

# ANNUAL REPORT

## Board President's Report

As we reflect on 2025, this year has been defined by growth, transition, and deepened community connection. One of the most meaningful developments this year has been the strengthening of partnerships throughout our community. Local organizations, businesses, families, and volunteers have stepped forward in powerful ways to ensure Youth Go remains not just a space, but a cornerstone of support for the youth we serve. The Hallows continues to entertain with expanded dates, increased attendance, and strong volunteer engagement, demonstrating what is possible when a community rallies around its youth. Our Fore the Youth Golf Classic also saw continued growth this year. What started as a soft launch just a few years ago is now a signature annual event bringing together supporters for a day of fellowship and fundraising. We are grateful for the continued partnerships and participation that allow this event to grow year after year.



This year also marked a profound transition for Youth Go. After more than 25 years of dedicated service to Youth Go, including the last few as our Executive Director, Alice Zarda has entered a well-deserved retirement. Alice's leadership shaped the heart, structure, and sustainability of this organization and impacted countless young lives. On behalf of the board and the community, we extend our deepest gratitude for decades of commitment and compassion. While we honor the past, we are equally excited about the future. We are thrilled to welcome our new Executive Director, Mandi Dornfeld, whose experience and vision will help guide Youth Go into its next chapter. None of this would be possible without the dedication of our staff, the generosity of our donors, the trust of our participant families, and the steady guidance of our board members. Your belief in Youth Go makes this work possible.

Together, we are building more than a program – we are building belonging.

*Matthew J. Barbavce*

Board President

Giving Note: For anyone who has an IRA, please consider the option of including Youth Go as a beneficiary of your IRA. Your generous gifts help Youth Go to remain the special place that it is for so many young people in our community.

## Executive Director's Report

Hello!

I am filled with gratitude to be introducing myself to you as the new Executive Director of Youth Go. It is a privilege to step into an organization built on an incredible mission and strong foundation of support. Professionally, the decision to say "yes" to this opportunity was the easiest one of my career and every day I look forward to coming in to work with the incredible staff and young people that we serve. I fully believe that the work that happens at Youth Go transforms the lives of the young people who attend our programs.

As we look to the future of our organization I am filled with excitement to lead this incredible team into our next chapter. My vision for Youth Go is aligned with the roots of our mission while growing our programming, opportunities and supportive base. We will be entering into a strategic planning process and I will be asking you, our supporters, to weigh in on the future of our organization.

Thank you to each of you who has enabled us to keep going, grow and be an affirming, welcoming soft landing for those who need us. Every day, I continue to learn more about the wide net of community supporters who keep showing up to support us. Each month, I will be sending an email newsletter to anyone who is interested in following along with us, the purpose is to keep you updated on programs, needs and opportunities. Please send me an email or give me a call if you'd like to be added to this list.

I welcome you to reach out to me at any time at [mandi@youthgo.org](mailto:mandi@youthgo.org) or give me a call at 920-722-1345. I would love to hear your thoughts, ideas and vision for our organization. Together, we can continue to steward the mission of our founders while adapting to meet the needs of our young people.



*Mandi Dornfeld*

Executive Director



# FORE THE YOUTH **golf** CLASSIC

Youth Go will be partnering with PGS to bring you the 4th Fore the Youth Golf Classic charity scramble again in 2026. The event will take place at Lake Breeze Golf Club in Winneconne on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. Teams of four will hit the links in this fundraising event for Youth Go. Sponsorship opportunities are available! If you have any questions, feel free to call Youth Go at 920.722.1435 and ask for Timothy. We would like to thank all of our sponsors from last year's outing. We appreciate the support from our community. As you can see from a couple of the logos, two of the sponsors found creative ways to remain anonymous while contributing to the cause. You never know who, or what, awaits you at the 18 tees during this fun event. We look forward to seeing you there!



Thanks to our amazing sponsors for another successful Hallows event. We will once again be open for three weekends, Fridays and Saturdays, September 25<sup>th</sup> through October 10<sup>th</sup>.



Thank you to all of the people and places that supported the work and mission of Youth Go. Every gift, at every dollar amount, makes an impact and helps us to provide youth with a safe and supportive place full of opportunities, support and fun!

79 unique youth took part in 21 Badges for Baseball events with a total attendance of 509.

———— **Youth Go Encourages** ————

238 unduplicated youth walked through the doors and participated in our in-center programming.

———— **Youth Go Serves** ————

142 unique youth received transportation from Neenah Middle School or Maplewood Middle school to Youth Go including drop offs at home at the end of the evening for a total of 3,354 rides provided.

———— **Youth Go Assists** ————

From 2024 to 2025, the total attendance increased from 4,922 to 4,980.

———— **Youth Go is Safe** ————

114 unique youth participated in one or more of the 251 offered creative arts activities for a total attendance of 1,373.

———— **Youth Go Creates** ————

183 unique youth have been nourished through one or more of the 357 after school meals and dinners served at Youth Go with a total of 5,171 meals provided.

———— **Youth Go Provides** ————

153 unique youth have taken part in one or more of the 405 recreational and physical activities with a total attendance of 2,523.

