

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 4
December 2024



Leadership Jackson County

DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

Each LJC participant has been placed on one of four project teams, focusing on developing a community project around the following topics: Community Growth/Awareness, Health, Social Concerns and History. Each team has been working on narrowing their focus to a manageable project, doing research to better understand community and organizational needs, and identifying resources and potential organizations to align with.



- Rexanne Ude

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SPONSOR SHOUT OUT



Thank you Land O'Lakes Inc. for continuing to support LJC!

STUDENT MOMENT

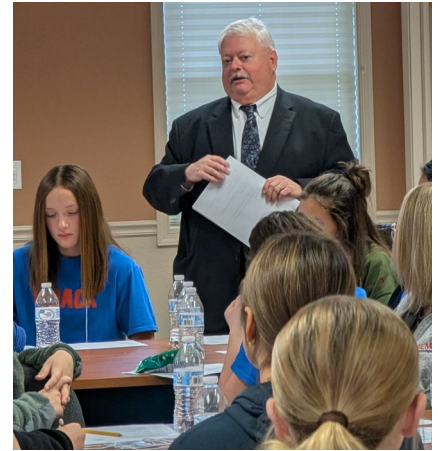
Katie Leitzman
Seymour Community Schools



Why were you interested in participating in LJC this year?

I went to last year's graduation and knew this was the kind of program that I wanted to be a part of as well.

YoJACK



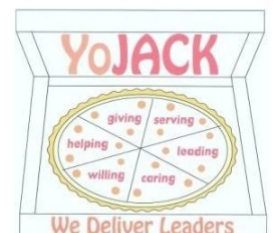
YoJACK just wrapped up the Fall semester cohort with our Jackson County 8th graders. They were recently tasked with recommending a non-profit organization to receive a \$2500 grant from The Community Foundation of Jackson County, which was not easy! They heard presentations from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeastern Indiana, Boys & Girls Club of Seymour, Jennings County and Brownstown, and Girls, Inc. The kids were extremely thoughtful and diligent about choosing the organization they felt was most deserving and did a great job with the challenge! We enjoyed a fun graduation and meeting with Mayor Matt Nicholson in December!

If you would like to be a pizza sponsor for our Spring semester cohort, please reach out!

- Karen Haas, YoJACK Director



YoJack is offered at no cost to all participants and relies on financial support from corporate and individual sponsors and the fundraising efforts of LJC. If you would like more information on how to help support YoJack, please email Karen Haas, YoJack Director, at yojackindiana@gmail.com.



Leadership Class of 2025



Authenticity is more than speaking; Authenticity is also about doing. Every decision we make says something about who we are.

—Simon Sinek

Where in Jackson County is LJC?

Follow along with this year's LJC class as they travel around Jackson County! We'll share spotlights of the places visited as well as highlights of the organizations that meet with the class of '25.

Jackson County Chamber was originally known as the Farmer's Club, the first of its kind in the U.S. Essentially operating as a community center for farmers and their families when they came into town for the day, the building was host to many community events through the years. It became the Seymour Chamber of Commerce in 1931, and since 2021, has been expanded to support businesses throughout the county as the Jackson County Chamber. The mission of the Jackson County Chamber is "to be a membership organization connecting, building and growing our members, businesses, partners and community,"

For more information about Jackson County Chamber, visit their website at <https://www.jacksoncochamber.com/>.



Jackson County Courthouse was built in 1870 and remodeled in 1911. The clock tower caught fire after a lightning strike and had to be reconstructed in 1959-1960. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places. Behind the courthouse is the Jackson County Judicial Center which was completed in 2018 and houses Jackson Superior Court I and II as well as Jackson Circuit Court and several government offices.



Jackson County Visitor Center is not just for tourists! The building was once a train depot in Seymour, but currently houses a small museum dedicated to Jackson County's history, a gift shop with local items, and a team of staff that can help visitors and locals learn more about Jackson County attractions and events. Their website is also a great resource and is home to an events calendar with everything happening around the county.

Learn more about what Jackson County has to offer at: <https://www.jacksoncountyin.com/>



Judge Robert Brown Jackson Juvenile Home serves adolescent boys who have been declared CHINS (children in need of services) or delinquent by the court system. Residents receive therapeutic care and treatment at the facility, attend public school at Brownstown Central, and are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities both through the school and in the community. Families of residents are also encouraged to be involved with services to work toward reunification when possible and older youth are enrolled in an independent living program which provides training and assistance in transitioning to living on their own.

LJC usually has the **Jackson County Jail** on their tour rotation. This year, LJC has one class member who works for the Sheriff's Office, which is also housed in the jail. LJC Board member and Chief Deputy, Dustin Steward, led the tour through the jail facility on State Road 250 in Brownstown.



Pewter Hall has been a premiere event venue in Brownstown since it was founded in 2001. In 2023, Angie Patman and her husband took over ownership and they continue to offer not only an event space for both large and small groups, but also catering and bar services. Check out their website for more information about their services.

<https://www.pewterhall.com>



Located on State Road 235, **Medora Covered Bridge** offers visitors a chance to experience a piece of history. The bridge has been officially designated as the longest historical covered bridge in the United States and while it is no longer open to vehicle traffic, visitors are welcome to walk across this historic bridge. It even has its own website! <https://medoracoveredbridge.org>



Did you know that Medora once had a booming brick plant that supplied bricks used to pave streets, construct university buildings, homes, and many area businesses? **Medora Brick Plant** was founded in 1904 and continued production until it was officially closed in 1992. At one time, the plant property had 12 kilns, several ponds, and a number of various outbuildings that were necessary for production. Most of the kilns remain along with some small buildings, but after its closure, the Medora Brick Plant was almost completely abandoned with foliage taking over what once was a prosperous business just outside of Medora, Indiana.

In 2004, the plant was listed as one of the 10 Most Endangered Landmarks in Indiana and there are now efforts to preserve this important landmark in Indiana's industrial history. For more information, visit their website at: <https://medorabrickplant.org>



New to the LJC curriculum this year was time spent with Amanda Cox, founder of **The Know Better Co.** Amanda discussed leadership styles and helped us discuss how those styles work well in different settings. She also introduced the idea of creating our own Leadership Brand Statements.

Amanda is a Corporate Culture Consultant and a Certified Health & Wellness Coach based out of Columbus, IN. For more information about Amanda and The Know Better Co., visit <https://www.theknowbetterco.com>

Rumpke– Medora Landfill & Recycling

is frequently a favorite stop for LJC class members. This year has been no exception as the class traveled around the landfill by bus to learn about how the landfill operates.



We want to hear from you!

What you like to see in future editions of our quarterly newsletter? Feel free to reach out to us via our website or on Facebook with your ideas.

<https://www.leadershipjacksoncounty.com/>

A Note of Thanks

Thank you to all those who have been YoJack pizza sponsors, and those who have volunteered their time and talents for the Fall cohort of YoJACK. We are always looking for pizza sponsors and volunteers, so if you are willing to consider supporting our Spring YoJACK cohort, please reach out.

Thank you as well to the people and the organizations who continue to support Leadership Jackson County through sponsorships, by participating in our fundraisers, serving on the board, and being active participants in our programs.

