

Children & Youth

We value youth-centered programming and safe accessible spaces that support youth and prepare them for a fulfilling future.

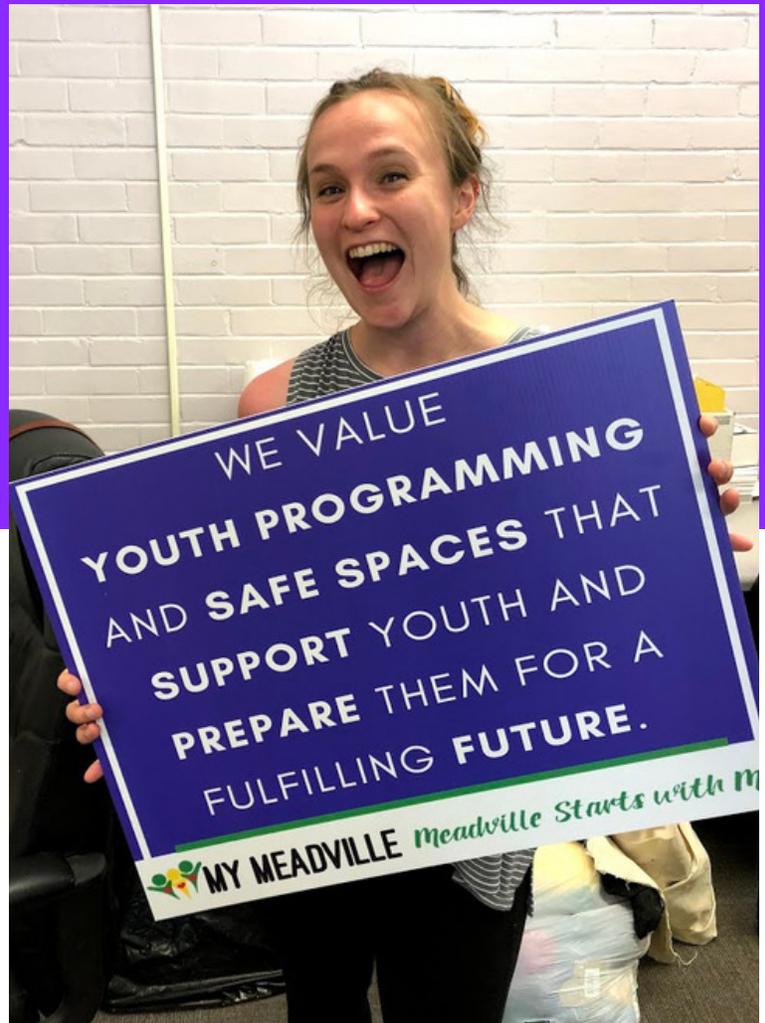
Subthemes

- Community engagement and community events
- After school and mentoring programs
- Character building, team building, skill building, relationship building
- Safe, accessible, affordable, and supportive spaces
- Outdoor recreation
- Opportunities for growth

What's Underway

In the last few years, we've seen...

- the revival of the beloved Summer Parks Program that staffs our public parks with attendants and provides summer programming and free lunches to local youth
- the start of the Meadville Area Teens Lounge, an idea born from Grow Meadville for a space that is designed and built by teenagers for teenagers
- the creation of the Community Playspace, regular times for families with children to come together and play in a free, unstructured environment
- the local return of the national mentoring program Big Brothers Big Sisters
- the implementation of garden education in several public school classrooms
- the development of the Creating Landscapes Basketball League, started by local families whose children did not make the school team and had no other option to play the sport
- the start of CHAPS' Youth Journey Center Clubhouse, an expansion of their program that assists young members in their recovery from mental illness



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Action 1 Create a HYPE (Helping Youth Promote Excellence) Squad

Overview

Helping Youth Promote Excellence, known as The HYPE Squad, is a group dedicated to creating an empowered network of teens within the community. This idea came from the My Meadville Ideas Summit, created by the teens in attendance. HYPE Squad aims to address the issue of teenagers not knowing what amenities exist to them and will consist of HYPE-selected teens to facilitate promotion of opportunities, a teen lounge as one example (expressed during the summit). It can also ensure teenage representation at town events.

Supporting Partners

- Meadville Neighborhood Center
- Youth Advocacy Programs
- Crawford County Systems of Care
- Crawford County Mental Health Awareness Program (CHAPS)
- YMCA

Existing Resources

- Teen lounge as a base/headquarters

Community Values

- ✓ Small Town



Action 2 Create a Youth Advisory Committee (YAC)

Overview

With ideal membership reflecting the diversity of youth in Meadville, The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) will be responsible for identifying youth trends, advising local leadership, and assisting in the development of policies relevant to the youth. They will also be in charge of creating projects and programs within the city to get the youth more involved in the community as well as looking for opportunities to partner with other organizations that empower youth and expand their network. This would ideally extend to the school board to facilitate a voice for the youth within important community decision-making.

Lead Solution Partner

- Local leadership (2-3 parent representatives, 2-3 student representatives)

Existing Resources

- Parent Teacher Association/Organization

Community Values

- ✓ Small Town