



2016 ANNUAL REPORT



WHO WE ARE

OUR INVESTMENT TO ENGAGE AND EMPOWER EMERGING LEADERS

Big things are happening in Northeast Indiana. YLNI serves the emerging leaders of our region because we're investing in the future of our community. By 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 talents. YLNI is building a foundation of young leaders who will continue to work for the success of Northeast Indiana.

Led entirely by a team of committed volunteers, Young Leaders of Northeast Indiana has been building a community where people want to live, work, and play. Our members are entrepreneurs, artists, business people, musicians, accountants, doctors, lawyers, teachers, students, and everyone in between. Our dedicated volunteers love Northeast Indiana, and their willingness to share that passion makes our organization successful.



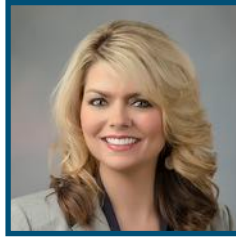
MEET THE BOARD



Stephanie Veit
President



Ryan Krueckeberg
Vice President



Savannah Robinson
Secretary



Grant Daily
Treasurer



John Foxworthy
EC Director at Large



Pone Vongphachanh
VP of Community Impact



Vinod Vijayan
Director at Large
Community Impact



John Felts
VP of Communications



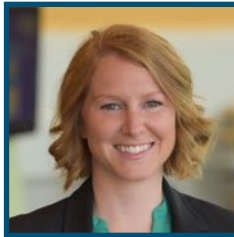
Justin Ramsey
VP of Leadership
Development



Mark Bains
Director at Large
Leadership Development



Patrick Florea
VP of Fund Development



Lindsey Best
Director at Large
Fund Development



Abigail Zimmer
VP of Membership



Sarah Verpoooten
VP of Social



Leslie Snare
Director at Large
Living Fort Wayne

Our organization relies on generosity, passion, and commitment. YLNI doesn't have a payroll -- volunteers manage every single one of our projects and initiatives. Our volunteers live and work here, 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 all members welcome your input.



OUR MISSION

YLNI's mission is to attract, develop and retain emerging leaders through *community, professional and social engagement.*

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COMMUNITYIMPACT



Living Fort Wayne is your one-stop shop for information on all things that keep our vibrant city buzzing. We strive to offer so much more than just what a place is called and where it's located; 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 LivingFortWayne.com along for the ride. We will share the experiences we've had around town and keep you posted on the latest people, places and happenings in Fort Wayne.



320 Site Visits Per Day
6,949 Site Visits Per Month
165 Articles in 2016
4,457 Facebook Likes
5,659 Twitter Followers
5,803 Instagram Followers

By providing a forum to showcase all of the positive things happening in our city, we engage the citizens of our community and encourage an optimistic outlook on Fort Wayne, creating a sense of pride and attachment to the city we call home.

We are your *digital front door to life in Fort Wayne.*

Ultimately, Living Fort Wayne is here to showcase everything that is great about living, working and playing in Fort Wayne!

3 MOST POPULAR STORIES

1. "The Golden Fort Wayne Prepares for a Bright Debut" *by Becca Bell*
2. "The Yummi Bunni is Hopping Onto Fort Wayne's Food Scene" *by Reneta Thurairatnam*
3. "Pumpkin Patches, Corn Mazes and More Fall Fun" *by Living Fort Wayne Team*

Committee: Leslie Snare, Tim Zink, Jasmine Bejar, Brittany King, Jade Kelsey, Eric Wilson, Maggie Emenheiser, Susan Tsai, Rachelle Reinking, Stephen J. Bailey, Becca Bell, Logan Bushey, Hillary Knipstein, Rebeccas Ladig-Moxter, Tera Frost, Angie Gomez, Reneta Thurairatnam, Sarah Verpooten, and Emily Adkins



The YLNI Farmers Market is our organization's flagship program. From April through September, the YLNI Farmers Market features over 100 local vendors who personally make or grow the products they sell. In 2016, more than 28,500 people visited the market to pick up groceries and other artisanal goods on Saturday mornings. It also serves as a special destination where community members and guests can find a new favorite local vendor or unique item, while live music and children's activities round out the experience. The YLNI Market is completely organized and run by YLNI volunteers, and this year we were proud to continue that service in partnership with the History Center for a 12th season.



