

December 2020

Dear Youth<sup>2</sup> Supporters:



**Youth<sup>2</sup>- Youth Helping Youth** has just completed its seventeenth year. Youth<sup>2</sup>'s goals include supporting young people in Saratoga County to create and participate in social awareness/social action, volunteer and fundraising projects, which assist other youth locally and globally.

Thank you to those people who have supported Youth<sup>2</sup> in the past. We want to take this time to thank you: our family, friends, businesses, and corporate sponsors. If you are new to Youth<sup>2</sup>, we hope that this letter broadens your understanding of our accomplishments. Please consider a financial gift to continue our work.

**Here is a short diary of 2020:**

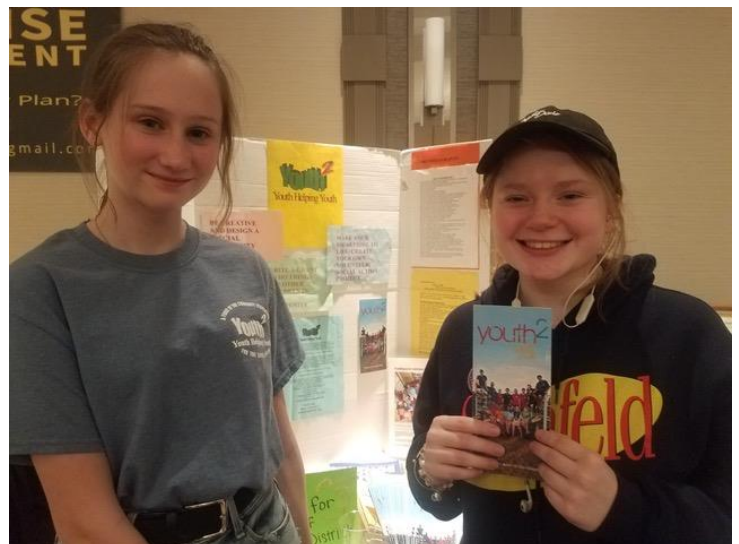
**January 2020**



We started out the year of 2020 with a fantastic program for the community led by long time diversity educator and facilitator, **Jean Fei, "Making the Invisible Visible- Exploring Poverty, Racism and Discrimination."** Jean helped all the participants to see things differently and to have a much better understanding of poverty and how deeply the roots are formed.

**Youth<sup>2</sup> Members Jon and Olivia Brayton, Ella Daley and Bev** hosted a booth for the Opening Reception of MLK Saratoga weekend.

A key goal of our strategic plan is to build an interactive website and social marketing plan for Youth<sup>2</sup>. We are researching avenues to assist with this goal.



## February 2020

Youth<sup>2</sup> Founder **Beverly Lazar Davis** and two youth Board Members, **Olivia Venditti and Ella Daley** attending the very first **Youth Empowerment and Sustainability Summit** (YESS) at the Ashokan Center in Olive Bridge, NY. This Summit involved nearly 150 youth who attended workshops on climate justice, communicating about climate issues, how local action can contribute to global solutions, on plant based diets, on the impact of fashion, on biomimicry, on supporting green teams, pollinator gardens and creating climate action plans. We received updates about our **Flint Water Fund 2019** effort and how the Flint, Michigan government is helping thousands of children affected by lead poisoning.



We were updating our **Book of Good Deeds**, outlining youth volunteer opportunities; but put this on hold as COVID impacts volunteerism. Likewise, our follow-up **Grant Writing Training** was put on hold.

## March 2020-

**Community Service Incentive Award Scholarships** were distributed to 5 schools in Ballston Spa, Schuylerville and Saratoga Springs.

Thanks **Olivia Venditti's** grant writing we received \$1,500.00 from **Stewart's Shops Holiday Match**.

## April 2020-

April is usually a busy month for Youth<sup>2</sup>. Unfortunately the COVID Pandemic resulted in the cancellation of:

~**Ella and Olivia's** workshop on the **"Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act" of 2019** (H.R. 763) at Sustainable Saratoga's **Sustainability Fair**.

~Our musical social activism evening, **"Songs for Social Action" with Canadian Road Poet, Scott Cook coordinated by Andre and Amalia Culpepper-Weir** and

~Our volunteer day for **Treetoga 1000**.

