

YOUTH UNITED OVERVIEW

The mission of Youth United is to engage teens in community service. We hope that through this, we will be able to empower YU members by providing them opportunities, resources, leadership, and support so they can make positive impacts in our community. We also hope to educate youth on community issues by highlighting their causes and exploring ways to resolve and prevent the problems. We also hope to raise awareness of volunteer opportunities within our community and make it easy and fun for youth to get involved in community service. And most of all, we want to help youth in developing lifetime commitments to community service. To achieve these goals, YU has developed an organizational structure which gives all members a vital role in YU accomplishments.

YOUTH UNITED BOARD OF DIRECTORS is comprised of Youth United committee chairs and co-chairs plus a Chair and Chair-elect of the Board. These 8 members actively participate in managing and directing the Youth United program and its members. The Board decides Youth United goals, reviews member participation, coordinates committees, and will have the opportunity to gain more volunteer hours than members due to extra meetings. Also, Board members will have opportunities to speak on behalf of YU to local groups and organizations, as well as at United Way Board & committee meetings.

The **PROJECT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** visualizes, plans, organizes, and manages Youth United projects, as well as identifies volunteer opportunities available through other local organizations. Project Managers are to coordinate with agencies and the other YU committees to ensure projects are planned well and have all resources needed (e.g., funding, donations, volunteers, materials, etc). Projects are selected on a monthly basis. This committee is responsible for informing, coordinating and mobilizing volunteers. *Strong leadership and organizational skills are useful for members of this committee.*

Providing grants to agencies whose programs address youth needs is one function of the **RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT & DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE**. Resource Development & Distribution Committee is tasked with managing and allocating Youth United resources. They are also in charge of developing our resource pool, to include partnerships, supporters, volunteers, donations, and funds. *Strong people skills and organizational skills are useful for members of this committee.*

The objective of the **MARKETING & COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE** is to organize special events for students promoting youth volunteerism and United Way programs. Charged with keeping youth activities as the focal point, they utilize sites like Facebook and Myspace to raise awareness of YU and YU activities. They also write columns, design flyers & campaigns, as well as implement an ongoing public relations strategy for the Youth Volunteer Program. The Marketing Committee strives for out-of-the-box strategies that gain teen attention and focus it on community needs, volunteerism, YU and YU projects. *Creativity, experience with graphic design or pictures, and good writing skills are useful for members of this committee.*

Each Youth United member will choose one committee to serve on. Youth United is a team, and each committee is interdependent on the others. Our projects will not be successful without strong teamwork with each person doing their fair share. *YU members are expected to attend committee meetings, communicate with committee chairs & co-chairs, and be accountable for tasks.*

Through Youth United, we have the power to select which issues we want to address and how we will accomplish our goals; but with that power comes responsibility. Youth United is for teens who want to gain leadership experience and first-hand knowledge of the non-profit system and our community by working in a team setting. One person alone can't accomplish the goal, rather it will take all members working together – united – for Youth United to succeed!

What would
YOU do if you
KNEW
you could not FAIL
- Robert H. Schuller