Committee: Ashley Wagner, Taylor Miller, Michael Webber, Hetty Arts, Jessi Ferry, Ann Carman, Jessica Hockmeyer, Greg Hering, Ruth Koontz, Vinod Vijayan, and Pone Vonphachanh

COMMUNITY IMPACT



In spring 2016, YLNI the Vote hosted Meet the Candidates Night at the Embassy Theatre for the general municipal elections to inform voters of the candidates running. The event welcomed 10 candidates and over 50 attendees who learned about important legislative issues. In the fall, YLNI the Vote hosted the second Rally the Vote at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art to raise voter awareness and further community engagement.



YLNI the Vote Committee: John Hudson, Melissa Beber, Lucretia Cardenas, Pune Vonphachanh, and Vinod Vijayan

Rally the Vote Committee: Sam Dickinson, Adam Welch, John Hudson, Lakisha Woods, Lucretia Cardenas, Beth Lock, Rachel Lott, Justin Molitoris, Lindsey Best, Melissa Beber, Nikki Quintana, and Pune Vonphachanh

The Community Engagement and Advocacy committee is a branch of YLNI that focuses directly on the issues that matter to our membership. We want you to know about issues that affect your community and your peers, and we create awareness of legislation that would affect you. Then we advocate on your behalf.

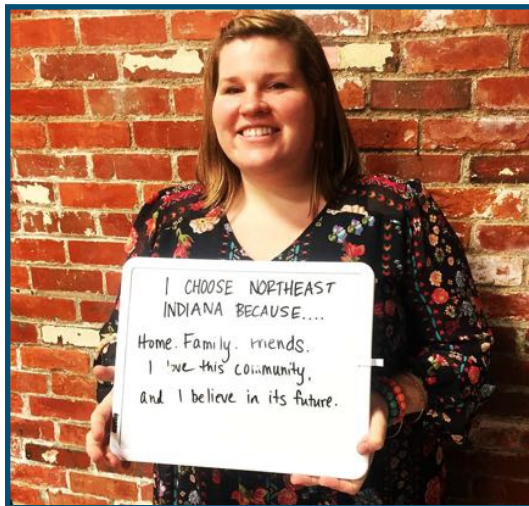




Continuing our support for public education, YLNI held a voters forum about the Fort Wayne Community Schools Phase 2 initiative in March. FWCS representatives met with 25 attendees to discuss the new improvements and major renovations at 42 schools and answer questions.

#INREGIONALCITIES

The Regional Cities proposal has dramatically increased the attention shown to many downtown Fort Wayne development projects. YLNI believes these projects - a downtown arena, riverfront development, Cityscape Flats, Embassy improvements, Clyde Theater renovations, and more - are vital to the community's growth and continued momentum. YLNI encourages local and state governments to partner with local and regional economic development organizations to find viable solutions that would allow financing for these projects to come primarily from private funding, with support from public funds.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



YLNI's Leadership Institute uses hands-on instruction, small group activities, personal reflection, and sharing to help participants develop the skills needed to advance in their careers and community. The 11th season of Leadership Institute saw record-breaking application submissions. Six of the region's top experts provided guidance and instruction on topics ranging from personality recognition and communication effectiveness to board stewardship and business ethics. Leadership Institute participants celebrated graduation at the new 400 Club at Parkview Field in April.



