



HI-Y News

December 1, 2011

HI-Y Activities

The **Harrison County HI-Y** (Lynne Menendez, Program Director) helped with the Y's children's fall party and they also walked against drugs in their community's drug walk.

Greater Miami Valley YMCA—Kim Phillips, former Y-USA Resource Director and now Vice President of Human Resources and Organizational Development, organized the meeting with 3 of his branches. They will have a small delegation this year at Youth in Government and plan to grow the program. One of the branches already had a parent ask about the program because they were involved with Youth in Government in another state. They are anticipating success in getting community support. The county also operates a Youth in City Government Day and the Greater Miami Valley Y will try to connect with in order to offer Youth in Government to those students.

McClain HI-Y (below left) and **Jackson HI-Y and TRI-HI-Y** (below right) tackled hunger and homelessness with food drives and clothing drives plus held "Cardboard City" overnights on the school lawn to draw public attention to the plight of the homeless in their communities.



The **Bend Area HI-Y** met Sunday, Nov. 13th at the OH-WV YMCA office in Pt. Pleasant to hold their November meeting and to decorate the front windows for the holiday season. The windows hold 3 scenes: snow flocked penguins enjoying the cold winter weather; an "old fashioned"



Christmas scene complete with fireplace, Christmas tree, the family dog and comfy rocker; and "the reason for the season" - a complete nativity. During their meeting they also signed Christmas cards for shut-ins in the Bend area. The group will be distributing the cards and caroling at their meeting in December. The group is also sending 4 students to Fall Conference. They have been doing fundraising to cover the cost and now are working on Youth in Government. To top it off, they all enjoyed pizza and chocolate chip cookies! In addition, they also held a fundraiser at a Christmas bazaar (lower right)!



Elkins Middle School HI-Y Veterans Day Assembly

President Scout Barger led Elkins M.S. HI-Y's 12th annual Veterans Day Assembly on November 10th. A color guard, representing all branches of the service, along with bag pipers led the way. Mr. Richard Carr, principal for Elkins Middle School, welcomed everyone. After all joined in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Star Spangled Banner, Mary Snelson gave an informational presentation explaining the founding of Veterans Day and the meaning behind the blue star flags often seen in homes. She challenged the students to remember daily those serving, to help their families, and to strive to do their best in school in honor of those serving for our freedom. HI-Y members presented U.S. Marine Corps veterans, representing the local American Legion, with a patriotic wreath to be placed on the Veterans Memorial. During a video presentation of service personnel directly related to students or staff of Elkins Middle School, the 7th grade choir and band presented patriotic musical selections. Immediately following the ceremony HI-Y members and veterans enjoyed a reception hosted by HI-Y members. In smaller groups, as a veteran shared his story, the students asked questions and gained a greater understanding of military service, civic responsibility and freedom.

Fall Conference

"Catch a vision! Take action! See a need in your community, organize around the issue and respond to the call." was Reverend Matthew J. Watts' (HOPE Community Development Corporation) advice to the annual **HI-Y Building Teen Leaders Fall Conference** at Jackson's Mill Conference Center November 18 - 20th. Over 110 youth and advisors attended the intense and fun three day leadership summit. Youth developed leadership skills through doing hands on activities. In preparation for the upcoming HI-Y programs, students practiced legislative techniques, led Model United Nations assemblies and learned how to lead their HI-Y in a successful year. Carla Nardelli from the Mountaineer Food Bank led the community service focused session by sharing ways youth can help feed families. HI-Ys shared their effective service projects with others. Those leading sessions included Cyrena Roach from Bend Area HI-Y - Animal Rescues, Clay Wood from Jackson HI-Y and Darrah Leach from Jackson TRI-HI-Y - Cardboard City event to benefit the homeless. Taylor Fealy and Amy Livesay from Buckhannon Upshur HI-Y - Blood Drive. Other HI-Ys shared their ideas too in an open discussion. Leadership and character building activities were facilitated by a corps of college volunteers.

Alumnus Curt Zickafoose and Sean Hill from the West Virginia Secretary of State's office shared with students the value of being active in their state government.

Alumni Tara Martinez, Christina Haymaker, Bo Wriston, Angie Domico-Cox, Bob Eisnaugle, Amy Weintraub, and Julianna Poole all shared with HI-Yers how they are practicing leadership in action by daily making differences in the lives of others. During the evenings, students danced and hosted their own variety show with music provided by alum Sgt. James Leard.

Everyone left the conference with new friends, new ideas and plans to make their school, home and community a better place.

Beat Michigan Rally

"O.H." "I. O." echoed through the Renaissance Hotel in Columbus November 21st as friends, business leaders, donors and Youth in Government officers gathered to rally their support of the Ohio State Buckeyes during the **9th annual Beat Michigan Rally** benefitting Ohio Youth in Government emceed by Bill Conley, Former OSU Assistant Coach. Mike Lanese, OSU Running Back and 1985 Co-Captain, was the guest speaker for the audience of over 200. Shelley Graf, former drum major, and Brutus the Buckeye greeted the guests. Alumna Sheila McCombs Fox, Event In Site, coordinated the impressive event. Bob Blazer, AT&T, led the stellar volunteer committee. The students thank all who gave, volunteered, assisted and participated!



Please call or [e-mail](#) us to schedule a visit with your HI-Y.

HI-Y Calendar

See the entire [Calendar](#)

Leadership Character Service

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#). Visit our [website](#)
Comments or Questions? Email hi-y@hi-y.org or call 304-675-5899.

OH-WV State YMCA—HI-Y Leadership Center
P.O. Box 239, Pt. Pleasant, WV 25550 304.675.5899
Cave Lake, 1132 Bell Hollow Road, Latham, Ohio 45646
YMCA Camp Horseshoe, 3309 Horseshoe Run Road, Parsons, WV 26287
304.478.2481
www.hi-y.org

