

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Making sure our programs are inclusive!

Our team has been working on LGBTQ training to ensure our policies and procedures are inclusive to the LGBTQ community. They went through a training organized by Mentor Minnesota to learn how to align our program and policies to make them inclusive to LGBTQ Youth in our community.

Throughout the past three weeks, the LGBTQ training has focused on inclusive vocabulary, how to make our space feel more inviting and safe, and having more intention with mentor recruitment and training. This training brought up things that staff at Youth Outreach have never thought of before and how much we are still missing. After this training, one of our tasks is to create a committee to work on changing policy and programming to align with our goals.

We are committed to continuing to learn and then do better!

In order to be able to continue to support the youth in Red Wing, we need your help. If you are able to make a financial donation at this time, we have several options available:

- **Venmo App:** @RedWingYouthOutreach
- **Mail your donation:** Use the enclosed envelope to mail a donation to our office.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Please use the included envelope to mail your donation.



- **Thrivent Choice Dollars:** If you are a Thrivent Financial member, designate Red Wing Youth Outreach as your preferred agency to receive your Thrivent Choice Dollars.

We thank you for your continued support of our programs. Stay safe and healthy!



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MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN EDUCATION

SPRING 2021

Volunteer Spotlight

Before the pandemic, Anna Ostendorf, would spend her days preparing for or teaching art classes as the Director of Red Wing's ArtReach. During the pandemic, those art classes cannot take place in person, and instead, Anna is volunteering her time and talents as a site supervisor for Youth Outreach's Community Distance Education Assistance Program - or CDEAP. Anna's experience as an art instructor and RWPS substitute teacher, along with her open and naturally curious personality, has helped her make connections with our RWHS students who are seeking a safe, comfortable place to complete their distance learning days. Because of Anna's dedication to our program, we were able to open our second site at First Lutheran Church when RWHS went to full distance learning. She has helped plan CDEAP procedures, organize tutors, monitor and enforce safety protocols, and assist students as they attend classes and work on missing assignments. Youth Outreach is grateful to have Anna as a dedicated volunteer!



Anna Ostendorf, volunteer

As of April 7, we are providing space on Wednesdays at First Covenant Church for students to complete their school day and meet with tutors and mentors during their longer breaks.

"I've enjoyed working with the students at CDEAP. Some have used it as a place to work with minimal distractions and some have taken advantage of the help we can provide. We have had some students who have fallen behind for one reason or another that we have been able to support toward getting caught up. I want the kids to know that I am here, that I understand that things are weird and difficult right now, and that I care about them. Like most teenagers, they don't particularly want to talk much to this random adult, but I hope that message comes through." - Anna Ostendorf, volunteer



Students tutoring students on a non-school day

Youth Leadership and Advisory Council

In January our YLAC members did a Virtual Cooking group together. The focus was on easy crockpot meals and videos that our youth could watch when it was best for them. A big thank you to the Red Wing Elks Lodge and Stephanie Riegelman for providing all the food and videos!! Also, a big thank you to everyone who donated a crockpot to Youth Outreach! Here is A.A.'s thoughts on the pulled pork she made in the crockpot:

"I love this recipe because I have a 1 year old, I'm currently pregnant with my second child. Right now I'm in foster care so I'm beyond busy all of the time. I loved how this recipe is simple and didn't take much prep time, because it only takes 3 ingredients, it's beyond affordable! My son, my foster family and I really enjoyed this and with 5 of us eating it, we still have tons of leftovers. I'm going to be moving out in a few months into my own place and I am definitely going to be saving this recipe so I can make it for dinner on one of my days where I'm beyond busy! It's delicious as well and my son isn't too picky at all so I was glad he liked this too! I learned that you can cook pulled pork with rootbeer, I always thought that it was a lot more to pulled pork then that so I'm very happy that it was this simple!"

Mentoring

We asked our mentors how online/virtual mentoring is going...



"My mentee and I have been visiting via Zoom meetings. Our first meeting was a little awkward, as we had not seen each other in quite some time. Since we had both been staying at home and had not interacted with others we found it difficult to find things to talk about. Now, each time we meet, it has gone much better. In fact, during our last meeting I was getting ready to wrap things up and say goodbye when she asked if we could visit just a little longer! We do miss playing cards so will have to figure out a way we can do that over Zoom. She loves playing Old Maid!"

