



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 th and 10 th 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