2016 LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE CLASS

BRYAN KAPOCIUS
SHAWN SULLIVAN
BRAD WANER
KODY TINNEL
NATHAN DAVIDHIZAR
LYNNE SMITH
OLIVIA FOUGHT
JUSTIN WALKER
RACHAEL DRISCOLL
BRIAN STRZELECKI
COREY FORSTER

ERICA MCMAHON
CHASE LOCKWOOD
SARA BEST
MEGAN CARUTHERS
REBECCA KAUFELD
ALLEN HOWARD
MELISSA SHAW
MOHAMED KADOUS
ANNE HALL
JASMINE BEJAR
KARA HACKETT
LAUREN PETRILL

TED PAPPERT
SEAN CRABILL
MICHAEL NIEZER
KELLY GWINER
KRISTIN WUENSCH
KATRINA SCHERER
EMILY STUCK
ANTONIO PISHVAI
CHELSEA BEAMAN
SARAH MURPHY
MALLORY KESSLER
DALTON MCGILL

Committee: Kourtney Teegardin, Chris Reeve, Tai Felger, Austin Allen, Ron Lewis, Audrey Gilbert, Chelsea Beaman, Kara Miller, Sonya Snellenberger, and Amanda Ladig



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



The Power Lunch series takes place once a month for four months. A group of five YLNI members had the unique opportunity to meet with one community leader for lunch. This personal interaction provides the leaders with an opportunity to candidly share experiences, while YLNI members are able to ask questions. By meeting with the same group for four months, each group has an opportunity to build relationships with the leaders of the community.

2016 COMMUNITY LEADERS

KENNETH JONES

CEO, *St. Joseph Hospital*

JOHN URBAHNS

Exec. VP of Economic Development, *Greater Fort Wayne*

JOSETTE RIDER

CEO, *Big Brothers Big Sisters Northeast Indiana*

WENDELL BONTRAGER

Regional President, *Old National Bank*

Committee: Eric Frappier and Kevin Cahill



The YLNI Mentor Program is designed to couple juniors and seniors from local universities with emerging professionals in their field of interest for the purpose of professional networking as well as an introduction to YLNI. Students and mentors meet on a monthly basis throughout the fall semester. Both students and mentors are provided tools and resources on how to establish a successful mentoring relationship. YLNI's goal is to introduce students seeking to stay in our community to social, volunteer, and community activities through one-on-one relationship building with mentors in their professional field of interest.

SWEETWATER SOUND | PARKVIEW HEALTH | VISIT FORT WAYNE

HUNTINGTON UNIVERSITY | EATON CORPORATION | BRADLEY COMPANY

STRAHM BUILDING SOLUTIONS | NORTHEAST INDIANA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

BEERS MALLERS BACK AND SALIN | CROWE HORWATH

Program Chair: Hannah Stork

SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

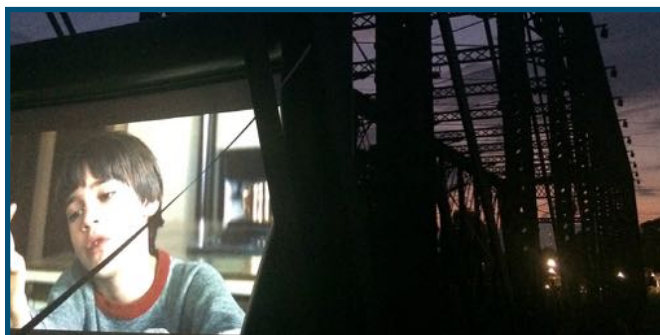


The third year of the Living Fort Wayne Concert Series saw remarkable growth in attendance and enthusiasm. A total of 2,500 people of all ages attended the three free concerts, which were held at the Headwaters Park West amphitheater the first Wednesdays of June, July, and August. The concerts featured local musicians, children's activity areas, river boat rides, a beer garden from JK O'Donnell's, and food trucks.



Committee: Adam Bouthot, Laine Mello, Dave B. Goode, Patrick Ventura, and Krystal Smith

The Living Fort Wayne Film Series is a free outdoor film screening on the last weekend of the month, June through September, in various Fort Wayne locations, attracting an average of 75 attendees per film. At the beginning of the year, Living Fort Wayne sent out a survey to let the residents of Fort Wayne and surrounding areas to choose the films for the 2016 series. The 2017 series will return next summer in partnership with Riverfront Fort Wayne.



