

MAYOR DAVE WOOD YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

Publication written by Ishita Masetty, Communication Coordinator

MY COMMUNITY MY VISION PROGRAM



Mayor Dave Wood & Jaimi Wood

The My Community My Vision program, launched on October 2nd by Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) and My Community My Vision Program (MCMV), selected the Mayor Dave Wood Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) as one of four youth councils across Indiana to participate. The program offers high school students the chance to plan and execute a community project, connecting them with local neighborhoods while developing valuable skills in community planning, leadership, and fundraising. Over the next six months, MYAC will work alongside a nonprofit/local government sponsor to craft a project, create a budget, and develop a fundraising strategy. Using Patronicity a crowd

funding program, the students aim to raise \$25,000, with Patronicity offering matching funds for successful campaigns. The program includes in-person and virtual workshops on topics like placemaking, fundraising, and stakeholder engagement, providing essential tools for successful project execution.

At the program's conclusion, students will present their work and achievements to their peers and Indiana's community development leaders. This opportunity allows the MYAC to make a lasting impact on their community while gaining practical experience in project management and community engagement.

TOUR OF THE NEW MISHAWAKA FIRE STATION

On October 14th, the MYAC cohort had the opportunity to be the first group to tour the new Mishawaka Fire Station, gaining valuable insight into the daily operations of the city's fire department. The tour allowed members to explore the state-of-the-art facilities, equipment, and technology that support firefighters in their critical work.

During the visit, Fire Chief Bryan Woodward shared his experiences and answered questions, giving the group a deeper understanding of the fire department's vital role in keeping the community safe. The tour also featured a Q&A session where MYAC members learned about firefighting, emergency response protocols, and community safety.

(Continued on next page)

TOUR OF THE NEW MISHAWAKA FIRE STATION

After the tour, MYAC held their regular meeting, where they discussed upcoming initiatives, including the Thanksgiving Food Drive. The meeting focused on ways the council could support local families and veterans, and many members left the fire station feeling inspired by the dedication of their local heroes.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE



The Thanksgiving Food Drive was a key initiative for MYAC this fall, and we are proud to share that it was a resounding success. The MYAC set a goal to prepare 75 complete Thanksgiving meals for local families and veterans in need. These meals were designed to provide a full holiday meal. With the help of city employees, local organizations, schools, and individual community members, the MYAC was able to collect the necessary items to create the meals. Our youth council members worked tirelessly to assemble the food boxes and ensure that each meal was packaged with care and attention to detail.

On November 19th a total of 50 meals were delivered to HealthLinc, a community partner dedicated to supporting families in our area, while 25 meals were distributed to local veterans and the VFW Post 360 on November 21st.

The food drive was a heartwarming reminder of the power of community and the importance of coming together to help others. It was incredibly fulfilling to see the impact of the members' efforts and witness the gratitude of those who received the meals. We'd like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this initiative. Whether you donated food, volunteered your time, or helped spread the word, your support played a critical role in making this event possible. Together, we made this holiday season a little brighter for those in need.

WINTERFEST

Winterfest was back and bigger than ever on Dec. 7. This was a shining example of community togetherness for the holidays, as the students took an active role in making the event a memorable one for everyone involved. From helping to manage the parade route to helping with festive photo opportunities with Santa Claus, the students contributed to the success...

(Continued on next page)

WINTERFEST



of this holiday tradition for our city. Along with ice skating, tree lighting, holiday market, food trucks, a trackless train, axe throwing, fire performers and ice carving, one of the most exciting features of Winterfest was the parade with 40 participating floats this year. To ensure the parade ran smoothly and flowed effortlessly, the students were stationed along the borders of the street with Christmas lights to act as guides and traffic controllers. They worked hard to keep everyone safe while the decorated floats passed by. In addition to the parade, some of the students played an important role as an elf of sorts by creating magical moments for families during the photo opportunities with Santa Claus.



Not only is Winterfest known for bringing together the people of Mishawaka to celebrate the spirit of the season, but a time to remember the importance of giving back and the joy that comes from working together to create something truly special for everyone to enjoy.

As we continue our work, the MYAC is excited to embark on new projects and initiatives that will positively impact Mishawaka. We look forward to bringing more opportunities for our members to engage with the community, learn about local government, and make meaningful contributions to the city we call home.

STAY TUNED FOR MORE UPDATES AND UPCOMING PROJECTS FROM THE MAYOR DAVE WOOD YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL!

Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram



Thank you to Marian, Mishawaka and Penn for their ongoing support.