

# YLA Newsletter



YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

A Not-For-Profit 501 c 3 Corporation

## YLA Alumni Studying at Judson University on Full Tuition Scholarship

To Betty Villagomez, a 2008 graduate of Elgin High School and alumni of the Youth Leadership Academy, a leader is someone who puts their own fears aside and does something to make a positive impact in the world. Her own journey certainly lives up to this philosophy. Betty is studying psychology at Judson University on a YLA full tuition scholarship. Her goal is to serve the community in improving mental health services and facilities.

College would not have been possible for Betty if it had not been for the YLA. She remembers how hard it was sometimes to get up on Saturday mornings to go to YLA sessions, but is so very glad that she did. Betty remembers YLA class discussions that were open and trusting. "They were not like school," she says. "I was with other students who were like me, we wanted to be different in a good way." Certainly one of YLA's strengths is that positive peer support network that is so important during those teenage years. Betty is now more intentional about creating positive relationships in her life now because of her experience in YLA. While earning an Associates in Arts at Elgin Community College in substance abuse prevention, Betty said she was a commuter student that would "come and go." She advises current and future ECC students to get more involved and make friends: "You get so much more out of your education that way."



In addition to being a hard working college student, Betty is giving back by serving on the YLA Board as an alumni representative. She is excited to help spread the word to others about the importance of supporting the YLA. "Money donated to the YLA is not wasted!" she declares. "The cadets who are a part of the YLA are so dedicated. They are learning skills that are going to make a difference and will change the community."

The YLA full tuition scholarship at Judson University is available to YLA alumni who have completed an Associates Degree from Elgin Community College. A maximum of four (4) YLA Scholarships are awarded to YLA alumni at any given time per calendar year. In addition to Betty, there are two other YLA alumni currently at Judson University working hard to complete their bachelor degrees.

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The YLA Newsletter is produced at the YLA office and is distributed once per month. Any comments, questions or letters can be addressed to YLA 410 Renner Dr., Elgin, IL 60123.

E-mail:

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

[kmccoy@elgin.edu](mailto:kmccoy@elgin.edu)

Phone: 847-214-6965

Fax: 847-214-6914

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

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## YLA Parent Meetings Begin October 22

The focus of the 2011-2012 YLA Parent Meetings will be more like educational forums that will introduce one of the new tenets of the YLA curriculum, “Self Determination.” Parents will learn about each of the six principles of Self Determination and on how they apply to good parenting in the home. Self Determination is about helping young people learn how to make good decisions. Each scheduled Parent Meeting will include announcements and organizational updates. Each Parent Meeting date will be delivered twice: once from **9:00 – 10:30 am in ENGLISH** and a second time (same information) from **10:30 am – 12:00 noon in SPANISH**. The Parent Meetings scheduled for the remainder of this calendar year are as follows:

### **October 22: SELF-AWARENESS**

Self Awareness implies an extraordinary understanding of one’s self. It encompasses all aspects of personality including, but not limited to, physical, emotional, social, cultural, ethical and religious beliefs, morals and goals.

### **November 5: SUPPORT NETWORKS**

Our cadets must be made aware of the legitimate need of developing trusting relationships for social / emotional, and advisory counsel from adults (other than parents) ... preferably before they encounter any kind of life crisis.

### **December 3: AUTONOMY and SOCIAL SKILLS / INCLUSION**

Autonomy represents all those various skills that enable one to operate as a fully independent adult. Specific areas include self-care, responsibility in all areas such as general decision making and action follow-up, financial competence, academic and on-the-job behaviors that lead to overall success and promotion. Another important aspect of autonomy is the ability to think independently, and the courage to act upon that independent thought to follow the cadet’s own goals and expectations. The need for belonging is often a critical deciding factor in the direction of our cadets’ future. They need to identify their own allegiances, and examine whether those groups are reflective of their goals and aspirations.

Parents, you need not register for these meetings. It is highly encouraged that you attend, as organizational announcements will be shared each time we gather too. Call the YLA office if you have any questions. See you there!

## **Look for YLA at Two Upcoming Community Volunteer Fairs!**

Whether you're a YLA cadet looking to volunteer in the community, or a community member looking to volunteer at YLA, you'll definitely want to come to the community events:

- Hispanic Heritage Celebration— Saturday, October 8, from 2:00—5:00 pm at the Gail Borden Library, 2nd floor.
- Change Your World Volunteer Fair—Saturday, October 15, from 9am—1pm at the Gail Borden Library, Community Room.

If you are not able to make it to these volunteer fairs, but are interested in sharing your time and talent with YLA, please contact us at 847-214-6965 or 6910. There are great opportunities available to mentor groups of young people in their Service Learning projects. Volunteers will also be needed to help with upcoming fund-raising events.