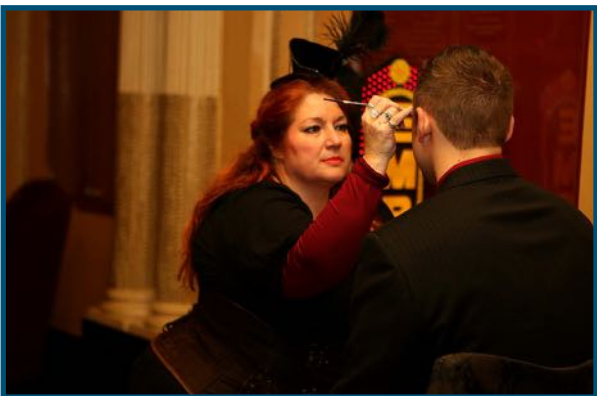
LIVING FORT WAYNE FREE OUTDOOR FILM SERIES		starts at dusk
www.livingfortwayne.com/film-series		
SAT JUN 25	LEADER OF THEIR OWN 3942 Parkland Lane, 730 S. Calhoun	PG
SAT JUL 30	NEVERENDING STORY Wells Street Bridge	PG
FRI AUG 26	IT HAPPENED ONE NIGHT Arts Unleashed, 303 E. Main St.	UNRATED
SAT SEP 24	BOOK OF LIFE Chandler-Kelley Allen Co. Library Plaza, 608 Library Plaza	G

Lutheran Health Network
 STRAHM
 YUNI

Committee: Emily Wissel, Kara Hackett, Amanda Neumann, Andy Helm Kemp, Megan Caruthers, and Sarah Schuh



The 12th annual Masquerade Ball continued a beloved community tradition with approximately 200 YLNI members and non-members in attendance. The theme was “A Night at the Opera” and the event was held at the Embassy Theatre in downtown Fort Wayne. Attendees enjoyed delicious food from Catablu, complimentary beer and wine, music from All Stars DJs and various other entertainment.



Committee: Allison Hanford, Mark Lash, John Foxworthy,
Kelly Rentschler, and Sarah Verpooten

SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT



The YLNI Hot Spot is a 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. Each month, the Hot Spot is held at a different location, giving YLNI an opportunity to really show off the variety here in Fort Wayne.

**HOPPY GNOME | SUMMIT CITY BREWERKS | BAR 145 | PARKVIEW FIELD
PHILMORE | MAD ANTHONY BREWING | PEDAL CITY | THE GOLDEN | CLUB SODA
MAIN STREET BISTRO & MARTINI LOUNGE | CALHOUN STREET SOUPS SALADS & SPIRITS**



Committee: Beth Bright and Kienan O'Rourke



In 2016, HereSay, in partnership with YLNI, started as a new blog channel that focuses on what young professionals are saying, thinking, and believing about the momentum happening right here in Northeast Indiana.

Led by YLNI member Kara Hackett, HereSay has become a popular read among members and community leaders alike. Hackett, who is a native of Fort Wayne, has written stories about Riverfront Development, our Midwest location, Fort Wayne’s music scene, and much more. Find these articles and more on YLNI’s blog.

2016 HERESAY BLOG ARTICLES

- “Time to Start Something”
- “Momentum Has a Soundtrack - And It’s Loud”
- “Celebrating Our Local Music Scene”
- “Taking Advantage of Our Location”
- “Neighborhoods of the Future are Rooted in Fort Wayne’s Past”

- “The Next Parkview Field”
- “We Must be Moved”
- “Changing What it Means to Shop Downtown”
- “The Fine Line Between Hate and Love”

TIME TO START SOMETHING
04 Dec 2016 11:50 AM | posted by Kara Hackett (Administrator)

The Landing has been a central player in downtown development since the early 1800s.

It was once the main "landing" place downtown along the Wabash Erie Canal, home to historic events, like Thomas Edison's brief stint in Fort Wayne as a telegraph operator for the Wabash Railroad Company.



