

ANCHORAGE YOUTH COURT

GAVEL

a semiannual newsletter



WINTER 2017

JUSTICE FOR YOUTH BY YOUTH

AYC Partners



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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES



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Dear AYC supporters,

In a couple weeks, I will celebrate my five year anniversary as AYC's Executive Director. It was a bit scary to take on the role because it's a lot of responsibility to watch over something so precious to so many. But it was also so exciting to get to be a part of such effective and meaningful work—getting teens back on track, educating even more teens about our legal system, and training teens to use their voices to hold each other and our community to a high standard.

Over the years, it has become a lot less scary (although there are certainly moments), but has stayed just as exciting. It's less scary because I know I'm not alone in this responsibility—time and again AYC's volunteers, donors, and staff rise up and carry the load. You all make AYC the organization it has become and the organization it is becoming.

Your support is what keeps the work at AYC exciting. With your support, we launched a new summer law and leadership program in 2017--over 40 guest speakers over four weeks, scholarships for every low income student who wanted to attend, and participants eager to join AYC. We will host it again this next summer and look forward to further strengthening it with your support.

Our youth volunteers continue to amaze me--teens today are so, so busy. But our teen volunteers still take the time to pause and provide a high quality justice program for their peers and all of us.

Thank you all for making AYC an exciting and meaningful organization. As we reach the end of the year, please consider making a donation to help us keep it that way.

Gratefully,

Rebecca Koford

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Did you KNOW?

Part of Anchorage Youth Court's mission is to educate youth about our justice system. We do this through community outreach, lectures, mock trials, new member classes, and the Law & Leadership program.

In September we had the opportunity to attend Gruening Middle School and present mock hearings to 270 eighth graders. Our open house was a week later with 75 people attending a mock hearing put on by AYC members.

We are proud to say this year we have increased our youth engagement through our new member classes by 40 percent. By year end, just over 100 youth will have taken AYC's new member class.

In addition to our classes taught by dedicated volunteers, AYC's curriculum has been integrated into legal studies classes at Mears, Goldenview, and Clark middle schools. Upon completion of the legal studies course, students are then able to take the bar exam and be sworn in to begin their journey as an AYC volunteer.



Pictured Above: Youth members from Gruening Middle School at the fall swearing in with Principal and AYC Board Member, Bobby Jefts and Alaska Supreme Court Justice and AYC Board Member, Peter Maassen.

Pictured Left: Youth being sworn in at the November 19 swearing in ceremony.

Board of Directors News...

We would like to thank Cindy Allred, Zack Fields, and Suzanne Little for their service on the Board of Directors. We appreciate all that they have done and we will miss them!

NEWMAN'S OWN
FOUNDATION

\$500,000
HOLIDAY CHALLENGE

POWERED BY  **crowdrise**

HELP US REACH
OUR GOAL OF

\$10,000



We are really excited to be a part of the Newman's Own Foundation \$500k Holiday Challenge this year. It's a friendly fundraising campaign where nonprofits compete to raise the most money with the top teams winning grand prize cash donations.

It started on November 21 and runs through January 3, 2018. A total of \$500,000 will be given away to organizations in the Challenge. Help us meet our goal of raising \$10,000, and we could win additional funds from Newman's Own!

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- There is still time to join our team as a fundraiser. Make your dollar go further by reaching out to your friends and family. By setting up a campaign for our cause and reaching out to your network, you can help us make an even bigger impact on justice for youth by youth.

It takes less than five minutes to set up a fundraiser. Visit AYC's fundraising page at www.crowdrise.com/anchorage-youth-court and click 'Join the Team & Create Your Own Fundraiser.'

- Donate to Anchorage Youth Court through the Newman's Own Challenge. Every donation makes a difference, no matter how big or small.

Visit www.crowdrise.com/anchorage-youth-court to make your donation today.

If you would rather donate to Anchorage Youth Court directly, please call 907.274.5986 or send checks to:

Anchorage Youth Court
PO Box 100359
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Thank you in advance for your continued support. We really appreciate it.

• • • DONATE TO ANCHORAGE YOUTH COURT • • •

I want to help AYC continue its mission to reduce juvenile crime and make a positive impact on our community.

