



GRAND OPENING GRAND OPENING

Year End Report

The Armory Youth Project celebrates a year of positive youth development!

Thank you for your collaboration, volunteer hours, and your support to make 2024 a success!

National Adolescent Health Month

“Young people need safe environments and caring adults in order to maximize their mental health.”

-Jessica Swafford Marcella, DASPA



GROWING UP IS HARD!

Being a teenager is an exciting and scary transitional time in everyone’s life. It’s normal to sometimes feel alone or lost. Imagine growing up and lacking the tools or support to find your way. The Armory Youth Project (AYP) is here to help!

The Citizen’s Research Council reports that youth in Michigan are facing increasing behavioral health challenges. Untreated behavioral health conditions diminish opportunities for academic, social, and occupational success. There are evidence-based strategies that foster resilience, including removing barriers, building up social support systems, and providing life skills.

The Armory Youth Project provides FREE year-round recreation and evidence-based educational opportunities for youth in grades 6-12. AYP is a safe place for youth to have fun, get help with homework, talk to a caring adult, learn life skills, and build self-confidence. The drop-in programming teaches youth independence and choice. AYP collaborates with community partners to provide a wide range of youth resources, including basic needs, health counseling, and emergency care.

At AYP we are fortunate to serve kids from all walks of life. Many kids come to AYP for socialization, to learn about God’s love, and to meet new friends. While others attend AYP for a meal, a safe place to grow, and a mentor they can trust.

The Armory Youth Project strives to provide the tools and support for all youth to feel valued and realize a more promising future.

5289

YOUTH VISITS

2842

MEALS SERVED

1035

HOURS OF PROGRAMMING

GRATITUDE

Discover
YouTM

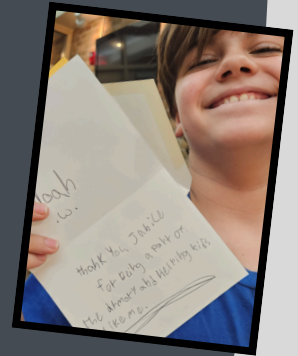
This November, the Armory Youth Project (AYP) focused on the character strength of gratitude. AYP implemented Discover You curriculum lessons that taught youth to recognize and express thankfulness in their daily lives.

The month kicked off with **Building Gratitude** in the Lego Masters class. Students built Legos while building friendships and newfound appreciation for their blessings.

Another project encouraged students to identify local **Hometown Heroes** and express their community appreciation through handwritten cards. Over 100 custom cards filled with heartfelt messages were delivered to hometown heroes including hospitals, fire stations, police station and more.

To wrap up, AYP hosted its first **Friendsgiving** dinner. The youth, staff, and volunteers shared a sit-down meal including all the holiday favorites. Friendsgiving included opportunities to share gratitude and lessons on how to set a table, table manners, and how to be helpful at mealtime.

Each month the lesson curriculum and daily activities include different character strengths. Scan the QR code below to watch the new AYP video!



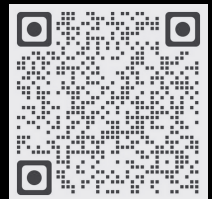
Youth Programming 2024 FUNDED

- Escape Room
- Empower
- Arts & Crafts
- Tutoring
- Guitar Lessons
- Creative Writing
- Financial Fun
- Importance of Sleep
- Young Life Ministry
- Fishery Field Trip
- Book Club
- Present Making
- Building Gratitude with Legos
- Cooking Classes
- Boater's Safety
- Garden Club
- Sew What Camp
- Rockin Rockets
- Garden Club
- Outdoor Skills
- Environmental Education
- Safe Sitter
- CPR/ First Aid
- Sleigh Rides
- Volleyball, Soccer, Pickleball, Horseshoes, Golf & Basketball
- Archery Tag

Special Events

- 5th Grade Orientation
- Manistee Arts & Crafts Show
- Soar Into the Future
- Summer Kick Off
- Spooktacular
- Friendsgiving
- First Light Tree Lighting
- New Year's Pizza Party

Website & Video



Empowering the Youth of Manistee County



FUNDING

The Armory Youth Project 2024 annual operational budget of **\$354,991** includes all administration, programming, facility, personnel (program team), and supply costs.

The program operates a 20,000 square foot building on four acres. The facility includes a full-size gym, multiple classrooms, a commercial kitchen, stage, open bay recreation room, outdoor basketball court, disc golf course, and a garden. The facility is open for community rental outside of youth programming hours.