TAKING ADVANTAGE OF OUR LOCATION
10 Oct 2016 11:42 AM | posted by Kara Hackett (Administrator)

If you talk to anyone from Fort Wayne, they'll probably say our location is a perk.

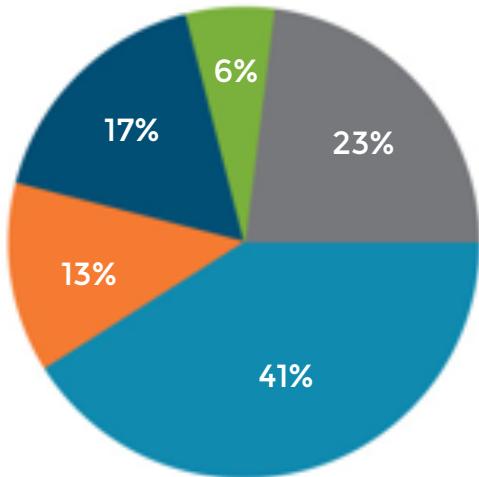
We're a mid-size city right between bigger cities like Chicago, Columbus, Indianapolis and Grand Rapids. So we don't have the daily hassles of big city life. And we can still get anywhere we want to go within a few hours.

But when I read an article about Fort Wayne in the Chicago Tribune a few months ago, I started to see our location in a different light.

Travel writer Alan Solomon said Fort Wayne "might be the Midwest's best-kept secret," and while it was awesome to see our city finally getting some good press on a national scale, the "secret" part of Solomon's observation didn't sit well with me.

YLNI's committees are self-sufficient and self-reliant. All the funding we receive goes directly into YLNI initiatives -- we have no administrative costs. If you support YLNI, you know all of your backing directly supports the community, professional, and social development of Northeast Indiana.

YLNI FUNDING BY PROGRAMMING



Community Impact - 23%

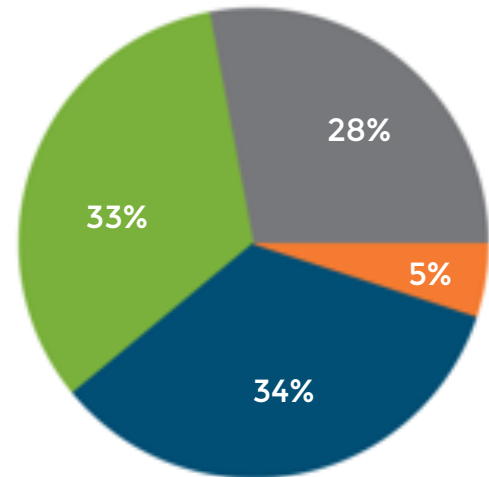
Membership - 6%

Social - 17%

Leadership Development - 13%

My City Summit - 41%

YLNI FUNDING SOURCES



Private Sponsors - 28%

Event Admission Fees - 33%

Grant Funding - 34%

Membership Dues - 5%

Committee: Patrick Florea, Lindsey Best, and Rena Burden

Whether it's weekly e-newsletters, website, social media, media relations, flyers, or brochures, Communications is in charge of keeping YLNI members, community leaders, and the local media informed of what's happening within our organization.



