



## NEWSLETTER



**"Making a difference in the lives of Manistee youth."**

# DOUBLE *impact*

At the Armory Youth Project (AYP), our mission is to provide a safe environment where young people can build community and be encouraged in their educational, emotional, physical, and Christian spiritual development. We are committed to empowering students to explore their full potential with free, year-round programming and meals for youth in grades 6-12.

At AYP, every student is seen, valued, and loved. Social media addiction and bullying continue to rise, with 46% of teens statewide struggling with depression, anxiety, and low self-esteem, our youth need real connection more than ever.

We offer positive, in-person alternatives to screen time through engaging programs that build life skills, foster emotional growth, and encourage meaningful relationships. From mentorship and social-emotional learning to educational enrichment and access to vital community resources, we support the whole child. We believe in walking alongside youth, one relationship, one breakthrough, one success story at a time.

**The need is great. We can't do this alone. Join the good work of the Armory Youth Project!**

We're thrilled to share an incredible opportunity to support youth in our community. Thanks to a generous \$10,000 matching grant from the Pennies from Heaven Foundation—and an additional \$10,000 from a loyal anonymous donor—every dollar you give will be doubled, up to \$20,000! Together, we can raise \$40,000 or more to fund positive youth development!

"By giving to the Armory Youth Project, we are investing in the growth of our youth and opening doors of possibilities for their future and the health of our communities," says Monica Jewell, Executive Director of Pennies from Heaven Foundation.

Your support goes beyond dollars, it's about showing up for our youth in meaningful ways. Consider volunteering to be a mentor or a positive role model for students who need a guiding hand. We also encourage passionate advocates to help amplify our mission throughout the community. When more people hear about the meaningful, compassionate work happening every day, it inspires greater awareness and action. Your voice can be the spark that leads others to get involved and make a difference.

"Supporting youth development is something I'm passionate about," says AYP supporter Kathi Houston. "At AYP, staff and volunteers know what it takes—kindness, commitment, and care—to help young people thrive."

Will you join us in reaching our goal and making twice the impact? Now through June 30th, every dollar you give up to \$20,000 will be matched—doubling your generosity and doubling the difference you make in the lives of young people. This is a powerful opportunity to support youth development with free, year-round programs that open doors and create brighter futures. Make an impact and give today.





SAVE THE DATE

# YOU ARE INVITED

## KICKOFF TO SUMMER & COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE

### June 13, 4 pm – 6 pm



The Armory Youth Project (AYP) will host a Kickoff to Summer and Community Open House on June 13. Bring the family for the picnic, free throw competition, facility tour, camp sign-up, and more! **All registered students will be entered into a drawing to win a bike!** Student must be present to win.

We are excited for summer at AYP! AYP is growing with new programming and new relationships! AYP will be open for summer hours starting June 9, Monday-Friday from 10 am-4 pm with engaging youth opportunities, day camps, and daily nutritional meals.



## DAY CAMP

The Armory Youth Project provides summer day camps including meals, transportation and supplies at no cost to the youth!

### June 16 – 19, Youth In Stem

In this hands-on STEM Camp, students will collaborate on dynamic projects to spark creativity, teamwork, and excitement.

### June 23 – 26, Birds of Prey

Students will explore the fascinating world of birds through hands-on activities, expert-led sessions, and up-close encounters with live birds.

### July 7 – 10, What's Cooking

Students will master cooking techniques and delicious recipes that they can recreate at home for family and friends.

### July 14 – 17, Tour of Manistee

Students will take field trip adventures to explore the history, beauty, and charm of the S.S. City of Milwaukee, Manistee County Historical Museum, the Ramsdell Theatre and more.



### July 21 – 24, Archery Camp

Beginner students and sharpshooters alike will learn archery skills, focus, and fun.

### July 28 – Aug 1, Discover You

Students will merge creativity with the powerful "Discover You" curriculum to develop a growth mindset and empower themselves to unlock their full potential.

### August 4 – 7, Youth Wildscapes

Youth will embark on exciting hikes, explore aquatic invasive species, engage in hands-on activities like sampling with microscopes, and discover diverse ecosystems.

### August 11 – 14, Young Life

Join Luke on an exciting journey to explore faith, discover the teachings of Jesus, and have fun while building lasting friendships.



