

The Leadership Journal

A publication of the
Leadership Academy
of Madison County



Summer 2017



HAVANA NIGHTS 2

Since graduating from Leadership Academy, the LAMC Class of 2016 has continued their journey together with service projects, social outings, and support of one another in many ways, both personal and professional. We love that! In fact, those connections continue to benefit Madison County, building community wherever two or more are gathered.

On Friday, August 11, 2017, the Class of 2016 was at it again, hosting their **2nd Annual Havana Nights**. The inaugural event in the summer of 2016 provided seed money to stock the shelves of the "**Leadership Library**" (don't forget we have LOTS

of leadership books available for you to check out). Additional funds raised last year were then placed into a LAMC Class of 2016 Scholarship Fund, managed by the alumni. The class has developed their own application and established a scholarship committee to review the applications.

In the true spirit of a **party with a purpose**, the **2nd annual Havana Nights** was an even bigger success! **THANK YOU!**

Way to **#GrowServeLead**, Class of 2016!

See what happened at YLA camp!



More camp pics inside!....

YLA 2018

#GrowServeLead

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YLA 2018





A New Family

Sylvia Phillips YLA'18

Family. Most define it as those who are related to you by blood. However, after meeting 35 new people who aspire to be a leader just as I do, I realized this is not the case at all. Being genetically related or having the same last name is not what makes you family. Relationships that include trust, support, love, acceptance and commitment, are what makes you family. After camp, I have come to the conclusion that these 35 new people are now family and they fit all the requirements.

Camp was quite scary at first. Being surrounded by 35 unfamiliar faces and having to get deeply personal real fast was more than intimidating for me. Yet, these feelings towards camp and Youth Leadership Academy changed rapidly. After only an hour, I confess I never felt more comfortable around complete strangers. Everlasting friendships were built in a span of three days. I am absolutely thrilled to be able to be on this journey of growing and become a stronger leader with them. The memories I made at camp are unforgettable and joining YLA was the one of the wisest decisions I've ever made.

I learned so much about myself at camp. The crucial skill of self examination, I believe will enable me to lead others more successfully. It's difficult to be a good leader when you don't know your strengths and weaknesses. I discovered that although my learning style may be different from those around me, we can use our differences to benefit each other. Variety is important. It's necessary to listen to each other despite those differences in order to create a functioning community. Teamwork was a primary factor in all of our victories at camp. I learned that it's okay to need help and that we cannot accomplish all we need to if we persist on doing it alone. Youth Leadership Academy and the people incorporated with it have already impacted me deeply. I am so privileged to be involved in YLA. I cannot wait to see what is in store for this group as well as myself. I know if we come together as one, lead, and have a servant's heart we will do great things!

Molding The Future

Preston Davis YLA'18

Being a part of the Youth Leadership Academy has honestly been one of the most amazing and beneficial decisions I have ever made in my entire life. At first I was very nervous, because I did not know what I was getting myself into. Knowing that I was going to be surrounded by over thirty kids that I have never known a day in my life made me second guess joining the program. However, after camp, I would not trade this fantastic experience for anything in the world.

I made so many great memories, never-ending friendships, and great leadership skills. I learned that it takes teamwork to get a job done and that it is okay to have to depend on other people sometimes. I learned that even though someone may not have the same ideas as me, that we both can still use both of our ideas to create an amazing product. Working together with people with different personalities and working towards the same goal creates a bond that can never be broken.

Many people describe family as being people that share the same blood as you. However, camp taught me that family is way deeper than blood. People that you can count on, that have your back, that want you to succeed, that's what you call family. I am blessed to be a part of this amazing group and I know that everything that I learn will mold me into a better young man and leader.



Brit Cassidy (YLA '05) currently lives in Wichita, KS and is employed by John Deere

servant leader SPOTLIGHT *Brit Cassidy*

As I approached the milestone of turning 30, I approached this milestone in a rather reflective manner. People asked and I asked myself, "Is my life how I

thought it would be?" My response was an extremely sarcastic, "Yes... Kinda." Yes, in that I love my life, but it wasn't necessarily the route I had planned. It would be interesting if I could go back and have a conversation with my 17 year-old self again.

