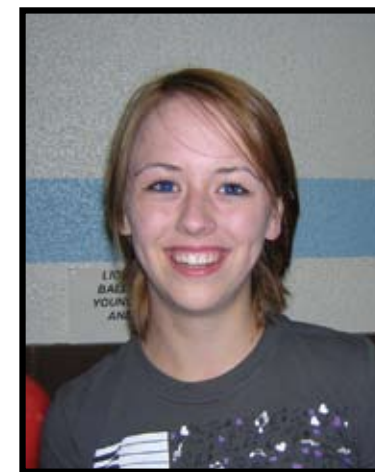
By: Katie Coker

So far this year, GladYAC is off to a great start! Even though we haven’t done much yet, we are very excited to get started.

GladYAC has been a great opportunity for the youth in the community to get involved in various service projects. Some people have things that they want to change in our community and being in GladYAC gives them the chance to do it. It feels good to know that you can make a difference for people that need it.

At our next meeting, we will be working on grants. We were also thinking about doing some proactive granting. We will be going to local non-profit organizations and letting them know that there are opportunities out there to receive grant money. It’s nice to know that we can help the community through the money that we grant.

At our last meeting, we discussed a few things that we were planning on doing this month. We will be judging the outdoor fall decorations for Beaverton. Most of the members in GladYAC are from the same school and grade, so we are working on recruiting younger kids from different schools to make our YAC more diverse. We were also working on ideas for new t-shirts or sweatshirts. We are looking forward to another great year!



Katie Coker, GladYAC

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Volunteers at the Foundation

The Midland Area Community Foundation is pleased to have a wonderful group of volunteers who support the operations of the Foundation. We are pleased to highlight *some* of them here, but we know there are many more who have yet to be recognized. We have Santa House volunteers, RIVERDAYS volunteers, Senior Christmas Dinner volunteers...and so many more people who dedicate their time, talent and energy to community events and general Foundation assistance. Please contact Bonnie McManus at 989-839-9661 to find out more about volunteering at the Foundation.

We would like to thank:

Rita Morse for her outstanding summer of service to the Foundation. Rita's professional organization of our archival material was fabulous! Our history of articles and photographs is almost completely organized according to Rita's thoughtful planning and implementation. We appreciate not only Rita's time, energy and creative ideas but it was a pleasure to have her in the office this summer.

Kathleen Davis for her tireless pursuit of communications excellence. Kathleen has volunteered her professional expertise in the area of communications for the Foundation and her wealth of knowledge has been very beneficial to the Foundation. Did you attend the Open House? Chances are, Kathleen's ideas were the reason you heard about it.

Michaele Malecki for her dedication to the youth of our community in the form of a Youth Action Council volunteer. Micheale assists with communications, event organization for the Youth Action Council, and assists the young adults as they learn about philanthropy and what it means to be a leader.

Jason Beck for his long-term dedication to the Foundation. His comments on his work at the Foundation can be found on the next page.

Bob Johns, Jim Malek, Dave Thomas, and Jim McMann and the entire RIVERDAYS committee for all their help with RIVERDAYS.

Joyce Swatzmiller for her long-standing dedication to the youth of GladYAC.

MCYAC Volunteers for their dedication of time at the Annual Educators Open House in September. Not only did these young adults attend with big smiles on their faces, they represented the Foundation professionally and proudly. Their assistance in setting up, packing up and answering the public's questions was GREATLY appreciated.

The Davenport University staff for all their assistance with scholarship night!

Thanks to the Hospitality Committee for providing delicious homemade cookies for our scholarship awards night.

We would be remiss not give a very special thanks to our Board of Trustees, and all of our committee members, each and every one who volunteers their time and effort all year long.

A special welcome to our new Grants Committee members; Judy Rapanos, Angela Sheets, and Tina VanDam.



GladYAC Volunteer Youth enjoy an afternoon of team-building.