## SPECIAL EVENTS

- June 10-12 - Safe Sitter Course
- June 11 - Support Social
- June 13 - Kickoff to Summer BBQ & Community Open House
- July 4 & 5 - Manistee Arts & Crafts Show

AYP has partnered with the Ramsdell Regional Center for the Arts to host the Manistee Arts & Craft Show during the Forest Festival!

Visit a variety of art vendors and the AYP Youth Booth!

Event sponsorships are available

For more information on all events visit [www.armoryyouthproject.com](http://www.armoryyouthproject.com).

# WHY WE NEED THE ARMORY YOUTH PROJECT AND WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

## STUDENT TO STAFF



# CAIMAN

Every community has youth who feel lost, misunderstood, and alone. But not every community has an Armory Youth Project (AYP).

AYP isn't just a building. It's a lifeline. A safe space. A place where students discover that their past doesn't have to define their future, that they have a choice and the ability to do great things. It's where trust is built, where mentorship happens, and where the seeds of purpose are planted.

Like many youth, Caiman was once distant, guarded, and heading down the wrong path. But thanks to positive influences and support, he's now graduating from high school with ambitious goals and serves as the first-ever AYP Youth Intern. As a young adult, Caiman has become a role model

to his peers and the students that attend AYP. "Caiman is developing leadership skills and providing powerful youth mentorship," says Janice Davidson, AYP Executive Director. Caiman says, "I see myself in the younger kids. I want to help bring positivity into their lives and inspire them to flip their switch." At AYP, we know building trust takes time. We're committed to investing in the process. Research shows, and we believe, that positive influence is the most powerful tool to help youth realize their potential.

Youth transformation isn't accidental. It happens because people like you believe in the power of after school programming and positive influence. At the Armory Youth Project, our small but dedicated team works tirelessly to raise funds to keep programs strong and the doors open. We don't just teach resilience, we live it every day.

Your support makes stories like Caiman's possible. It fuels the mentors, the meals, the programs, and the safe, consistent environment where change takes root. But to continue this life-changing work, we need you beside us.

Help us continue this great work. Help us change more stories. Help us build a stronger future—one student at a time. Thank you for believing in our mission. Thank you for believing in the youth.

## Shout out to our Family of 2025 Business Supporters!

- All Weather Seal
- Bob's Roofing Company
- Callesen Wealth Management
- Chopo's Northside Bar
- Dr. Shrink
- Faith Covenant Church
- Filer Credit Union
- Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church
- House of Flavors
- Little River Casino Resort
- West Shore Bank
- Manistee County Community Foundation- Minger Family Endowment Fund, Manistee County Youth Endowment Fund, Manistee Rotary Education Fund
- Martin Marietta Magnesia Specialties
- Morton Salt
- Pennies from Heaven
- River of Life Ministry
- T.E.S. Filer City Station
- The Outsider

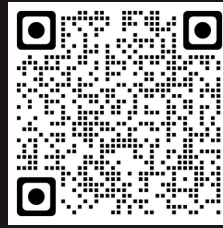




# MEET THE MATCH

At what level will you support positive influence?

1	\$10,000	= \$10,000
1	\$5,000	= \$5,000
5	\$500	= \$2500
25	\$100	= \$2500
		<u>\$20,000</u>



DONATE HERE

## HOW TO GIVE

- Scan QR code
- Text amount to give to 231-866-8339
- visit [www.armoryyouthproject.com/donate](http://www.armoryyouthproject.com/donate)

### Are you in a position to make a greater impact through the Armory Youth Project?

Don't miss the AYP Support Social – June 11 at 9 AM. Join us for coffee, cookies, and conversation at AYP! Meet Executive Director Janice Davidson, take a tour, and hear highlights of the impact your support makes possible. This casual social is open to all current and potential donors.

Can't make it for coffee? Give us a call at 231-299-1205 to learn how you can be part of this life-changing work.

# NEW STUDENT!



## ALLISON

**Why do you attend AYP?** "I like to play volleyball and hang out with friends and the staff."

**Why would you tell others to attend AYP?** "AYP is a good environment, nice workers, no one judges you, free food and snacks, and there are programs that teach life skills."

**What is something you are excited about at AYP?** "New friends."

**Join us at AYP for a Support Social on June 11 at 9 am for program highlights, coffee and cookies!**



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

