

Newsletter

Youth Engaged in Service



March/April 2026

Dear Volunteer,

2025 was an incredible year and we had a blast at the annual Volunteer Recognition event, celebrating teens for their dedication and commitment to volunteering throughout the past year.

2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Had 227 volunteers participating in activities
- 279 Total Events
- Accumulating 3,448 volunteer hours
- Served almost 10,000 people in our community!
- New activities included: Bingo at Glenwell DePaul, Carnival Activities during Playground Rotations, PTO Babysitting at WW, Jr Rink Guards, and an extended Grace Guest House special event over Easter break where we spent the day making homemade pierogi for families staying there.
- In 2025, the Y.E.S. program reintroduced the Advisory Board, consisting of dedicated volunteers who serve as the organization's voice. They lead volunteer orientations, suggest ideas for workshops and events, and assist in planning activities.

Y.E.S. SCHOLARSHIP

Attention class of 2026! It's time to apply for the annual Y.E.S. scholarship! Due Date: April 1, 2026.

Apply Online: <https://tinyurl.com/yzk67wjj>

I'm so excited to share that we have been approached by Mary Potienko from the Detective Potienko Memorial Foundation to fund this year's scholarships. Mrs. Potienko is a teacher at TR Elementary and sees all of the great things our volunteers are doing to help at the school and would like her late husband's memorial fund help our volunteers pay for college!



CONGRATULATIONS 2026 ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

We actually had one more addition to the board who got added at the end of 2025! We're like to announce that **Michaela Reardon** will also be a member of the 2026 Advisory Board! We're very excited to have her as part of the team.

GRACE GUEST NEW WAIVER

Grace Guest House waivers are only valid for one year! If you sign up for Mar/Apr, please download a flyer from CheektowagaYES.org or be prepared to complete one when you're dropped off for the event! Volunteers cannot attend without a waiver!

ODD JOBS LIST

The Cheektowaga Senior Center has reached out to us and asked if any Y.E.S. volunteers would be interested in getting paid to do odd jobs. If you're interested in apply, please download an application at CheektowagaYES.org.

Thank you for being you and everything you do!

Alicia

**Mar/Apr Online Registration goes
LIVE - Sat Feb 21 at 9:00 am!**

Scan the QR code or visit CheektowagaYES.org



Volunteer of the Month

December 2025 - Nicholas Dolph

Joined: June 2025

Activities: 30

Service Hours: 60



In the six short months that Nick has been involved in the program, he has made a significant difference!

Nick is a polite, mature, kind, and outgoing young adult, whose volunteer efforts are helping make a positive impact in the community. (Plus, I truly appreciate his dry sense of humor!)

Whether packing grocery orders for families in need at St Stephens Food Pantry, playing Bingo at Glenwell DePaul, cooking meals at the Grace Guest House, or making balloon animals at a special event, his contributions are invaluable. His friendly personality and eagerness to volunteer is inspiring! Great job Nick!

January 2026 - Christopher Burns

Joined: April 2025

Activities: 25

Service Hours: 44.5



This recognition is so well deserved. Chris's maturity, kindness, and incredibly polite manner make a lasting impression on everyone he meets. He consistently demonstrates responsibility and thoughtfulness well beyond his years.

We are especially grateful for the time and energy Chris dedicates to inspiring future engineers and architects at Lego Club, packing groceries for families in need at the St Stephens Food Pantry, and crafting Meals on Wheels favors for homebound seniors.

Chris's commitment to service and his respectful attitude truly makes a difference!

Cheektowaga Y.E.S. Youth Engaged in Service

275 Alexander Ave
Cheektowaga, NY 14211
716.897.7207 ext 6655
716.427.4656 text/mobile
Remind: @CheekYES
cheektowagayes@tocny.org
www.CheektowagaYES.org

Y.E.S. Program Coordinator:
Alicia Hark

Y.E.S. Event Supervisors:
Jessie Cecere
Anastasia Figueiroa
Kirkland Nguyen

Y.E.S. Volunteer Advisory Board:
Cole DiGesare
Giada DiGesare
Ella Goodrich
Gigi Griffith
Audri Miller
Maddy Pollack
Maddie Radder
Michaela Reardon

Y.E.S. AB Member Spotlight Audri Miller

Freshman @ Clevehill

Volunteer: September 2022 - present
AB Member: Jan 2025 - present

Total Activities since 2022: 273
Total Service Hours since 2022: 639.75
(activities & hours as of 1/30/2026)

Favorite Y.E.S. Event: Winterfest
Y.E.S. Bestie: Cole & Gigi
Favorite Y.E.S. Memory: Setting the fire hydrant off in the van!

