



# Positive Youth Development: Youth Empowerment

## November 2025



**Extension Youth Development Educator Diana Hammer** centers the voice of young people so they can contribute meaningfully to decisions, civic life, and volunteering in Sheboygan County.

### Needs Assessment

- Meeting with young people and youth-serving organizations to learn about their priorities, identify gaps, and determine where educational programming should focus in 2026

### Completed Projects

- 40 meetings to learn the purpose and priorities of Sheboygan County youth leaders, organizations, and committees including:
  - Sheboygan County Teen Court
  - Families and Neighbors Together
  - United Way of Sheboygan County
  - American Legion
  - Family Connections
  - Mental Health America
  - Sheboygan Outreach Collective
  - Youth Justice at Change Academy & 3 classes
  - National Night Out
  - Kohler High School
  - Central High School TAPP Program & 9th/10th grade students
  - Lakeshore CAP
  - Habitat for Humanity
  - Junior Leadership Sheboygan County
  - South High School Student Club Leaders
  - Plymouth High School
  - SASD Middle School Administrators & Recreation Department
  - Centro Comunitario La Cima

- County Health and Human Services & Deputy Administrator
- League of Women Voters
- North High School
- Sheboygan County Juvenile Detention
- Sheridan Elementary Family Club
- Boys and Girls Club at Longfellow Elementary
- Lakeland University, Alumni Relations
- Camp Y-Koda
- County Board Supervisors J. Nelson, H. Nelson, and R. Clarke
- Plymouth Alderperson Binder
- Sheboygan Alderperson Dekker & Mayor Sorenson
- Rogers Behavioral Health
- InspireWI
- Family Resource Center
- Workplace Literacy Program
- The Production Farm
- Sheboygan Youth Voters
- Many Extension colleagues in nearby counties and/or Youth Development roles

### Current Projects

- Organizing a County Government Day for spring 2026 with Sheboygan County's Deputy Administrator, Kohler High School, and Sheboygan South High School.
- Finding an intersection of volunteering, civic engagement, and student interests to pursue in 2026.

As a result of Diana's relationship building efforts:	
Student Club Leaders at South High shared their experiences of being included or excluded in decision-making.	Oct. 2025
Central High School 9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> graders learned to cook a one-pot spaghetti dinner in a 4-H experiential learning activity.	Oct. 2025
County youth justice workers and an active high school student parent connected about expanding local volunteer opportunities for teens.	Nov. 2025