



*Office of Mayor Lawrence J.  
Morrissey  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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**December 16, 2011**

### **MYAC Awarded Grant for Youth Summit**

ROCKFORD - The Mayor's Youth Advisory Council (MYAC) has been awarded a \$1,800 grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois to be used toward the 2012 MYAC Youth Annual Summit. The summit is open to area high school age youth and provides activities and opportunities to learn ways they can affect positive change for themselves, their families and their communities. The summit will be held in the spring of 2012 on a date yet to be announced.

Originating in 2006, MYAC is comprised of area high school age youth committed to civic engagement and who advise Rockford Mayor Larry Morrissey of new and emerging issues facing area youth and plan related projects and events. MYAC members are selected from interested summit attendees who apply and interview for positions on the council. Current MYAC members and their high schools include Aaron Gesmer, Janece Hyatt and Lakisha Whaley, Auburn; Ally Troia, Aubrey Baker-Clark and Daniel Rietsch, Guilford; Madeleine Elyea and Abby Pauley, Keith; Shelby Flores and Kate Barrelli, Boylan; Ashlynn Burks, Rockford Christian; and Noe Delgado, Jefferson.

Already this fall, MYAC has participated in the Annual "Trunk or Treat", hosted by the City of Rockford Police Dept., chaperoned Conklin Elementary School's "Monster Mash", assisted with the 30<sup>th</sup> annual City of Rockford Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon, and provided three families from a Rockford elementary school with holiday baskets containing toiletries, home goods, plus school uniforms and shoes. Upcoming projects include a mentoring program to be implemented in two Rockford public elementary schools; Project Shovel Ready, where MYAC will be developing and implementing a plan to assist qualified seniors and/or disabled individuals with their snow removal needs; a collaboration with Neighborhood Network on a neighborhood beautification project; and the development of a youth resource guide, which will highlight area activities, entertainment and support services available for teens.

MYAC is funded by City of Rockford Human Services Department, Community Services Block Grant, and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.



MYAC members take a break from serving and visiting with the attendees at the City of Rockford Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon.

Top row, left to right: Daniel Rietsch, Noe Delgado,  
Lakisha Whaley, Aaron Gesmer,  
Bottom row, left to right: Aubrey Baker-Clark, Kate  
Barrelli, Shelby Flores, Jamece Hyatt

NOT PICTURED: Ally Troia, Madeleine Elyea, Abby Pauley,  
Ashlynn Burks

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