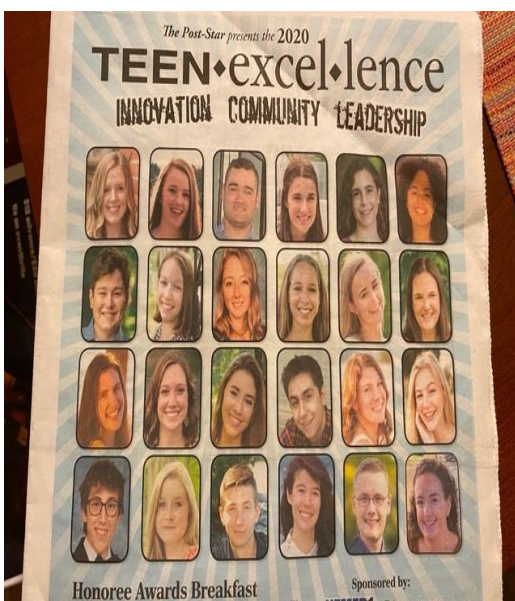


### May 2020-

Board members read and reviewed the entries and awarded two high school students, **Trinity Hogben** from Saratoga Springs High School and **Morgan Miller** from Ballston Spa High School with their **\$500 Community Service Incentive Award** gifts reflecting their commitment to community service throughout their total high school careers.

### June 2020

We celebrated two of our graduating seniors, **Amalia Culpepper-Wehr** and **Mimi Van Patten**, masked, in a safe and distant manner. **Andre Culpepper-Wehr** and **Mimi Van Patten** developed the **"Call to Action"** poster. **Eliza Krackeler** and **Amalia Culpepper-Wehr** wrote press releases and **Eliza** hung the poster in places in our community to encourage youth to make positive changes in our world.



### 2020 Student Courage Award Recipients

Amalia Culpepper-Wehr is a senior at Saratoga Springs High School where her many interests are reflected in her involvement with a variety of activities.

As one of the few minority students at her school, Amalia became increasingly aware of the awkwardness in discussing race at school, which led to her creating a space in which students could explore and discuss Black issues. At the beginning of her sophomore year she wrote a proposal, found an advisor, and formed the African American Studies Club. She has hosted guest speakers, led discussions, and collaborated with other clubs to have meaningful activities. Last year she proposed and coordinated a staff development session on addressing complex issues of diversity in the classroom. Amalia, along with other student members, led discussion groups for more than 170 faculty members.

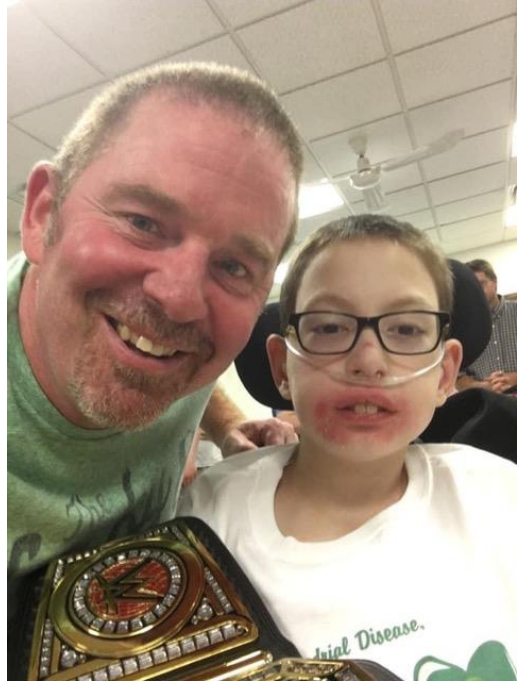
Amalia's involvement in other activities is equally inspiring. She is committed to issues of social justice and improving her school environment and community. She was invited by the Amnesty International chapter to speak on the topic of race and racism to more than 200 staff members and students at her school. She collaborated with her English teacher on units relating to racism when discussing *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Of Mice and Men*. She assisted in planning an MLK morning of service activity with Youth Squared, where she is on the board.

"Amalia embodies everything this award represents," said her nominator, "extraordinary leadership skills, being a spokesperson for tolerance, standing up against hate and violence, and she has engaged in increasing tolerance and educating others about racism."

# In Loving Memory

## July 2020

Youth<sup>2</sup> lost a dear friend this past year as **Caeden Frost** passed away on July 1<sup>st</sup> from complications of Mitochondrial Disease. His never-ending spirit and resiliency embodies what Youth<sup>2</sup> is all about. Thanks for the huge difference in everybody's life that you touched Caeden.



## September 2020

Our Advisory Board looked at ways that we could be involved in a safe manner during COVID19. See pandemic activities outlined below.

## November 2020-

**Jenna Cuilla, Senior Philanthropic Officer from the Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region**, educated our Board explaining our Field of Interest Fund, our Fund Balance, our responsibilities of Board Members. **Youth<sup>2</sup> teaches philanthropic skills to youth, including financial and Board governance.**

## December 2020-

Youth<sup>2</sup> has been asked to transform the **Trail Blazing Volunteer Training** to a virtual program. **Kiara Nagel, creative consultant** for social change work is a fan of Youth<sup>2</sup>. She has worked in the field as a trainer with the Interaction Institute for Social Change and has donated her services to help us with this effort. Our goal is to have a viable training for students during MLK Saratoga weekend in January 2021.



### ***Pandemic Efforts:***

Youth<sup>2</sup> is committed to help with food security, education equity, racial justice, mental health, environmental action, community service education and having every voice, both young and old, be heard.