Favorite Color: Dark Red
Favorite Food: Seasoned Baked Potatoes
Favorite TV Binge: The Runarounds
Favorite Band: Bruno Mars
Favorite Movie: 10 Things I Hate About You
Favorite Team: Nebraska Girls Volleyball



The Advisory Board participated in an exclusive teambuilding event and was able to get through the escape room with less than a minute to spare!

Activities with the Elderly

Peregrine Senior Living

575 Cayuga Creek Rd, Cheektowaga

Join us on the first Wednesday of each month for activities, games and crafts. Cornhole tournaments have become a volunteer and resident favorite! The first time you volunteer here, you'll be required to complete a HIPPA form. Forms can be downloaded from our website www.CheektowagaYES.org. Extra forms will be available the night of the event.

NOTE: NEW DAY & TIME

Sat Mar 7 - 9:45 - 11:00 am

Sat Apr 4 - 9:45 - 11:00 am

LIMIT: ONE PER NEWSLETTER

Elderwood Assisted Living at Cheektowaga

229 Bennett Rd, Cheektowaga (enter by 2nd driveway awning)

Join us for crafts, games, bingo, holiday-themed activities and more! Each month will be a different fun activity.

Tues Mar 24 - 5:45 - 7:15 pm

Tues Apr 28 - 5:45 - 7:15 pm

LIMIT: ONE PER NEWSLETTER

BINGO at Glenwell DePaul Assisted Living

2248 Old Union Rd, Cheektowaga

There are multiple buildings - look for 2248 above the entrance!

Join us for Saturday Bingo! We'll be adding new activities in the future but the residents love weekend Bingo!

Sat Mar 14, 28 - 1:15 - 2:45 pm

Sat Apr 11, 25 - 1:15 - 2:45 pm

LIMIT: ONE PER MONTH

Meals on Wheels Favor Making

Alexander Center

Give the gift of a smile! Help us make crafts to add to the Meals on Wheels trays for seniors in the community. We've gotten so many thank you notes and phone calls from the seniors thanking us for the favors!

Tues Mar 10 - 5:00 - 6:30 pm

Wed Apr 1 - 5:00 - 6:30 pm

Activities with Children

EVENT LOCATIONS

- Alexander Community Center
275 Alexander, Cheektowaga
- Julia Boyer Reinstein (JBR)
1030 Losson Rd, Cheektowaga
- Anna Reinstein Library
2580 Harlem Rd, Cheektowaga
- Recreation Center/Ice Rink
2600 Harlem Rd, Cheektowaga
- Stiglmeier (Losson Park)
810 Losson Rd, Cheektowaga

Craft Night @ the Library

Join us for crafts, games, story time and fun!

Themes: Mar: March Madness

Apr: Spring Fling

Thurs Mar 5 - 5:45 - 7:15 pm @ JBR

Thurs Mar 19 - 5:45 - 7:15 pm @ JBR

Thurs Apr 2 - 5:45 - 7:15 pm @ JBR

Thurs Apr 16 - 5:45 - 7:15 pm @ JBR

Lego Club @ the Library

Help kids embrace their creative side as they build structures, vehicles, and anything else they can dream up!

Thurs Mar 12 - 5:45 - 7:15 pm @ JBR

Mon Mar 16 - 5:45 - 7:15 pm @ Reinstein

Thurs Mar 26 - 5:45 - 7:15 pm @ JBR

Thurs Apr 9 - 5:45 - 7:15 pm @ JBR

Mon Apr 13 - 5:45 - 7:15 pm @ Reinstein

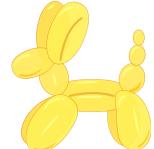
Thurs Apr 23 - 5:45 - 7:15 pm @ JBR

Family Craft Night

Help run an activity station while kids make crafts, cook, bake, play games, and more!