———— **Youth Go is Fun** ————

94 unique middle school aged youth have taken part in one or more of the 102 Study Star homework sessions for a total attendance of 1,174.

———— **Youth Go Supports** ————

We offered three Family Night events where our youth and their family members were able to gather for food, friendship and fun! These events are at no cost to families and everything is provided. 77 unique youth attended one or more event with a total attendance of 400 when all family members were included.


———— **Youth Go is Community** ————



WE'RE MORE THAN JUST A  
HANGOUT


# FAVORITE Staff Memories



**James** 


"The Hallows has to be one of my favorite memories from 2025. The creativity and passion the youth always show by volunteering their time in October is quite impressive! This year, I was in charge of running the clown section. We had disco lights spinning around on the tree branches that truly immersed you into a funhouse-like atmosphere. The ring leader motioned guests inside and instantly a youth's trombone scared customers on the other side, with a womp womp womp\* afterwards for comedic relief. Throughout the rest of the section clowns were crawling out, playing with a jack in the box, and chiming on a xylophone - all while wearing amazing costumes, colorful clown makeup, as well as lots and lots of blood. I want to give a shout out to all those clowns and I am positive the rest of the sections were just as great as ours!



**Shae** 

My favorite memory from the past year is definitely the real life Mario Kart races! For the Mario themed Friday Night Frenzy, the back lot was transformed into a race track complete with bananas and Goombas. We were lucky enough to be able to borrow scooters from The Boys and Girls Birgade so that our youth could race through the course. The kids really had a lot of fun with this activity and I swear laughter could be heard from a mile away. This was one of my first Friday Night Frenzies working with Youth Go and it was a great way to set the tone for the fun that we have!



**Megan** 

I feel so grateful to have enjoyed another year working at Youth Go. The kids are my favorite part of every year. Each young person brings something special to the center. Every silly comment, fun fact, or deep philosophical conversation fills my heart up. We could be sitting at the end of the hallway in the green chairs, lining up the perfect shot at the pool table, or button mashing on our favorite video game. (I might be the only one button mashing due to my lack of skills in video games.) Whatever it is, I know it will be an amazing time and I'll get to be a small part of each young person's life.



- Mandi Dornfeld**-Executive Director
- Timothy Chappa**-Associate Director
- Danielle Karls**-Arts & Education Coordinator
- James Evers**- Youth Program Assistant, PACT Coordinator & Mentor
- Tristain Prosper**- Early Intervention Mentor, Bridges Program
- Charlie Smith**- Community Outreach Coordinator, LGBTQ+ Youth Advocate
- Shae Salinas**- Support & Wellness Coordinator, Early Intervention Mentor
- Brandon Wells**- Recreation Coordinator, Early Intervention Mentor
- Megan Kees**- Early Intervention Mentor, Bridges Program
- Kaitlyn Schlueter**- Early Intervention Mentor
- Ann Weyers de Ibarra**- Youth Activity Assistant, PACT Assistant
- Maddie Keeley**- Youth Program Assistant
- Morgan Sommer**- Summer Youth Program Assistant
- Josie Fisher**- Summer Youth Program Assistant

# THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO KEEP THE DOORS OF YOUTH GO OPEN!

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Anonymous	Tilman Moe	Essity Professional Hygiene NA LLC
Jeff & Melissa Arndt	Patsy Mondloch	Feeding America
Daniel Baird	**dedicated to Elizabeth McKenzie	Festival Foods
Rich & Lori Batley	Jacy Park	First Presbyterian Church Neenah
Jeremy Bauman	George & Dianne Paveletzke	Five Below Neenah
Brandan Belanger	John & Kathleen Peterson	Fox Communities Credit Union
Deb & Robert Benada	Patrick Pirwitz	Fox Valley CPAs LLC
Tom Berven	Ivan & Linda Placko	Friends of Youth Go
Laverne Beyer	Angel Powell	Galloway Company
Gary L Bezella	Trisha Propson Family	Great Harvest Bread Co.
Lou Blasczyk	Trevor Rabbach	Gunderson Uniform & Linen
David Bloch	William & Janet Rausch	Image 360, Inc
Mike & Jenny Breining	Patricia & Gerald Rickman	Illinois Tool Works Inc.
Richard Brennecke	Jerry Robak	Josh N Bergstrom Endowment
Brenda & Scott Broeske	Richard Rose	Grant Committee
**dedicated to Dick Johnson	Pat Rosenak	Katherine & John Davis Family
Jodell Boehlke	Derek Runge	Foundation, Inc.
Matt Borkovec	Douglas & Ellyn Sachs	Kimberly Clark
Ann Cattau	Jack Salm	Krueger True Value
Nicholas Chandler	Irene W Schaper	Kwik Trip
Bonnie DeBraal	George & Mary Ann Scherck	Laminations Great Northern Corp
Joseph Dillon	Nicole Schmidt	LEAD United Group
Jerry C Doss, MD	Joshua Schueler	Leadership Fox Cities
**dedicated to Pamela Doss	Heather Schulze	Menasha Corporation Foundation
Sue C Erdmann	Nicole Schmidt	Menasha Police Benevolent
Marc E Evans	Dave Sebora	Association
Brenda & Jason Feucht	John S. Sensenbrenner, Jr	Miller Electric Mfg
Timothy & Joan Flaherty	Fred & Deborah Shaffer	Morton LTC and Morton Safety
Tim Fluhr	Wayne Sigl & Leesa Erickson	Neenah Club
Jud & Mary Beth Fowler	John Speech	Neenah Impact Fund, Wisconsin
Matthew Fraley Family	John Swartz & Family	Foundation UCC
Pat & Amy Galloway	Terry & Ruth Tessier	Neenah Menasha Firefighters Charitable
Timothy Galloway	Sarah Upchurch	Foundation
Stephanie Gifford	Matt & Kathy VanderVelden	Neenah Parks & Recreation
Kathy Grinsel	Douglas Welter	Neenah Police Officer Benevolent
Rex Gromer	Keith Wilk & Jane Jacobson	Noodles & Company
Robert Hausserman	Edwin Wilson	Oshkosh Area Community Foundation
Mame & Daniel Heaney	103.9 WVBO	Oshkosh Area Community Foundation-
Erliss Helling	4 Schmidts & Giggles BBQ, LLC	Hiwela Youth Fund
Peg & Gerry Henseler	A.O. Smith Foundation	Portside Builders, Inc
Brian Hoefs	Appleton-Fox Cities Kiwanis Club	Remley Law, SC
Mary & John Hofmann	Arbor Care of the Fox Valley, LLC	Scheels Appleton
Barbara Johnson	Associated Bank	Silly Toast Designs
**dedicated to Richard Johnson	Avery Dennison Corporation	Simplicity Credit Union
David M Johnson	Basic Needs Giving Partnership	Starbucks FoodShare Capacity Building
Ron Klatt	Bergstrom Automotive	Starbucks Menasha
Donald & Laura Kleist	Boys & Girls Brigade Neenah	Stephenson National Bank & Trust
David & Ellen Kneip	Cal Ripkin Sr. Foundation	Stillings, Pasquale, Swardenski, LLC
Dave & Dana Kohlmeyer	CMD Corporation	The Gregory Family Foundation
Barb & Brad Lauderdale	Community First Credit Union	The Kari Chmiel Foundation
John Marra	Corr Opticians	The Kroger Co, Foundation
Kevin & Maribeth McCann	CoVantage Cares Foundation, Inc.	The Robert W. and Susan T. Brown Family
Timothy McCauley	CoVantage Credit Union	Foundation
Bob & Susan Merriam	Crown Trophy- Oshkosh	TNT Fitness Menasha
Robert & Judith Mickelson	Culver's Neenah	United Way Fox Cities
Kenneth Mifflin & Wendy Weir	Doty Island Community Partners	United Way of Greater Milwaukee &
Joann Milhaupt	EnvisionInk	Waukesha County
Kris Miller		



September 26<sup>th</sup> supported by  
4 Schmids & Giggles, LLC

**Octoberfest**  
Fridays & Saturdays Sept 25<sup>th</sup> to Oct 10<sup>th</sup>  
**The Hallows**

June 13<sup>th</sup> at Lake Breeze Golf Course  
**Fore the Youth Golf Classic**

April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Doors open at 6pm  
**Annual Awards Banquet**

**Upcoming Events**

213 Nicolet Blvd  
Neenah, WI 54956



## CONTINUED...THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO KEEP THE DOORS OF YOUTH GO OPEN!...

United Way Lake County  
United Way Metro Chicago  
U.S. Venture/Schmidt Family  
Foundation

Wallace Family Foundation  
Watters Plumbing, Inc.  
We Energies Foundation

Waukesha County Community  
Foundation/Thompson Family  
Foundation Fund

### \*\*Grants within the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region\*\*

Allan J. and Marvel A. Williamson Fund  
Anonymous Fund  
Appleton Breakfast Rotary Club Endowment Fund  
Capital Credit Union Charitable Giving Fund  
Co-Investment Grant Fund  
Doug & Mary Gunderson Family Fund

Fox Cares Foundation Fund  
Raymond & Betty Smith Charitable Fund  
Sawyer Family Fund  
SECURA Insurance Companies Charitable Fund  
Stoll Family Fund  
Thebert-Wise Family Fund  
Water-Right Charitable Fund

### Board of Directors

**President- Matthew Borkovec**- Remley Law, S.C.  
**Vice President- Toni Schult**- Kimberly Clark Corporation  
**Treasurer- Larry Sawyer**- Community Representative  
**Secretary- Sonja Pierce**- Appleton Public Library

### Board Members

**Douglas Welter**- Associated Bank  
**Jeremy Bauman**- City of Neenah Police Department  
**Nickole Evers-Swiertz**- Former Youth Go Participant  
**Neal Gadzinski**- Continental Girbau  
**Tracee Lemke Hildreth**- Neenah Joint School District  
**John Swartz**- Miller Electric



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920-722-1435  
www.youthgo.org