

# YLA Newsletter



YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

*A Not-For-Profit 501 c 3 Corporation*

## YLA Moves to New MPC Building



The Youth Leadership Academy, along with all other offices that have been located at Elgin Community College's Fountain Square Campus downtown Elgin, will be moving to the new Multipurpose Classroom Center (MPC) at ECC's main campus in early January. The new MPC building is an \$18.6 million capital project that will feature 59,000 square feet of renovated space. Please note that after the holidays, if you want to visit either the YLA Executive Director or Administrative Assistant, you will need to go to the MPC building on main campus. **The new YLA office address as of January 7, 2011 will be 410 Renner Drive, Elgin, IL 60123.** Please read next month's newsletter for a YLA new office open house announcement.

Volume 1, Issue 5  
December 2010

The YLA Newsletter is produced and distributed by the YLA office and is distributed once per month. Any comments, questions or letters can be addressed to Dianha Ortega-Ehreth, YLA Executive Director, 51 S. Spring St., Elgin, IL 60120.

E-mail:

[dortega-ehreth@elgin.edu](mailto:dortega-ehreth@elgin.edu)

Phone: 847-214-6910

Fax: 847-214-6914

Web site: [www.ylaecc.org](http://www.ylaecc.org)

### Inside this issue:

*Cadets to Research Issues for* 2

*Giving Back to the Communi-* 2

*YLA Student Council Elects* 3

*All Are Invited to Cadet* 3

*Elgin Leadership Academy* 4

**The YLA staff  
wishes you a very  
Happy Holiday  
Season!**



**YLA offices will be closed for Holiday Break from December 22 - January 3.**

## Cadets Research Service-Learning Issues over Holiday Break

Cadets will be ringing in their service projects after the new year, only this time, they will be “Service-Learning” projects. Service-Learning is a teaching method where youth learn about an issue more intensely, plan and implement a project to address the issue, and with help from adult mentors, are able to make a better connection between the abstract issue and real life. Each cadet will select their top three issues from a list which the YLA Student Council helped create. Cadets will then be assigned to one of their top three issues to research over the holiday break. Research will include magazine or newspaper articles and organizational web site information that has been published less than a year ago. Cadets will then gather in their “issue groups” of ap-

proximately 5 cadets starting in January. Each group will have their own adult mentor. Together they will plan implement a service-learning project to address their issue over the course of the winter/spring semester. Service-Learning emphasizes youth input into all parts of the process. By selecting issues in which they’ve already indicated a strong interest, this will be more room to do something meaningful as a community leader and less of a homework assignment.

If you’re a friend of YLA and want to learn about how you can support YLA’s Service-Learning projects, please contact the YLA office at 847-214-6910.

To learn more about Service-Learning, go to [www.servicelearning.org](http://www.servicelearning.org).

## Winter / Spring 2011 YLA Calendar:

- Jan. 15—YLA session #8 / Parent In-Service
- Jan. 17—Martin Luther King Jr. Day—Field Trip (to be announced)
- Jan. 29—YLA session # 9
- Feb. 12—YLA session # 10
- Feb. 19—YLA session # 11
- Feb. 21—President’s Day Field Trip (to be announced)
- Mar. 5— YLA session # 12
- Mar. 19—YLA session #13
- Mar. 28—Apr. 1: YLA Spring Break Week
- Apr. 2—YLA session # 14
- Apr. 16—YLA session #15
- Apr. 30—3rd Annual YLA Family Fun Night
- May 7—YLA session # 16
- May 21—YLA Presentations / Graduation

## Giving Back to the Community

by Lizet Alba, 11th grade cadet



On November 29<sup>th</sup>, the eleventh grade cadet class was busy giving back to the community through their holiday service project. The class wanted to choose a project that was creative and different, so they chose to host a holiday party at a local soup kitchen. Among decorating and helping to serve the soup kitchen guests, the cadets handed out gift bags to soup kitchen patrons that contained necessary items like toothpaste, toothbrushes, socks, gloves, deodorant, and special handmade greeting cards. Each cadet willingly donated their time and money to make the holiday party a success, even going so far as to meeting as a group two additional times outside of normal YLA sessions. “We learned how to be organized, work together, and be proactive through this project,” said cadets Elizabeth Caldera and Jose Velazquez, and all the cadets agreed that they were very proud of what they accomplished. It was a lot of hard work to pull the service project together, but in the end the sense of community and pride in their work was all worth it.



