

Community Comment, 3/28/17, Lexi Stowe

Almost everyone knows what a stereotype is right? Well here's an example, all teenagers like to be on their phones all day long. Well I can tell you that is far from true.

I am one of ten kids that have helped form a new program called YEP. YEP or Youth Engaged in Philanthropy, is a program where us TEENS, in the Fortuna Union High School District, come together every other Tuesday to learn about the process of applying and writing grants.

Together we applied for a grant to Hops in Humboldt by writing down our ideas to answer the questions, and then combined them in the best format possible. We submitted our application and ended up receiving the grant money. After this came the process of making our own grant criteria. We went around our community and asked all different kinds of people what they thought needed help. With our new information, we all discussed where we wanted our \$6,000 dollars to go.

This small group of ten teenagers created a grant application, then we started to advertise. We had a news reporter come in and we talked about what yep was and what kind of applicants we were looking for. We went out and did TV interviews, radio interviews, and made social media accounts to spread the word about our grant. Then came time to making the decision.

We carefully went over the applications and then we went and did site visits for some. Then together we picked out the pros and cons to all the applicants, and made a finally decision. A small group of teens accomplished learning on both sides of the grant making process.

We all have grown together so much, and it's kinda sad to see our first year of YEP come to an end. But none of us would be here without the adults and their foundations that pushed us out of our comfort zone and kept us going through this year. So I want to give a thanks to The McLean Foundation, Humboldt Area Foundation, Hops in Humboldt, Humboldt Sponsors, and the Fortuna Union High School District.

Tonight is YEP's Grant Award Ceremony where we will honor our chosen grant recipients in celebration of making an impact in our community. So yes we are teenagers, and no we're not on our phones all day, we're out making a difference in our Community-and think, this is just the beginning!