

# YOUTH OUTREACH NEWS

## PARENT ENGAGEMENT

On October 7th, 2021, Temeka presented at the Cradle to Career Network Convening: ROOTS TO RISE Grounded in Community, Together We Thrive.

This presentation to the StriveTogether network members and organizations explained the process that the Education Partnership Coalition used to foster leadership skills in parents/caregivers for the No Data About Us Without Us Fellowship. These skills lead to opportunities to use lived experience to improve outcomes for their families.

Key takeaways were for participants to:

- Understand the importance of investing in parent and core caregiver leadership.
- Gain tools to create their own fellowship programs.
- Learn best practices and how to address potential challenges in developing a fellowship.

We featured our very own Lead Parent, Yaneth Santiago Huerta, who participated in the fellowship. She is a Lead Parent Organizer for Red Wing Hispanic Outreach!

Since her transition to Red Wing Youth Outreach, Temeka has hopes of continuing the legacy to build parent capacity, raise parent voices, and to strengthen family unity, then use this knowledge to be advocates to speak up and to speak out in spaces where decision-making practices have historically impacted these families the most.

## YEAR-END GIVING

As you prepare for year-end giving, we ask that you consider Red Wing Youth Outreach. All donations go directly to support the costs of our youth programming. If you are able to make a financial donation at this time, we have several options available:

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

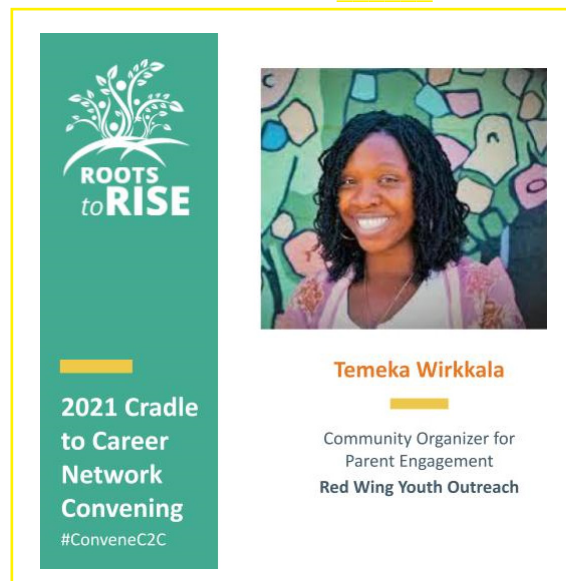
- I want to donate to Youth Outreach Programming
- I want to donate to Every Hand Joined Partnership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

This newsletter is available as an email. To sign up, please include your email address with this donation slip or email: mandyarden@redwingyouthoutreach.com



## Every Hand Joined Partnership

Since September 1, we have made some significant progress in realigning the community engagement efforts that had stalled due to COVID 19. Now under the Red Wing Youth Outreach umbrella, representatives from nine agencies have come together to create the new Leadership Team that will lead the partnership. This team has already secured local and state funding, adopted grant work plans that put children and families first, and are advancing community-based program priorities to shift the systems that parents and youth have identified are creating barriers to success.

The Every Hand Joined Partnership recognizes that the Red Wing community, when united, can understand issues influencing student success. When agencies work together-hand in hand- with parents and youth- we can align resources and funding to prioritize strategies that work right here in Red Wing. The Every Hand Joined Partnership uses a grassroots, boots-on-the-ground organizing methodology, which encourages community members to contribute by taking responsibility and action for their community. As we continue to support community engagement in Red Wing, we invite you to follow along or join an effort near to your heart. Many of the agencies in the Every Hand Joined Partnership have initiatives that could use more community member support.



## LOCAL PARTNERSHIP

December 2021

Lynn Holm, Vice President of Operations at Red Wing Credit Union Nominated Red Wing Youth Outreach (AND WON) for Alloya Corporate Federal Credit Union's \$10,000 for 10 Charities over 10 days, celebrating their 10th anniversary.