How have I navigated this unplanned path successfully? I credit my upbringing. My parents, church, sports, formal education, and organizations like the South Madison Youth Commission (SMYC) and 4-H all provided a safe, supportive and encouraging atmosphere to excel in anything, and sometimes too many things, that I put my mind to. However, one of the most unique opportunities that I genuinely believe helped to sling-shot me towards success was the Youth Leadership Academy. Church grew my faith; sports gave me a work ethic; school is where I gained knowledge; SMYC showed me community activism; 4-H offered true friendships; YLA is where I explored who Britt Cassidy truly was and could become.

While I was applying traditional assumptions of leadership in aspects of my life already with my friends and peers such as motivating others and setting goals, YLA was the first time something made me focus on myself. Seems counter-intuitive for a leadership program, but I learned and truly believe before you can lead in any fashion, you have to know yourself first! What makes me tick? What are my triggers? What are my motivators? What are my learning styles? What are my communication styles? While I exhibit these things every day and intuitively know them, without acknowledging them, naming them, embracing them and truly understanding and working with them, I have

no prayer in optimizing those traits for the greater good or much less a chance to lead others when I can't lead myself.

YLA unlocked a passion for knowing these things about myself. It gave me the gift of spending time reflecting on them and gave me the "ok" to learn about myself. It recognized a spark in me and gave me the tools to keep that flame alive and continue my own perpetual personal study, reflection and searching. I carried this mentality throughout college at Purdue, my various roles within John Deere, and am now applying it in my current MBA Program where I have a Leadership concentration.

30 isn't old enough to make me lose my memory quite yet so here are some of the specifics I can recall from the Class of 2005:

- Trusting my teammates to pass me through one of the smallest holes in the spider web obstacle at camp
- My first Myers Briggs assessment was ENTJ - Extrovert, Intuition, Thinking, and Judgment.
- The "Choose your Attitude" theme from the FISH Philosophy that has helped me as I have worked through my own personal stinky fish markets.
- How proud we were to pull off the first, extremely successful county-wide Battle of the Bands.
- One of my classmates was even my Junior Prom date

With these wonderful memories and the sense of purpose that YLA initiated in me, I honestly can't wait to see how I continue to grow and learn, therefore exhibiting leadership for the next 30 years and beyond.

Thanks YLA and the Class of 2005!

GROW

SERVE

LEAD

Thriving Communities Thriving State

INDIANA UNIVERSITY PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE



On August 11, 2017, the Indiana Leadership Association hosted their Annual Meeting and Conference at the **Anderson University Flagship Center**. Leadership Academy of Madison County was honored to host the event and we were proud and excited to have such great representation at the event from our alumni and sponsors.

What made the day even better were the presentations by local alumni and community leaders. Special thanks to presenters:

- **John Pistole**, President of Anderson University
- **Rob Sparks** (LAMC '10), Executive Director, Corporation for Economic Development
- State Representative **Terri Austin** (LAMC '95)
- **Dr. James Willey** (LAMC '10), Chancellor Ivy Tech Anderson, for their insight into community leadership development.

Tom Guevara, Director of the Indiana University Public Policy Institute, invited us all to dive into the **Thriving Communities, Thriving State** report findings (<http://policychoices.iu.edu/>) for an in depth look at the current and future needs of our communities. Interesting to us, of course, was that **leadership and engagement** were top priority needs in ALL communities, regardless of location, size, or demographics.

Sound familiar? What can we, as community leadership programs, as community leaders, & as alumni, do to drive the initiatives to make our community an even better place to live, work, & play? Let's do something!

We would also like to thank **Quack Daddy Donuts** (**Bryan Williams**, LAMC '97) and the team at **Anderson Madison County Visitors Bureau** (**Esther Cleary** LAMC '15, **Maureen Lambert** LAMC '14, **Diana Graves** '96, **Matt Rust** '16) for adding fun and color to our day!