Theme: Butter Lamb-oopolza

Thurs Apr 2 - 5:45 - 7:30 pm @ Alexander
Volunteers will be face painting and making balloon butter lambs (which is just a yellow dog hahahaha)





Activities with the Community

St. Stephen's Hope & Joy Food Pantry

750 Wehrle Dr, Cheektowaga

Help pack grocery orders for families and organize and restock food at a community food pantry. If the weather is nice, we may be helping in the garden.

No open toe shoes please!

Sun Mar 1, 15, 29 - 12:00 - 3:00 pm

Sun Apr 12, 26 - 12:00 - 3:00 pm

LIMIT: ONE PER MONTH

Grace Guest House

MEET AT ALEXANDER

The Grace Guest House provides a place for families to stay while loved ones receive care in area hospitals. We'll be cooking dinner for the guests staying there. Meet at the Alexander Center and we'll be driving together in the van.

Don't forget to bring a hat! All volunteers must wear gloves and a hairnet (or baseball cap while cooking). *No open toe shoes please!*

WAIVERS ARE ONLY VALID FOR ONE CALENDAR YEAR. IF YOU'RE SIGNED UP YOU'LL BE SENT A NEW WAIVER TO BRING OR MUST SIGN BEFORE DEPARTING IN THE VAN. IF YOU DO NOT COMPLETE A WAIVER YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND.

Tues Mar 24 - 4:00 - 6:30 pm

Tues Apr 21 - 4:00 - 6:30 pm

LIMIT: ONE PER NEWSLETTER

BBQ with the Bunny

Town Park Mega Shelter

Sat Mar 28 - 11:45 am - 2:00 pm

Join us for our egg-cellent Easter event! Help us out with face painting, balloons, crafts, an egg hunt and passing out a BBQ lunch! A special friend will be hopping by to join in on the fun! **Please note:** This event will be held outside so please be sure to dress accordingly.

PTO Babysitting & Special Events

EVENT LOCATIONS

- Theodore Roosevelt Elementary (TR)
2495 William St, Cheektowaga
Enter lot from Parker Ave, enter through the back door
- Woodrow Wilson Elementary (WW)
166 Halstead Ave, Sloan
Enter lot behind school on Reiman Ave, enter through back door
- Maryvale Primary (front door)
1 Nagel Dr, Cheektowaga

PTO Babysitting

Wed Mar 4 - 6:00 - 7:30 pm @ WW

Wed Mar 11 - 5:00 - 7:30 pm @ TR

The TR event is babysitting & author night. Volunteers will be face painting and making balloon animals.

Wed Mar 11 - 6:15 - 7:45 pm
@ Maryvale Primary

Wed Apr 15 - 6:00 - 7:30 pm @ WW

Thurs Apr 16 - 6:00 - 7:30 pm @ TR

Special Events

Bring a Hero Night

Thurs Mar 19 - 5:45 - 7:30 pm @ WW

Volunteers will be helping with activity stations.

Ice Cream Social/Art Show

Thurs Apr 30 - 5:45 - 7:30 pm

@ Maryvale Primary

Volunteers will be helping with activity stations, face painting, and making balloon animals.



ORDER A BBQ CHICKEN DINNER

Y.E.S. volunteers attending BBQ with the bunny have the option to buy a chicken dinner to take home. Dinners are \$10 per person and payment must be made by **Fri Mar 6**. Bring money to an event, call 716-897-7207 with Program #9338 or visit link online: <https://tinyurl.com/msbjpw27>

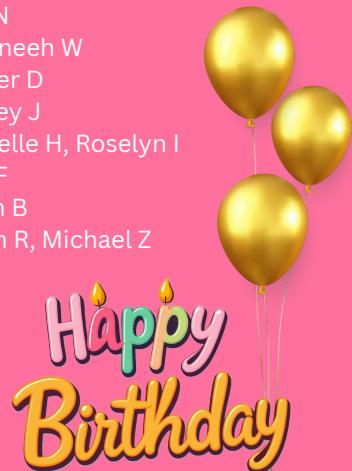
Happy Birthday!

