

**Lansing Youth Services  
Town Board Report  
October 2024**

**Digital Photography:** Participants in Digital photography are learning the basics of photography techniques and how to create the image they desire. Topics so far have included using the rule of thirds, turning on the “grid” option on their cameras, how to use light in order to pull out their subject, as well as shadows to do the same, how to create feelings of texture and scale, and how to have fun with it to be creative and expressive with their photos. The group did a photo scavenger hunt, which sparked a lot of creative photos. Youth also completed a challenge where they chose a word or phrase and had to capture photos of all the letters. This allowed the youth to think differently about how to take the photo to display their letters. One participant who is a very seasoned photographer has been assisting so many in the group when they have questions or want his perspective on their photos. 8 youth served.

**Outdoor Adventure:** Students in this busy program have been venturing to Salmon Creek where they have explored the local wildlife like deer, crayfish, as well as tracking mink and raccoon and hunting for fossils. Youth also practice making fires to cook treats and snacks over the flames or coals. Debris huts were demonstrated which highlight important aspects of making a shelter that can withstand the elements. Youth then designed and began building their own shelters which could hold up to 3 people. One of the eighth-grade students has become a great resource for other students, especially when it comes to fire building, creating camouflage, and sharing stories about his time in the woods with his uncle. 12 youth served.

**The Art Factory:** This program continues all fall as it leads up to the annual Lansing Artisan Fair. Participants are working with clay, making holiday decorations, leather project and jewelry made of resin and beads for the event. Budgeting and pricing discussions have been spearheading each day to keep youth thinking about all that goes into running a small business. The proceeds fund a celebratory party for all of those who participated in the program. The group will, closer to the holiday season, shop for Salvation Army sponsored family, picking out clothing and gifts for the family, and providing food for the holiday season. 13 youth served.

**Delicious Desserts:** This program is all about making desserts that students like but keeping these desserts healthy as the main goal. So far the group has made fruit tarts and their version of an Oreo McFlurry, substituting many traditional ingredients for healthier options. Feedback has been positive thus far with a common response of, “this actually IS good!” Green Smoothies and chocolate chip cookies are right around the bend. 8 youth served.

**Youth Employment:** The fall has seen the return of additional youth employees to Lansing Youth Services afterschool programs, with one assistant in each program. There continues to be tremendous growth in confidence and taking initiative while in the program. Two teens have started leading games, managing food distribution and practicing conflict resolution by asking for assistance when there is a disagreement. They both ask after a situation what I would have done, while supporting their valiant efforts with positive feedback and ideas for the next time they see a similar conflict. A new position with the Lansing High School Librarian should be starting within the next week or so. We still have our Lansing Public Library team working hard, with two new youth slated to start their training soon. 9 youth served.