Donation: \$100 ___ \$50 ___ \$25 ___ Other _____

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AYC, PO Box 100359, Anchorage, Alaska 99510
Anchorage Youth Court is a 501(c)(3) Non Profit.
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2017 AYC
LAW & LEADERSHIP
 PROGRAM

Over the summer, Anchorage area 9th graders participated in Anchorage Youth Court's first ever Law and Leadership Program. With AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers leading the 4-week program, students had the opportunity to learn about law and citizenship in an environment that incorporates principles of social and emotional learning. A special thanks to our guest speakers: Julia Bedell, Mayor Ethan Berkowitz, Justice Joel Bolger, Allison Bramwell, Clint Champion, Rep Matt Claman, Assembly Member Chris Constant, Barb Dubovich, Michael Ebell, Jon Ebron, Ryan Fortson, Judge Sharon Gleason, Judge Patrick Hanley, Matt Jardin, Kris Jensen, Lars Johnson, Rep Gabrielle LeDoux, Cheryl Mandala, George Martinez, Ben Muse, Susan Orlansky, Panida Pollawit, Lee Post, Rep Lance Pruitt, Tara Rich, Assembly Member Felix Rivera, Nikki Rose, Rep Ivy Sponholtz, Judge Sen Tan, Kelly Taylor, Cade Terada, Jon Torres, Judge Pamela Washington, Assembly Member John Weddleton, Jan Welch, and Adolf Zeman.

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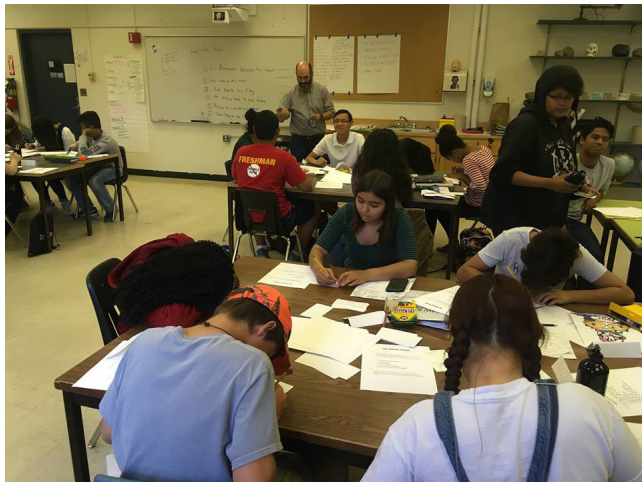


Photo at top of page: Mayor Ethan Berkowitz with the Law & Leadership participants.
Photo left top: Lee Post, Juvenile Probation Officer and Alaskan artist, worked with participants during a session about cartooning and the Alaska Youth Law Guide.
Photo left bottom: Participants during a mock oral argument at the Alaska Supreme Court.
Right: Justice Joel Bolger speaks during a courthouse tour. Participants learned from Justice Bolger, Judge Hanley, judicial services, and fingerprinting.

THANK YOU TO 2017 SUPPORTERS

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Summer Youth Summit

This summer Anchorage Youth Court members gathered together at AYC's Youth Summit. The first day centered around team building. We headed out to Birchwood Camp and participated in the challenge course. The second day was at the BP Energy Center and focused on building skills in everyday life and in the courtroom. A special thank you to Anchorage Youth Development Coalition for leading the developmental assets training.





ANCHORAGE YOUTH COURT

presents

74th annual

a night of
**Trivia, Food,
Auctions &
FUN!**

GAVEL GAMES

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 2018 | UAA LUCY CUDDY HALL | 5:30 PM

Gavel Games is an evening of FUN! 30 teams of four go head to head to test their trivia knowledge. Teams enjoy a friendly game of trivia with a delicious dinner, cash bar, live and silent auctions, and a game of heads or tails.

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE NOW!

Get a team of four together and join us on April 14! Thanks to BP's event sponsorship, 100% of what is raised goes directly back to Anchorage Youth Court's juvenile diversion program.

Not able to make it Saturday, April 14?


Consider sponsoring a team of AYC volunteer teachers or youth members or donating to the silent/live auction.

**Special Thanks to our
Event sponsor**

anchorageyouthcourt.org

> Limited number of tables! Reserve yours today!



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