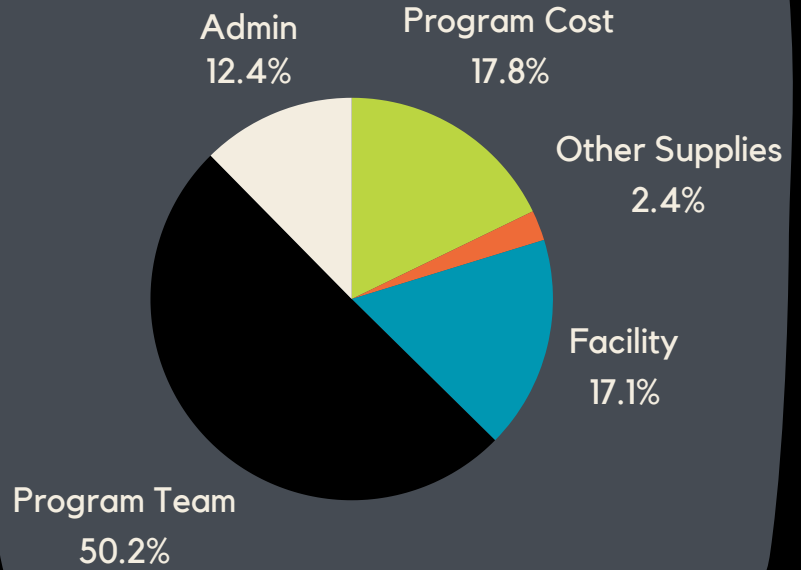
As we work to keep the facility safe and secure for our students, we want to give a special thank you to our friends at the Manistee County Community Foundation for a recent grant award of \$61,588. The grant supported by the Minger Family Endowment Fund will help us provide a plumbing capital improvement project. The project implementation will take place in 2025.

The Armory Youth Project is funded by community donations, sponsorships, grants and community events.

Year to date AYP has raised \$311,000 through individual and corporate donations, business sponsorships, local and state grants, newsletter promotions, the Manistee Arts & Crafts show, facility rental, and the annual Showcase Breakfast.

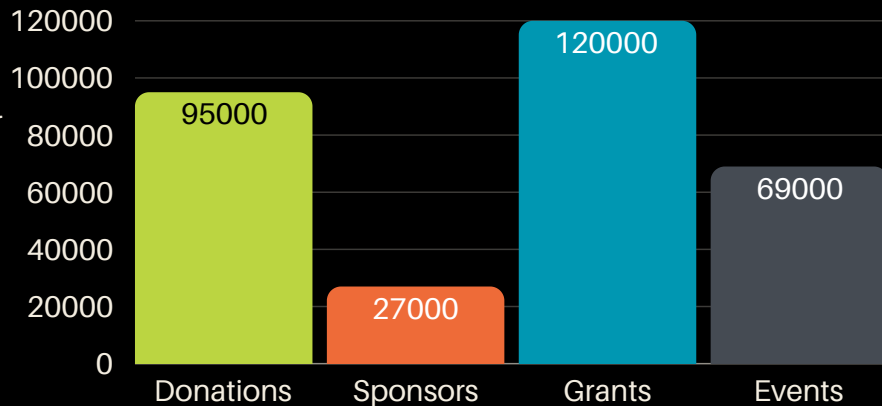
We thank you for your continued support to provide positive youth programming in Manistee County!

OPERATIONAL BUDGET



FUNDS RAISED TO DATE

\$311,000

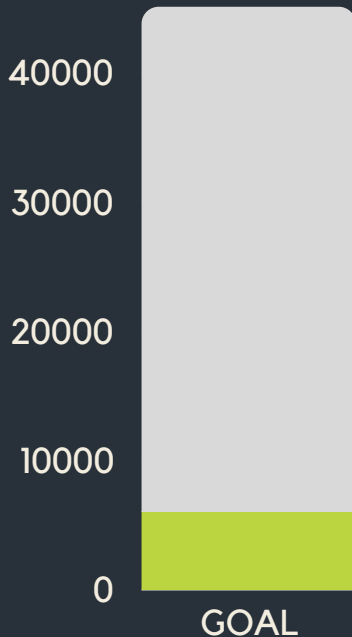


Thank you for your support.

ARMORY YOUTH PROJECT MISSION

To provide a safe environment where young people can build community and be encouraged in their educational, emotional, physical, and Christian spiritual development.

YEAR-END
GIVING!



The Armory Youth Project (AYP) is a community resource for youth development. We encourage you to visit our website, schedule a tour, and learn more about opportunities to contribute.

AYP would not be possible without your time, your treasure, and your talent. We continue to seek new volunteers, new funding, and new passions for youth development.

Will you help invest in the future of our youth?

To meet our 2024 operational budget, we have a final year-end funding goal of \$45,000. AYP is blessed to have secured \$6,100 from return donors in matching donations to help kick start our year-end push. For every dollar up to \$6,100 your contribution doubles in impact.

Whether your gift is a one-time donation, a multi-year investment, or a gift of stock, your support makes a difference and contributes to the growth and development of our youth.

“We have a dedicated team of staff and volunteers who are building connections and positive outlooks one child at a time.”

Janice Davidson,
AYP Executive Director

“AYP helps
me build my
confidence.”
Olivia



You Make A Difference!

- Online:
armoryyouthproject.com/donate
- Text to Give:
Text the amount to
231-866-8339
- Return Envelope
- Scan QR Code



AYP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All gifts are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.
Tax ID number: 45-4756059.

For more information, call 231-299-1205 or email funddevelopment@armoryyouthproject.com