Her submission read:

Red Wing Credit Union recognized a need to be more involved in our community, simply writing check donations was not the desired path. We wanted to create a more powerful impact that highlighted the mission statement of credit unions "people helping people". We aimed for an approach that would offer employee engagement, provide avenues to build and strengthen community relationships, and enhance our brand awareness. We chose to focus on youth financial education.

One opportunity presented itself when a staff member of the Red Wing Youth Outreach Program requested a tour and a simple financial presentation for a group of at-risk teenagers. The counselor is a Red Wing Credit Union member and her personal experience of meaningful member service and valuable products directed her here. We knew the chance to guide young adults in fundamental personal finance lessons fit our objective perfectly. Not only could we provide mentorships, we could shape financial skills that would help these kids over a lifetime.

During our sessions we discuss how to utilize basic financial tools such as credit cards, savings and checking accounts. In addition we touch on elements in budgeting; how to pay you first, wants versus needs, or planned and unplanned purchases. Those real life scenarios are effective in training students to compare short-term and long-term rewards. The financial knowledge will allow them to make educated choices and plan for the future, by saving money to pay for college, buying a car or paying for unforeseen events. Understanding financial practices, will promote long term wellbeing by reinforcing good savings habits, reducing maxed-out credit cards, and paying debts on time. It also protects them against predatory practices and fraudulent schemes. These skills will be vital in assisting our



community's youth in transitioning to productive members of our community.

To supplement the financial aspect we also provide descriptions of the different staff positions in our office. The exposure offers a view of our job responsibilities and the skills, experience and education that it took to attain these positions within the credit union. As a long time tradition we have employed high school students as tellers and watched them advance to successful careers in accounting, medicine, health administration and credit union fields. The member service orientation in our office had a positive influence on their career choices and added valuable experience to their resumes.

Red Wing Credit Union looks to continue and expand our youth financial education. Opportunities such as employment, job shadowing, and financial education sessions for at-risk teenagers and high school students, will allow us to connect to those who need guidance. The financial focus will point the path in the right direction and ultimately benefit both parties. Credit Union employee engagement and satisfaction from community volunteering and well financially prepared youth makes for a win, win combination.

## YOUTH OUTREACH NEWS

### Mentoring

We are excited to be running several different sections of mentoring for youth at RWHS this year. We are meeting during REACH class, study halls, and after school during Winger Study. Through lessons, activities, and games, we are working to build connections with caring adults and strengthen social-emotional skills. This year our large group sessions will be focusing on relationship skills, social awareness, responsible decision making, self-management, and self-awareness.

Currently there are 33 mentor pairs who meet twice a month at school, 10 pairs who meet on their own outside of school, and 20+ additional students who visit our room and join us throughout the day in small groups and/or individual check-ins. We also are holding a trauma-informed yoga group for our 7-8 graders who are waiting for a mentor. We would love to be able to pair these students with mentors SOON! If you or someone you know is interested in being a mentor, please contact Jennifer at [jennifertift@redwingyouthoutreach.org](mailto:jennifertift@redwingyouthoutreach.org) or Jenna at [jennacollins@redwingyouthoutreach.org](mailto:jennacollins@redwingyouthoutreach.org) as soon as possible.



Chris Koza and his band visited mentoring!

This past month Youth Outreach Mentoring talked about obstacles in life and what strengths and qualities are used to overcome obstacles that come our way. Youth Outreach had an amazing opportunity to partner with the Sheldon Theater and have Chris Koza and his band come visit the Red Wing High School mentoring sessions. During the sessions the band played music that the students really enjoyed, and the band members spoke individually about obstacles that they have faced and how they overcame them to become the artists they are today. It was a really great opportunity to partner with the Sheldon Theater and have the mentors and mentees be able to listen to a different genre of music together. There was a show that the band played on Saturday, November 13, and some mentors and mentees attended the show together!

If you would like more information about becoming a mentor or know a High School or Middle School student who could use more caring adults in their lives, please contact Red Wing Youth Outreach.