March Birthdays:

- 9 - Morgan H
- 10 - Chloe R
- 11 - Ja'Lynn B
- 12 - Dani D
- 15 - Nevaeh H
- 20 - Grace S
- 22 - Michael M
- 23 - Margarita M
- 26 - McKenna F, Iver M

April Birthdays:

- 1 - Adrianna C
- 2 - Luca N
- 3 - Ahmaneeh W
- 5 - Juniper D
- 6 - Audrey J
- 15 - Danielle H, Roselyn I
- 16 - Erik F
- 19 - Colin B
- 24 - Elijah R, Michael Z



Junior Rink Guard

Rec Center/Ice Rink

Earn volunteer hours by spending the evening on the ice! Y.E.S. volunteers will skate around the ice, handing out walkers to beginner skaters, and helping any kiddos that fall and need help getting up from the ice.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- You **MUST** know how to ice skate!
- If you have your own ice skates, bring them. If you need to rent skates, it's \$5 cash per event.
- Helmets are strongly recommended (*a bike or hockey helmet is acceptable*)
- A Y.E.S. Supervisor will NOT be in attendance at these activities. Y.E.S. volunteers are to report to the hockey office at the rink (on the left side before entering doors to the ice) to check in with Rec Center Staff. They will provide instructions.
- You'll be given a Rink Staff jacket to wear for the evening while skating.

Fri Mar 6, 13, 20, 27
6:45 - 9:00 pm

Sat Mar 7, 14, 21, 28
5:45 - 8:00 pm

Congratulations to our amazing volunteers!



Lily J is Maryvale's Athlete of the Month for January for Bowling!

Aria H won an award for academic excellence and made the modified basketball team!

Jeanette W made the honor roll!

Delaynie R received the Buffalo Promise Scholarship!

Trivia Winners: Team Covid 19
Chris, Lily, Nick, Erik, Kaleb & Cole



Y.E.S. AB Member Spotlight Maddie Radder

Freshman @ Clevehill

Volunteer: November 2023 - present
AB Member: Jan 2025 - present

Total Activities since 2023: 91
Total Service Hours since 2022: 204.25
(activities & hours as of 1/30/2026)

Fun Fact: Loves cheer and is on the all-star cheer team, WILD!
Favorite Y.E.S. Event: Food Pantry
Y.E.S. Bestie: Maddy & Michaela
Favorite Y.E.S. Memory: Accidentally setting off the smoke alarm at Grace Guest House!

Favorite Color: Pink
Favorite Food: Sushi
Favorite TV Binge: Cobra Kai
Favorite Movie: The Outsiders
Favorite Band: Taylor Swift & Queen
Favorite Team: Buffalo Bills



Optional:
Laser Tag
Waiver



Workshops

Wild Goose Chase: Educational Zoo Scavenger Hunt

Wed Apr 8 10:30 am - 2:30 pm **Meet @ Alexander Center** **Cost: \$20**
Lions, tigers, and bears - Oh My! Y.E.S volunteers will split up into teams to explore the zoo. Each team will be given a question sheet and as they walk around the zoo, they get to read the placards to learn about all of the animals and answer the trivia questions. The team with most correct answers at the end of the workshop will win prizes!

The \$20 cost covers admission to the zoo. Volunteers are welcome to bring money for concessions or bring their own snacks/lunch/drink in a backpack.

Money due Wed Apr 1. Please bring cash to a Y.E.S. event, call 716-897-7207 or online



Socials

Play Port - All You Can Play Retro Arcade in Erie, PA

Sat Apr 18 10:00 am - 5:00 pm **Meet @ Alexander** **Cost: \$20**

Please Note: This arcade is located in Erie PA and is about an 1.5 hour drive!

Money due Wed Apr 1. Please bring cash to a Y.E.S. event, call 716-897-7207 or online

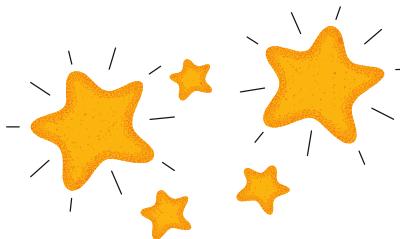
This place is so much fun! For \$20 you get THREE full hours of unlimited video game play, 9 holes of glow in the dark mini golf, a slice of pizza and a pop. Over 100 arcade games set on FREE PLAY - including Mortal Kombat, Street Fighter, Big Buck Hunter Safari, Jurassic Park, Pac Man, Donkey Kong, DDR, Pinball, air hockey, and so much more!