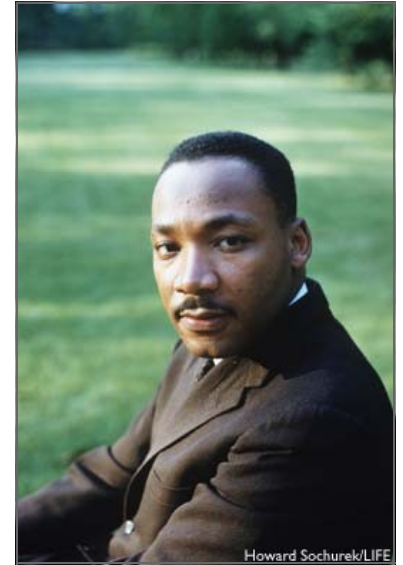
## Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Applications Now Available

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship is awarded annually to Elgin students who have demonstrated an active interest and meaningful involvement in the areas of human rights, civil rights, social justice and / or world peace. Scholarships may also be awarded to students whose activities are exemplary and reflect the ideals and life of Dr. King.

### Eligibility:

- Must be a graduating high school student who is a resident of the City of Elgin, IL.
- Must possess a GPA of 2.5 or above
- Must possess a clear judicial record
- Must show sound character and leadership qualities
- Must have a demonstrated record of service to the community

Deadline of application is December 2. Please contact the YLA office at 847-214-6965 if you are interested and we will mail you a copy of the scholarship application.



### YLA Cadet Field Trips Scheduled for October 10

Cadets will participate in three field trips scheduled for Monday, October 10:

1. Visit to Elgin History Museum— a specially-guided tour of the museum for YLA cadets with a preview of a space not yet open to the general public featuring history of Hispanic migration to the Elgin area. 1:00—2:30 pm, museum is located at 360 Park Street in Elgin.
2. Middle School tour of Elgin Community College— this tour of ECC's campus is designed to help middle school students in being ready for college by learning about how to make the most of their high school opportunities. Tour begins at 10am in the ICT lobby.
3. High School tour of Judson University—On Judson's "High School Preview Day," students will get a lot more than a campus tour. They will attend one of over a dozen presentations by faculty highlighting their academic programs. Check-in at Lindner Tower at 8:15 am, ends with free lunch at noon in the Lower Commons.

Remember, cadets, you **must** have field trip permission forms on file in the YLA office in order to participate!

### Quote of the month:

“What’s done to children, they will do to society.”

- *Karl Menninger*



**WANTED:** Cadet articles for future editions of the YLA Newsletter! Want others to know about your project? Do you have something to say about what’s going on in your school? In your community? Write about it! Articles are due the last Tuesday of the month. Please submit them via e-mail to:

# Youth Leadership Academy

410 Renner Drive  
Elgin, IL 60123

Phone: 847-214-6910 or 6965  
Fax: 847-214-6914  
e-mail: [dortega-ehreth@elgin.edu](mailto:dortega-ehreth@elgin.edu)  
[kmccoy@elgin.edu](mailto:kmccoy@elgin.edu)



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*"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

## 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
- Dr. Bruce Austin, Grayslake

- Dr. Julie Schaid, Elburn
- Betty Villagomez, Elgin
- Simeon Kim, St. Charles
- Sgt. Gary Neal Jr., Huntley
- Mercedes Delcid, Carpentersville
- Ann Marie Sparks, Elgin

**YLA Executive Director:** Dianha Ortega-Ehreth; **YLA Program Coordinator:** Joann W. Hartmann; **YLA Administrative Assistant:** Karen McCoy

## Sign up for November Gift-wrapping Fundraisers

YLA cadets, parents and volunteers are once again invited to sign-up to help with giftwrapping as our holiday fundraiser. This time we will be at Barnes and Noble in Schaumburg on the following dates:

- Saturday, November 26 — shift available between 10:00 am and 8:00 pm
- Saturday, November 27—shifts available between 12:00 noon and 9:00 pm.
- Monday, December 19—shifts available between 11:00 am and 7:00 pm.

All proceeds will go towards funding YLA program supplies. To sign up, simply call the YLA office at 847-214-6965. **Thank you!**

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPECIAL PRESENTERS!

A very special THANK YOU goes out to each of the following people who have given informative and engaging presentations to all YLA cadets so far this school year:

- Dr. Julie Schaid, Associate Dean for College Readiness and School Partnerships at Elgin Community College
- Detective Rick Demierre, Elgin Police Department
- Ricardo Gasca, Prevention Coordinator at Renz Counseling and Addition Center
- Tami Haukedahl, Deputy Chief of Police at Elgin Community College



- Reggie Legend, poet and author of the book, "Steel Waters"

The Youth Leadership Academy is safer, plus cadets are more motivated and more creative because of your contributions!

**Have a Happy and Safe  
Halloween!**