



What is the Youth Community Fund?

Youth Community Fund (YCF) is a group of approximately 30 high school students (from Darien High School and local private schools) who learn about philanthropy and the role of nonprofits in our community. Members will participate in a variety of volunteer projects at different local nonprofit organizations, as well as help with a few fundraisers. In the winter, students will identify a group of local nonprofit organizations to invite to apply for funding. Members will read the grant applications and decide how to allocate \$6,000 (plus additional money received through YCF Fundraisers) in grants to the local nonprofits.

Where does YCF volunteer?

Past volunteer activities have included: serving dinner at a homeless shelter, teaching English classes at an immigrant center, stocking shelves at a food pantry, tutoring students at an after-school program, playing bingo at a substance abuse facility and hosting a holiday party for disabled adults. Occasionally the group will invite nonprofit directors to come talk to YCF about their nonprofit organizations and the needs in our community.

When does YCF meet?

We typically meet on Wednesday nights, twice a month, from approximately 7:00-8:30 from September through April. There may be an occasional meeting scheduled for a school day afternoon so that we get an opportunity to perform a volunteer activity that we couldn't do later in the evening. We might also consider a weekend activity. We meet at The Community Fund of Darien's office, located at 30 Old Kings Highway, and carpool to the nonprofit at which we are volunteering – most are located in Stamford or Norwalk.

What is the commitment?

Youth Community Fund members are an active group of students and require a commitment to attend most, preferably all, meetings. During the grant review period, students, in group of 2-3, will research the nonprofit organizations and evaluate their grant applications. The group is led by Lisa Haas, Grants Director at The Community Fund, and a group of 5 elected seniors in leadership positions. Prospective members are asked to fill out an application, and if approved, must submit a \$50 registration fee.