~Immediately, Youth<sup>2</sup> looked to our community and assisted with food security by donating \$5000 to the Franklin Community Center who was a major actor in distributing food to families locally.

~We wrote a **Black Lives Matter statement** from the Advisory Board. Then promptly researched **regional efforts for racial justice and donated \$1000 to Cocoa House, Inc. in Schenectady, NY and \$1000 to the Arts Business Collaborative, Inc. for the Okra Project, New York City.** A group of us participated in the **Saratoga March Against Racism and Police Brutality** in Congress Park.

**“ConnectionKits”- \$500 grant award to Olivia Venditti, Youth Grant Assistant with Katelyn Brunet from the Saratoga County Mental Health Center**

These kits will be distributed to youth and family populations to increase family connectedness, introduce fun into family routine, support positive parenting efforts, increase skill building and improve confidence and positive self-care, and reduce anxiety. Please let us know if you want to donate to these kits.

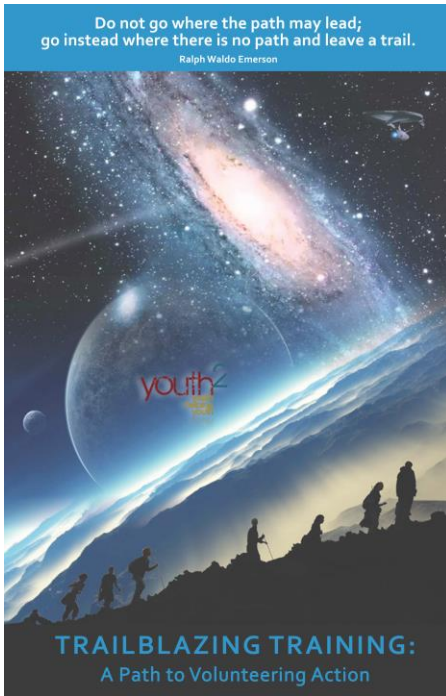
~Eliza Krackeler and Olivia Venditti are making virtual story time videos for the Southern Adirondack Library System.

We donated **\$500 to the “Back to School with Wellspring” cause**, bringing **education equity** to 10 youth needing educational supplies.



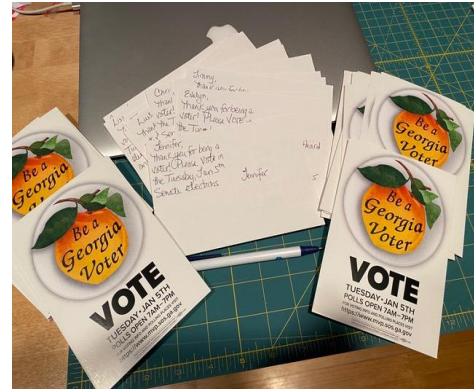
**Olivia Venditti, Ella Daley, Eva Nagel and Beverly Lazar Davis** created our **Composting Subcommittee**. We are interviewing people in the community who are interested in making composting available to many, reducing the second biggest greenhouse gas emission of Methane. We are committed to educating and to helping others to compost.





We offer the **3.5-hour Trailblazing Volunteer Training** for any school, youth group or organization with a minimum participation of 25-35 students. This training: highlights the value of volunteering and why people take part in social action, helps students think about something that they want to do to improve their local community or the world, and identify how to realize their vision. Students' creativity is stirred as they explore ways to make volunteer work meaningful to them and match their interests. Many on our Advisory Board are working with **Kiara Nagel** on transforming the "Trail Blazing Volunteer Training" program to a virtual platform.

~Olivia Venditti, Andre Culpepper-Wehr, Eliza Krackeler, Cindy Choy, Eva Nagel, Beverly Lazar Davis worked on getting out the vote by writing postcards.



*With respect for work and dreams of youth,*

The **Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region** continues to house our funds and support our endeavors. If you know young people and adults who would like to be involved on our Advisory Board or if you would like an application for Youth<sup>2</sup> funding, please visit our website [www.youthsquared.org](http://www.youthsquared.org)

**If you would like to support our efforts for this upcoming year, please send a contribution payable to:**

**Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region- Youth<sup>2</sup> -Youth Helping Youth**

**Mail to: Beverly Lazar, 28 George Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.**

We look forward to your continued support for Youth<sup>2</sup>- Youth Helping Youth, **whether you tell a friend about us, write a grant, attend a program, or give a financial gift-**

**we thank you.**

*Advisory Board Members*

**Jon Brayton, Olivia Brayton, Katelyn Brunet, Cindy Choy, Andre Culpepper-Wehr, Ella Daley, Jean Fei, Maggie Fronk, Jonathan Greene, Eliza Krackeler, Beverly Lazar Davis, Eva Nagel, Jennifer Ogradowski, Katie Rogers and Olivia Venditti.**