## YLA Student Council Elects Officers

The new YLA Student Council elected officers at their November 20 meeting. The president is Alexis O'Connor, 11th grade student from Dundee Crown High School. The vice president is Jose Velazquez, 11th grade student from Elgin High School. The secretary is Berenice Gomez, 8th grade student from Abbott Middle School. After giving excellent leadership to the Candidate's Forum at the Gail Borden Library in the fall, the Student Council will be busy developing their own Council meeting guidelines and priorities. The YLA Student Council will be meeting a minimum of once per month after regular YLA Saturday sessions. Members of the Student Council shown in the picture above are: (front row): Edna Acevedo, 7th grade; Neomy Rojas, 7th grade; Anthony Ruiz, 7th grade; (back row): Jose Velazquez, 11th grade; Alexis O'Connor, 11th grade; Grace Hamiel, 8th grade; Berenice Gomez, 8th grade; and Victor Barrera, 12th grade. Not pictured above are: Ramiro Lara, 11th grade, Alondra Carmenatty, 8th grade, Cecilia Tapia, 12th grade, Judith Patino, 12th grade, Claudia Rodriguez, 10th grade, and Aaron Castro, 9th grade.

### All Parents and Friends of YLA Invited to Cadet Presentations on December 18

Saturday, December 18, will be the last YLA session of the 2010 calendar year. Each class will give a presentation on their theme-based leadership project and we will recognize special achievements of cadets from this fall semester. The program will begin at 9:00 am sharp in the ATC Auditorium at ECC's main campus. The program will conclude at 11:30 am. All parents of cadets and friends of YLA are invited to come support the cadets who have been working hard in developing their leadership skills.

**Due to finances at the YLA, there will be no Holiday Party following the presentations on December 18.**

### THANK YOU's go out to:

— All the cadets and parents who helped with Borders Gift Wrapping fundraiser on November 27 in Algonquin. We raised \$41. YLA cadets and parents have signed up to help with additional Borders Gift Wrapping dates on December 4, 11 and 20.

— DeVry University in Addison, IL for a great field trip on November 22. A group of 18 cadets from grades 9-12 learned about communication skills, career options, and life in college.

— Lundstrom Insurance for their gift of \$25

**Quote of the month: "Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right." — Oprah Winfrey**

## Youth Leadership Academy

51 S. Spring St.  
Elgin, IL 60120

Phone: 847-214-6910

Fax: 847-214-6914

e-mail: [dortega-ehreth@elgin.edu](mailto:dortega-ehreth@elgin.edu)



YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

A Not-For-Profit 501 c-3 Corporation

*"I AM on the path to success. I AM college bound."*

**Visit us online at  
[www.ylaecc.org](http://www.ylaecc.org)**

### Mission of the Youth Leadership Academy:

We engage and inspire youth to maximize their potential to become successful community leaders through the access and responsible utilization of post-secondary education.

### YLA Office Hours:

- Monday—Friday, 9:00 am—3:00 pm
- No office hours on Saturday
- Summer Schedule: Monday—Thursday, 9:00 am—3:00 pm.

### YLA Board members:

- Dr. Wes Scott, President, Elgin
- JoAnne Fields Whittaker, Vice President, Elgin
- Kevin Stark, Treasurer, Algonquin
- Jeri E. Smith, Secretary, Elgin
- Eric Isibue, West Dundee

- Eary Isibue, Elgin
- V. Elaine Miller, Elgin
- Danesa Tamayo, Belvidere
- Dr. Bruce Austin, Grayslake
- Dr. Julie Schaid, Elburn

### Administrative Assistant:

Karen McCoy — [kmccoy@elgin.edu](mailto:kmccoy@elgin.edu)

## Elgin Leadership Academy supports Youth Leadership Academy

The names are very similar, but until now, there has not been a relationship between the Elgin Leadership Academy and the Youth Leadership Academy. The Elgin Leadership Academy is a program sponsored by the Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce which delivers a curriculum specifically designed to assist individuals in becoming active and inspiring contributors to their community. Similar to the Youth Leadership Academy, these adult leaders from various backgrounds meet a minimum of once per month to engage in a particular leadership topic of skill. In addition, they contribute to the community through a service project.

A group of this year's Elgin Leadership Academy will be doing their service project by serving as adult mentors to YLA cadets in their own Service-Learning projects. This kind of service will be hands-on participation alongside young leaders whose lives will be affected by adults who are making a commitment to influence their futures in very positive ways.

According to Search Institute, an organization with 50 years experience in developing leadership resources to communities who wish to invest in their youth, there are "40 Developmental Assets" which directly contribute to youths' success. The more assets a youth has, the more successful he or she will be in reaching their life goals. One of these assets is "other adult relationships" (besides positive relationships with parents). This is one of YLA's strongest contributions to its cadets— offering a safe space for mentoring relationships with adults who have wisdom and experience to pass forward.

Thank you to Elgin Leadership Academy class of 2011 for your support of the Youth Leadership Academy! To learn more about the Elgin Leadership Academy, go to [www.elginchamber.com/leadershipAcademy.cfm](http://www.elginchamber.com/leadershipAcademy.cfm).