

# YOUTH GIVE BACK Parent Info Session

September 9, 2020



THE  
Community Fund  
of Darien

# Agenda for Today

1. 1. What is The Community Fund?
2. 2. Overview of TCF youth groups
3. 3. What are objectives of YGB?
4. 4. Meeting Dates
5. 5. COVID protocol- groups and volunteering
6. 6. Expectations for Students
7. 7. Role of parents
8. 8. Q&A

# What is The Community Fund of Darien?



The Community Fund of Darien inspires people and mobilizes resources to strengthen our community. Our vision is for all community members to have the opportunity to reach their full potential as healthy, educated, and self-sufficient individuals.

**Serve • Connect • Support • Change Lives**

# Our Current Groups

- **Youth Give Back** (7-8<sup>th</sup> grade); Semester Only; Focus on: volunteering & engagement
- **Freshman Community Group** (9<sup>th</sup> grade); Focus on: volunteering, leadership development and introduction to two other high school groups (YAT and YCF)
- **Youth Asset Team** (10-12<sup>th</sup> grade); Focus on: mental health and substance abuse
- **Youth Community Fund** (10-12<sup>th</sup> grade); Focus on: volunteering and grant making

# What is Youth Give Back (YGB)

## **YGB is ...**

- Group of approximately 20 middle school students (from Middlesex; per semester) who learn about human service needs in Fairfield County
- Members will interact with different local nonprofit organizations and participate in a variety of volunteer projects
- Students will engage in team building and leadership development activities
- Group is led by Heather Gordon (Youth Program Manager), Ms. Lily Morgan (Teacher Advisor), parent advisors (Elizabeth Kroenlein & Sandi Sufrin) and our volunteer high school leaders

# YGB Objectives

## **Students will:**

- Learn about human service needs in lower Fairfield County
- Engage with leaders from local nonprofits to learn about philanthropy
- Participate in community service at a variety of local nonprofits
- Learn skills emphasizing communication, cooperation and compassion
- Get to know and work with students from multiple grades, and make connections with our high school leaders
- Continue community service in high school
- Become lifelong philanthropists!

# What our YGB students say:

- “It was just the best experience hanging out with the kids at CLC, I would do it again any day!”
- “I feel I learned a lot about the issues in our community and what I need to do to help out.”
- “My experience with YGB was amazing this year. I met new people and contributed to my community.”
- “I learned that many of the people at Atria love to have younger people visit them.”
- “I learned how things you may think are little really make an impact on others.”
- “I learned empathy for people who aren’t as fortunate as I am and that there are many people who live their lives differently from me.”
- “I helped people in need to improve their lives. Showing small acts of kindness can change the world.”





# Fall 2020 Dates: Wednesdays 3:30-4:00pm

- Sept 16
- Sept 30
- Oct 14
- Nov 11
- Dec 2
- Dec 16
- Plus additional volunteer activities

# What will this year look like?

- TCF will take cue from DHS policies on clubs
- All group meetings at this point will be virtual on ZOOM
- TCF will have virtual volunteer opportunities plus additional small group in-person volunteering
- Parents/Students will need to sign COVID release form
- Parents/Students will provide transportation to volunteer events

# Student expectations:

- Commitment to attend YGB meetings and participate in volunteer activities
- Consistent attendance is expected for students to gain the full benefit of the program
- Students can't miss more than 3 Wednesday meetings
- Students participate in person or on ZOOM (cameras on)
- Ask questions, comment, laugh– be engaged!

# TCF Student Group Values & Code of Conduct:

- **Respect:** You will have respect for those we serve, for our fellow students, and for the adults who make these programs possible.
- **Responsibility:** You will make every effort to meet your commitments to this group. You will attend meetings and come prepared.
- **Integrity:** You will behave at all times with honesty. You will respect the confidentiality of your peers and those you serve.
- **Kindness:** You will have empathy for each other and the people you encounter as ambassadors of TCF. You will treat them as you want to be treated.

# Role of parents:

- Remind students about upcoming YGB dates
- Please let me know if your child cannot attend a Wednesday meeting
- Be prompt if meeting to volunteer, helping with a drive, etc.
- Please provide feedback
- Get involved with TCF!