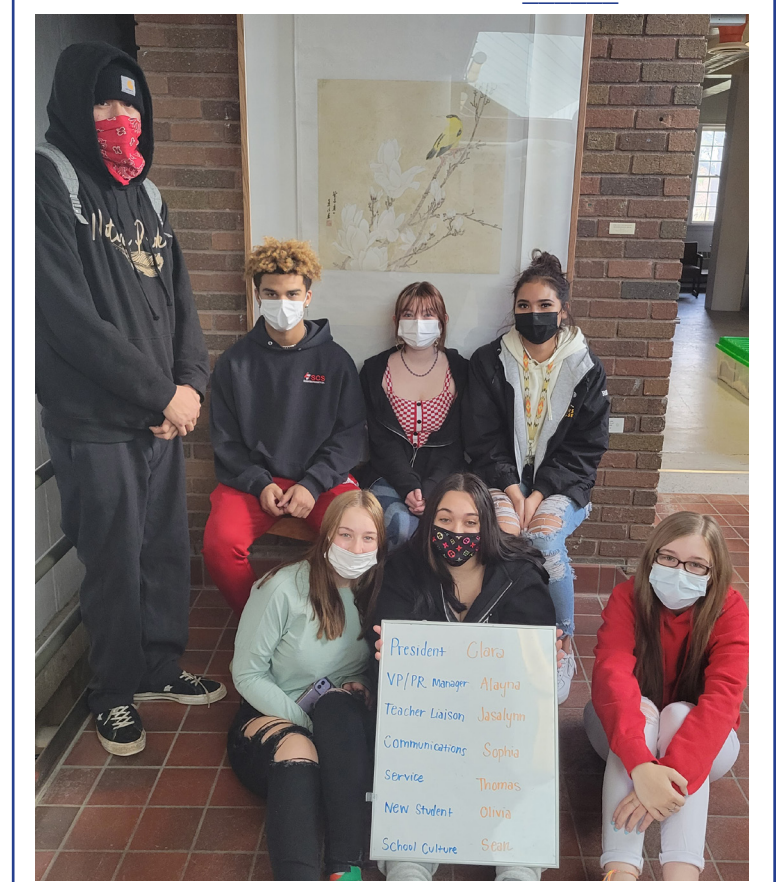
Anna Tauer, daughter of Jenny and Jay Tauer (Board Member), volunteered to create 30 gift bags with hygiene products for girls in our Christmas Drive program this year! She was able to secure funding, shop for the items, and package them all up for us. Thanks, Anna for helping us Make a Difference in the Lives of Youth!



## YOUTH OUTREACH NEWS

### Youth Leadership Council

We are coming up to our 2-year mark soon! Two years is the time commitment these youth have put towards the Youth Leadership Council. For our group this means it is time for us to elect our new officers for the 2022 Youth Leadership Council and for the current members to pass the baton to the new officers. The past two years, our Youth Leadership Council focused on service projects and learning what a Youth Leadership Council is. Our last project was helping with Fall Clean up at the Anderson Center and to celebrate the end, we had a pizza party! In one of our brainstorming sessions, our group has decided to expand and relocate. Our group will now meet at Tower View School where our focus for the next year will be service projects, being student ambassadors to new students, and enhancing school culture. It is a bittersweet moment of watching our current Youth Leadership Council complete this program. We are thrilled to give new opportunities to our upcoming leaders!



### Independent Living Skills

Our Independent Living Skills (ILS) Group at Tower View is a class that the students can take and earn credit in school while completing Red Wing Youth Outreach's programming. In this class we focus a lot on financial literacy through simulated activities, workshops, workbooks, and presentations. The first week of class, our youth take a financial literacy pretest and then 6 weeks later they take a post-test to assess skills learned. This quarter, in just weeks, their scores went up an average of 19.5% points! We also have speakers such as the Red Wing Credit Union and Express Employment come in and talk with our youth, which gives them the chance to really get to know each other, so our youth feel comfortable reaching out as needed. We have heard from these partners that youth have come into their spaces seeking services because of the relationship that was built in our program. We have also been working to overcome transportation barriers for our youth that have obligations after school they need to get to quickly. We are so thankful to be able to provide this out at Tower View!