Volunteers can bring extra cash for additional snacks & slushies, arcade games that give tickets for prizes, glow pool tables (\$1 per game), mini laser tag (\$6 for 10 min session), or laser maze sessions (\$3 per session). The snack bar is very affordable (\$3 hot dogs, popcorn or soft pretzels, \$3.50 nachos, \$2.50 funnel cake, \$8 chicken tenders & fries)

If volunteers choose to pay for a laser tag session, they MUST have a waiver completed ahead of time!!!

REMINDER: To attend a social, volunteers must participate in at least 2 events during the 2 month newsletter and have ZERO no-shows for the past 6 months.



MARCH 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Food Pantry 12:00 - 3:00 pm @ St Stephens		PTO Babysitting 6:00 - 7:30 pm @WW Elementary	Craft Night 5:45 - 7:15 pm @ JBR Library  Happy Birthday Anastasia!	Jr Rink Guard 6:45 - 9:00 pm @ Rec Center/Rink	Activity Night 9:45 - 11:00 am @ Peregrine Senior Living	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		Meals on Wheels Favor Making 5:00 - 6:30 pm @ Alexander	PTO Babysitting 6:15 - 7:45 pm @Maryvale Primary	Lego Club 5:45 - 7:00 pm @ JBR Library  Happy Birthday Alicia!	Jr Rink Guard 6:45 - 9:00 pm @ Rec Center/Rink	Bingo 1:15 - 2:45 pm @ Glenwell DePaul Jr Rink Guard 5:45 - 8:00 pm @ Rec Center/Rink
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Food Pantry 12:00 - 3:00 pm @ St Stephens	Lego Club 5:45 - 7:00 pm @ Reinstein Library		Craft Night 5:45 - 7:15 pm @ JBR Library Hero Night 5:45 - 7:30 pm @WW Elementary	Jr Rink Guard 6:45 - 9:00 pm @ Rec Center/Rink	Jr Rink Guard 5:45 - 8:00 pm @ Rec Center/Rink	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Grace Guest House 4:00 - 6:30 pm Meet @ Alexander	Lego Club 5:45 - 7:00 pm @ JBR Library		BBQ with the Bunny 11:45 am - 2:00 pm @ Town Park Mega Shelter	
		Activity Night 5:45 - 7:15 pm @ Elderwood		Jr Rink Guard 6:45 - 9:00 pm @ Rec Center/Rink	Bingo 1:15 - 2:45 pm @ Glenwell DePaul	
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Food Pantry 12:00 - 3:00 pm @ St Stephens	New Volunteer Orientation 6:00 - 7:00 pm @ Alexander					
	Advisory Board Meeting 6:00 - 8:00 pm @ Alexander					



APRIL 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
			Meals on Wheels Favor Making 5:00 - 6:30 pm @ Alexander	Craft Night 5:45 - 7:15 pm @ JBR Library Butterlamb- oopolua 5:45 - 7:45 pm @ Alexander		Activity Night 9:45 - 11:00 am @ Peregrine Senior Living
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
			WORKSHOP: Buffalo Zoo Scavenger Hunt 10:30 am - 2:30 pm Meet @ Alexander	Lego Club 5:45 - 7:00 pm @ JBR Library		Bingo 1:15 - 2:45 pm @ Glenwell DePaul
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Food Pantry 12:00 - 3:00 pm @ St Stephens	Lego Club 5:45 - 7:00 pm @ Reinstein Library		PTO Babysitting 6:00 - 7:30 pm @ WW Elementary	Craft Night 5:45 - 7:15 pm @ JBR Library PTO Babysitting 6:00 - 7:30 pm @ TR Elementary		SOCIAL: PlayPort 10:00 am - 5:00 pm Meet @ Alexander
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	New Volunteer Orientation 6:00 - 7:00 pm @ Alexander Advisory Board Meeting 6:00 - 8:00 pm @ Alexander	Grace Guest House 4:00 - 6:30 pm Meet @ Alexander		Lego Club 5:45 - 7:15 pm @ JBR Library		Bingo 1:15 - 2:45 pm @ Glenwell DePaul
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
Food Pantry 12:00 - 3:00 pm @ St Stephens		Activity Night 5:45 - 7:15 pm @ Elderwood		Ice Cream Social/ Art Show 6:00 - 7:30 pm @ Maryvale Primary		



VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION EVENT January 30, 2026

2 - 5 ACTIVITIES

Ian Bader - 4
Griffin Barr - 2
Keira Barr - 5
Raegan Barr - 5
Ja'Lynn Batchelor - 2
Abigale Blackwell - 2
Emmlyn Blotzer - 3
Ocean Brooks - 3
Isabella Carroll - 2
Jeremiah Cooper - 2
Miabella Devans - 2
Dominic Felty - 5
Michael Fink - 5
McKenna Fitzpatrick - 2
Karon Fulgham - 3
Ricardo Garcia - 4
Ella Gawron - 5
Rhianon Gerace - 2
Abigail Goodie - 5
Lucy Green - 4
Remington Haen - 3
Charlotte Haen - 5
Lucas Humphries - 3
Leo Jeswald - 2
Salvatore Jeswald - 2
Fiona Kramarzyck - 2
Lucy Kramarzyck - 2
Miya Lambert - 2
Kaili Lambert - 2
Riley Lewandowski - 2
Margarita Mercado - 3
Brenden Meyer - 2
Al Middlebrooks - 2
Ella Molik - 4
Michael Pefty - 5
Branson Pham - 5
Easton Pirson - 2
Elijah Riederer - 3
Manny Roberts - 4
Alana Robinson - 4
Zoe Ryan - 4
Joseph Schuster - 3
Caroline Smith - 3
Wynter Sniatecki - 3
Ryan Stoj - 2
Kristine Tran - 4
Dylan Wagner - 2
Maya Wyzykowski - 3
Jake Zawadzki - 2
Michael Zukowski - 3

6 - 15 ACTIVITIES

Amali Ballard - 8
Carter Ballard - 8
Sophia Barniak - 7
Lucas Barniak - 7
Matthew Blotzer - 13
Colin Bodine - 11
Ava Brzezinski - 15
Lily Burns - 10
Daniella Dunphy - 14
Riley Flores - 10
Sienna Floyd - 6
Aria Hall - 8
Morgan Hark - 6
Roselyn Ilardo - 10
Hayden Jarmusz - 10
Aaron Jones - 8
Lily Jones - 8
Norah Kasprzyk - 7
Rachel Kraus - 6
Riley Kraus - 6
Cecilia Kwitek - 6
Wyatt Kwitek - 8
Bethany Lama Sherpa - 6
Cole Lewandowski - 8
Knowledge McIn - 10
Sophia McNett - 14
Ferryn Mesler - 12
Iver Mesler - 12
Hadley Nawojski - 10
Charlotte Niederhauser - 13
Alexander Ocasio - 12
Victoria Orzechowski - 10
Michael Pajak - 6
Lauren Piotrowski - 7
Devin Platt - 10
Chloe Rowell - 6
Kara Rude - 6
Raegan Rydzynski - 7
Carson Schwanz - 11
Adelyn Snyder - 6
Robert Swiatkowski - 8
Donna Teller - 15
Einin Walsh - 11
Dylan Walterich - 11
Gianna Wheeler - 7
Corbin Wickline - 11
Ahmaneeh Wilkes - 12
Jeanette Wyatt - 15

16 - 24 ACTIVITIES

Dakota Alexander - 24
Jacob Aydelotte - 23
Mercedes Bivins - 20
Christopher Burns - 19
Elaina Carrillo - 21
Jocelyn Ciesielski - 19
Mila Dubik - 17
Sawyer Dunphy-Higgins - 19
Margaret Heintz - 23
Ashlyn McNett - 24
Eirelynn Murphy - 20
Luca Niederhauser - 17
Madelyn Pollack - 24
Matthew Reardon - 20
Delaynie Reese - 21
Courtney Romalewski - 17
Kaleb Teller - 21
Olivia Ziccardi - 19

25 - 39 ACTIVITIES

Violet Carpin - 29
Nicholas Dolph - 30
Zoey Feind - 25
Erik Finger - 36
Susetta Gonsiorek - 26
Ella Goodrich - 26
Gigi Griffith - 36
Nevaeh Harris-Major - 32
Robert Teller - 31

40 - 70 ACTIVITIES

Luca DiGesare - 42
Kendall Profic - 42
Madelyn Radder - 41
Michaela Reardon - 47

70+ ACTIVITIES

Cole DiGesare - 106
Audriana Miller - 111
Giada DiGesare - 114



Y.E.S. STAFF TEAM

2025 ADVISORY BOARD