Rob Sparks (LAMC '10) received the prestigious **Distinguished Community Leader Award** from the Indiana Leadership Association, **The Distinguished Community Leader Award** is given to a graduate of a community leadership program who has made significant and notable contributions for the betterment of their communities. **The Distinguished Community Leader Award** is designed to recognize exceptional community leadership made by men and women who have participated in and graduated from one of the many community leadership programs in the state of Indiana. The recipient of this award must have provided exemplary service and demonstrated a deep commitment to the community or communities he or she serves.





LEADERSHIP
ACADEMY OF
MADISON
COUNTY

MEET & GREET

Our hosts, Hoosier Park Racing & Casino, helped us welcome the LAMC Class of 2018 on Wednesday, August 30th. We're excited to kick off another great year of building leaders, connections and impact in Madison County. Welcome Class of 2018. Are you ready to **Grow, Serve and Lead**? You'll hear all about them and from them in our next edition. Thank you Hoosier Park, for being such great hosts!



W E L C O M E



We're excited to announce that **Marcie Wandel** (LAMC '11) has joined us here at LAMC. The search is over! Marcie will be leading our efforts to develop new curriculum topics and program expansion for both the adult and youth programs while Pam and Beth try to keep up with her.

Marcie comes to us as a graduate of LAMC with 15 years' experience in the training and development field. Her experience, expertise, and energy for developing curriculum and programs to further our mission make us eager to get started. Much more to come in the coming months.

Marcie and her husband, Anthony, are the proud parents of Makenzie (7) and Adam (5). Please join us in welcoming Marcie! You can reach Marcie at mgwandel@anderson.edu or (765) 641-4028

DID YOU KNOW?



Did you know that **Quang Vinh**, LAMC '08 grad and former board member, is an amazing artist? You might remember him as our guest artist and educator at Brushes & Brews. By day, Quang serves as the Director of Leadership Excellence at Community Hospital Anderson; but in his free time, he creates beautiful paintings, drawings, and other works of art. Quang's art was recently featured at the Pendleton Artists Society's Gallery 119 on State Street in Pendleton.

Through one chance meeting with a member of the Pendleton Artists Society, Quang joined this dedicated group of local residents who work very hard to transform an abandoned storefront into a working gallery providing exhibition space and art instruction to children and adults. Becoming a member of the artists society is just one of the many ways Quang gives back to our community. Way to Grow.Serve.Lead. Quang!

20 UNDER 40



All of us here in Madison County are proud to say that Madison Magazine, a publication of *The Herald Bulletin*,

12 of the recently named "20 Under 40" are graduates of LAMC or YLA.

recently featured 20 young professionals under the age of 40 who are "driving the local economy and services with energy, creativity and the promise of a brighter future in Madison County." Congratulations to ALL the nominees and finalists!

Fair warning to all of the other nominees – you are NOW on Pam's radar. Seriously, though, Madison County has so much to be proud of and these young professionals give us so much hope and inspiration to continue giving it our all. The future IS bright. We're putting our sunglasses on!

Rachel Christenson (LAMC '16)

Jonathon Cook (LAMC '10, Board member)

Lindsey Cuneo (LAMC '17)

Eric Davis (LAMC '14)

Stephanie Fertucci (LAMC '16)

Ryan Harter (YLA '08)

Adam Hoeksema (LAMC '13, Board member)

Mark Loose (LAMC '15, YLA '08)

LaKoya Rochell (LAMC '16)

Kevin Sheward (LAMC '16)

Damon Stansberry (LAMC '12, Board member)

Here's a link to the magazine:

Madison
LIFE & TIMES

SCAVENGER HUNT

846 items were collected by the YLA Class of 2018 on Saturday, August 12th, during a Scavenger Hunt. Wow! The youth split up in teams and then set out to collect needed items for *Alternatives*, *Dove Harbor*, *Operation Love*, *The Christian Center*, and *The Salvation Army*.

They learned about each of the mission of each of these non profit agencies serving Madison County; and in the spirit of philanthropy, they had their first experience asking for donations and support as a member of Youth Leadership Academy. Thank you to all of you who answered the call when they knocked at your door!

#GrowServeLead

#YLA2018

#ProudofourYLAkids



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The Herald Bulletin

"Leadership and learning are indispensable to one another."

John F Kennedy

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