FACEBOOK

↑ 2,492 LIKES
FROM 1,986 IN 2015



TWITTER

↑ 3,471 FOLLOWERS
FROM 3,803 IN 2015

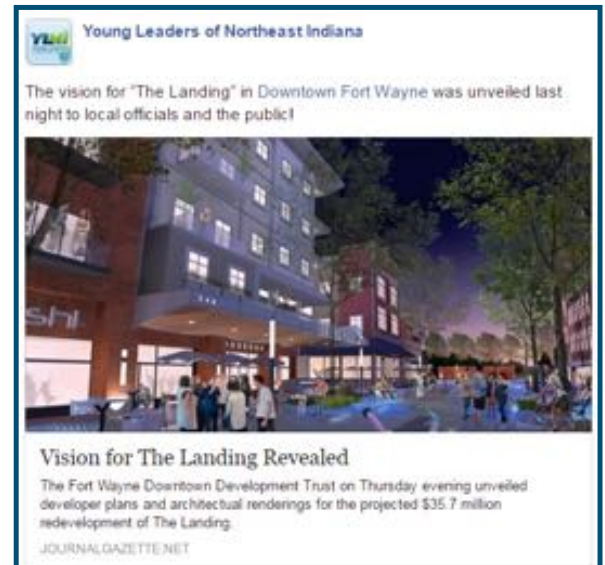
EMAIL MARKETING

↑ 1,840 SUBSCRIBERS
FROM 1,558 IN 2015

Bi-Weekly Newsletter

Special Members-Only Emails
(with special event offers and announcements)

Surveys, Ticket Offers, Contests, and More!



Committee: John Felts, Katie Robinson,
and Dan Kinnaley

PAID MEMBERSHIPS

↑ 289 PAID MEMBERS
FROM 278 IN 2015

MEMBER BENEFITS

Exclusive and Discounted Events
Membership Benefit Card
Access to Member Exclusive Programming

MEMBERS ONLY EVENTS



A Members Only event at Two-EE's Winery with Bravas and music from Soul35.



A Members Only event at Ted's Market exclusively for 12 members that included a cooking demo.

Committee: Abigail Zimmer, Nick Munson, Jared Baker, Ashley Smith, and Daniella Ash



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Each year, YLNI hosts a General Membership Meeting (GMM) in an effort to share our accomplishments with the YLNI network and seek to connect with new and current emerging leaders with our various committees. In 2016, more than 100 people attended the annual meeting, which was held at The Philmore and was open to everyone.

The keynote speaker was Tim Ash of Ash Brokerage who talked about the future of Downtown Fort Wayne and its growing momentum. Past YLNI Board Member and city advocate Mike King was recognized with the Exemplary Service Award for his long-standing commitment and support of YLNI.



THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER



It was an exciting 2016 for Young Leaders of Northeast Indiana that featured several accomplishments for our organization - including our highest level of membership to date of 289 emerging leaders!

We continued our tremendous programming that consisted of a full Leadership Institute class, Power Lunches, Masquerade Ball, Living Fort Wayne Concert Series, and Living Fort Wayne Film Series. The YLNI Farmers Market has developed as a destination for residents and visitors each Saturday. We will continue to reach new residents throughout Northeast Indiana thanks to our talented group of volunteers from LivingFortWayne.com.



We held our second Rally the Vote event to encourage residents to get out and vote, as well as Meet the Candidates Night and FWCS Phase 2 Voters Forum. We participated once again in the Fort Wayne Dragon Boat Races. Although we did not host a My City Summit this year, we are excited to hold the fourth My City Summit in January 2017 at the University of Saint Francis Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center.

We are very proud of all our programs and look forward to working with Fort Wayne organizations to grow and expand our current programming next year.

As you view this annual report we hope you find it apparent how hard our volunteers work. We hope to give you just a glimpse of the impact that our organization has had on the City of Fort Wayne for the last 11 years. YLNI is still an all-volunteer organization, please keep that in mind as you view all these programs and events put on by volunteers.

We could not be more proud of our 125+ volunteers who work tirelessly all year long to make this region a better place to live, work, and play. We are excited to be a part of Northeast Indiana's exciting change and look forward to helping to achieve our region's goals and aspirations.

Thank you to all of you who make our organization a success,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Stephanie Veit'. The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Stephanie Veit
President
Young Leaders of Northeast Indiana



Thank you to all of our sponsors who have supported us, not only throughout this past year, but during our eleven years as an organization. It is with your help that we are able to do what we do for Northeast Indiana!



Fort Wayne Metals
Redwood Living Communities
Greater Fort Wayne
Waterfield Foundation
Strahm Building Solutions
Barnes & Thornburg
Arnold Foundation
Lake City Bank
PNC

Crowe Horwath
Downtown Improvement District
Magic 95.1
New Image Printing
JH Specialty, Inc.
Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership
Old National Bank
KPC Media



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