

KEYSChain

The newsletter from Kosciusko Endowment Youth Services



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Exploring Generations

With Dr. David Hoffert

Every generation develops a different mindset because of the unique societal changes that happen as they grow. This was the topic of a panel discussion that KEYS students were able to be a part of that was facilitated by WCS Superintendent Dr. David Hoffert. Students learned not only how each generation was impacted by significant events, but gleaned insight about other generations.

An intriguing point made by Dr. Hoffert was the idea that the younger generations value individuality, while former generations believe in more of a collectivist outlook. While former generations tend to seek out more of a team approach, younger generations want to work on their own.

As we work together to understand the constant changes and challenges in our community, it is helpful to understand that there are diverse perspectives to consider. Everyone's perspective is needed to make Kosciusko County the best place for youth to thrive.



(L-R): AMY CANNON, JOE JACKSON, SARAH WALLEN,
JERID STOFFEL, SHERRILL HAMMAN

Meet the Guides

While KEYS is comprised of 20 students from across the county, five from each of the four school districts, the work they do is supported and guided by adult volunteers and staff members. Each high school brings one volunteer Guide, and the group has the support of two KCCF staff members, Amy and Kendra.

To learn more about the KEYS Guides and current KEYS members, scan the QR code.



Visiting Combined Community Services

KEYS students got to visit CCS to learn and to volunteer. The students spent time with the leaders of the community oriented programs to learn how they serve different populations and come alongside those who are at a turning point in their life. They also got to see the collection of prom dresses they have, which they make available to students who would otherwise not have the money to purchase formal wear to attend dances in high school.

After a tour of the facilities, students were divided into groups to work, package food, organize home goods, sift through toiletries, and even make up packets of dog and cat food to send with families who have furry friends at home. As the saying goes, many hands made for light work, and soon, students were hopping to other rooms to help others finish some of the more detailed tasks.

It was incredibly meaningful to learn how many services CCS provides to the community, from food to every day needs like soap, to unique items like special gifts for children - on top of the ways they support people seeking to become more self-sufficient and gain confidence.



KEYS MEMBERS AT CCS

Senior Spotlights



LEAH FORSHTAY



BEN REUST



RILEY SHEPHERD



TITUS TAYLOR

KEYS members serve in the program from the time they join in 8th grade until they graduate high school. This year, the four seniors were a special cohort that brought distinct strengths and perspectives to KEYS. From all of the underclassmen, thank you seniors. You will be missed.

Leah Forshtay | Lakeland Christian Academy

Throughout high school, Leah participated in volleyball, basketball, KYLA, and National Honor Society. She plans to attend Grace College to play volleyball and study Digital Marketing. Her favorite KEYS memory was the site visit to The Wagon Wheel.

Ben Reust | Warsaw Community High School

He enjoyed being on the golf teams and being the Cheer Block President. He plans to attend Purdue University for Political Science. His takeaway from being in KEYS was no matter what, there's always people that need help, and there's always people willing to help.

Riley Shepherd | Tippecanoe Valley High School

He participated in basketball, National Junior Honor Society, Peers, Junior Leaders, and 4-H. He plans to attend Huntington University to play basketball and get his Bachelor's Degree in Agribusiness. His favorite KEYS takeaway was giving back to the community.

Titus Taylor | Wawasee High School

Throughout high school, he enjoyed wrestling, playing soccer, participating in track & field, and working at Subway. He plans to go to Indiana University to major in Finance. His favorite KEYS memory was being a co-facilitator with Zoe Taylor his junior year.

Grantmaking

KEYS members review applications for grants that impact students in our community. For the recent school year, \$18,949 was granted to schools and organizations across the county in support of educational projects and programs. Having KEYS members review the grant applications helps members learn about different needs and projects throughout Kosciusko County. Reviewing grant applications also helps members practice philanthropy by learning how to best steward funds to causes that will make an impact in our community.



Reimagining KEYS

KEYS members spent time assessing the program, community needs, and discussing the future direction of KEYS. The idea of broadening their current mission statement emerged in order to focus on impacting youth, not just in the area of education. With these changes, the decision was made to end the beloved Read Across Kosciusko County program.

By adapting to the growing needs of the current generations, KEYS hopes to inspire future generations to do the same - and looking forward to celebrating their 30th anniversary next year!



MEMBERS DISPLAYING THEIR NEW SHIRT DESIGN



STUDENTS AT BAKER YOUTH CLUB

Teambuilding At Baker Youth Club

To ring in the new school year, and to welcome new members, KEYS held their first meeting at Baker Youth Club. They learned about the programs and how they serve students who attend. After touring the facility, the students were joined by members from ULead, an organization that designs activities and training methods to help people think and work as a team. Students did many team-building activities to learn how to collaborate more effectively. The activities challenged the students to work together through exercises that involved guiding each other to get to a common goal. The team building exercises proved to be a great way to kick off the year.