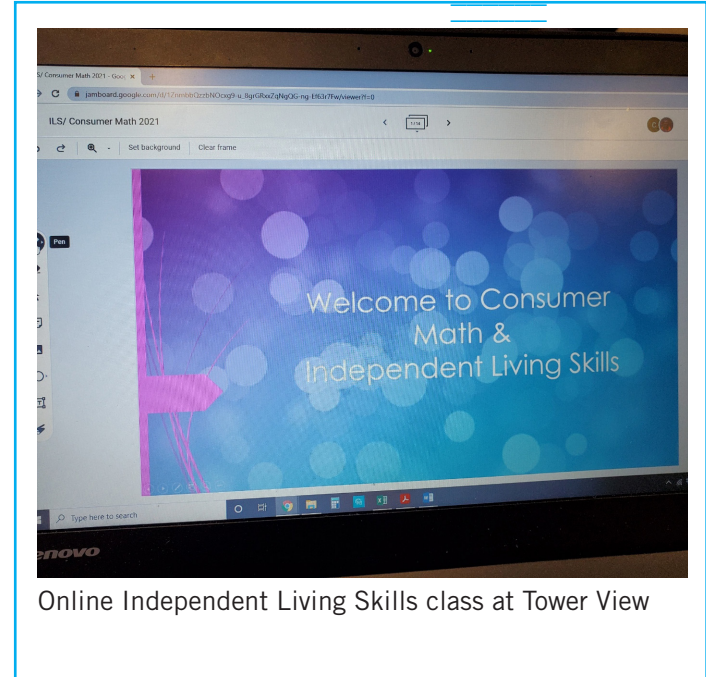


Ingredients to make this: 1 pork roast, 16 oz rootbeer, one bottle barbecue sauce.

Independent Living Skills

Consumer Math/Independent Living Skills at Tower View is going great! There are 14 kids in the class meeting virtually working on financial literacy right now. We do one pre, two mid, and one post assessment to see how the learning is going and to see how we can shift the lessons based on the skill level. We have seen so much growth in learning from the first assessment to the second. While taking the assessment, one of the students said, "I'm a budgeting God!" It was a rewarding moment! Teaching online has its difficult moments, but we love when we can all laugh together.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Chelsea is physically at Tower View meeting with youth to work 1:1 on their independent living plans and to provide support.



Online Independent Living Skills class at Tower View

Resources

If you know a child or young adult in the Red Wing community who may be in need of professional assistance, please contact Red Wing Youth Outreach at **651-388-3371**.

Did you see the February 13th edition of the Republican Eagle? It highlighted our CDEAP Program!



A desk and chairs await a student at First Covenant Church, one of two congregations providing space for online learning during the pandemic.

Hunter Buisse-Quandt says value for himself and other students through the Community Distance Education Assistance Program.

ONLINE
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"You get a lot of help here," he said.

Older sister Lady Dominguez-Rodriguez started coming weeks earlier and eventually brought her along. Her favorite aspect: "It's quiet. The coordinators Community Distance Education Assistance Program Youth Outreach looks the effort, but volunteers, the school district food service and two congregations make it happen.

"I am proud of our community for coming together to help meet the needs of these students during hybrid and distance learning. Distance learning is difficult for many families, and we are glad we can help provide stability, consistency and support for those most in need," Dominguez-Rodriguez said.

She is one of the staff at First Lutheran Church. That congregation and First Covenant Church provide the space and will live.

"The kids who come definitely get work done. There's technology questions, homework questions. Sometimes it's simply a reminder to turn the computer off and on again," Gorman said. "There are towels, snacks. Overall, it's a great program I think."

Both sites have ample room for the students to work. There also is space indoors and outdoors to walk, stretch and take a healthful break.

Ostendorf and TIT said that just like many other organizations, the program already needs more volunteers. People can volunteer a little or a lot.

That Thursday she sat quietly at one of the tables watching a half dozen students diligently work.

"I want the kids to know that I'm here, that I understand that things are weird and difficult right now, and that I care about them. Like most managers, they don't particularly want to talk much to this random adult, but I hope that message comes through," she said.

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