

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 5
March 2025



DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT

This year's class members are working hard on finalizing their projects. Completed projects will include activities and events related to Community Growth and Awareness, History, Health, and Social Concerns.

As LJC is moving in to our last few months for this cohort, we are looking at recruiting for the 2025-26 cohort. If you are interested or your organization would like to have a participant in the upcoming cohort, please visit our website and complete a nomination form.
- Rexanne Ude



IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 1:

- ⇒ Director Spotlight with Rexanne Ude
- ⇒ Sponsor Shout Out
- ⇒ Student Moment

Page 2:

- ⇒ YoJACK

Page 3:

- ⇒ Leadership Class of 2025

Pages 4-7:

- ⇒ Where in Jackson County is LJC?

Page 8:

- ⇒ We Want to Hear From You
- ⇒ Thank You
- ⇒ Sponsors Needed

SPONSOR SHOUT OUT

Nada Fowler
&
Trina Tracy

Thank you for supporting LJC!

STUDENT MOMENT

James "JC" Blankenbeker
Brownstown Presbyterian Church



What has been your favorite experience in LJC so far this year?

Learning about the history, industry, and services offered in Jackson County. It has been great working with a diverse group of leaders and meeting people from all over the county.

YoJACK

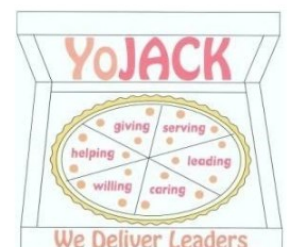
The Spring cohort of YoJACK students kicked off in January at Seymour First United Methodist Church. Students introduced themselves to their peers, completed the True Colors assessment, and worked together to decide on the 2025 Kids Fest Theme.

In February, we enjoyed a beautiful, snowy view at Pyoca Camp and Retreat Center! Our meeting was about diversity, treating others with kindness, and using the gifts we are given to the best of our ability. Jana Gray taught us about Dwarfism and we are always thankful when she joins us and shares her story.

- 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



"Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other."
- John F. Kennedy

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.

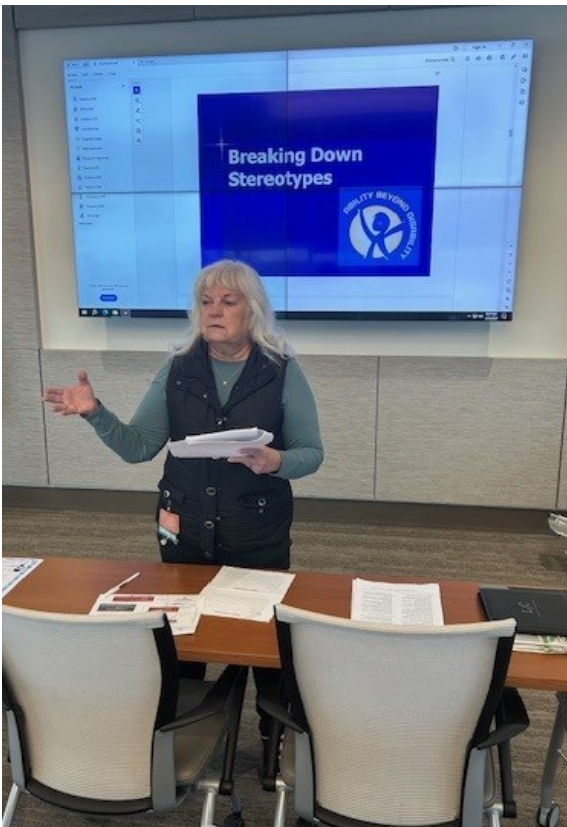


Seymour Fire Department was once a single station department located downtown where One Chamber Square is currently located. Now, SFD has three stations that serve the community under the leadership of Fire Chief Eric Roll. In November of 2022, the new Fire Department Headquarters was dedicated. Located on West 2nd Street in Seymour, this facility includes meeting & office spaces, living quarters for firefighters, houses state-of-the-art equipment, and also honors Seymour's history with its display of an 1885 horse drawn steam engine.

Seymour Police Department is currently under the leadership of Chief Greg O'Brien. The mission of the SPD is to create a safe environment for all residents and visitors to the City of Seymour.



B&A Thompson Grain Farm has been in operation for several generations and is a favorite stop for LJC class members to learn about Jackson County agriculture.



Schneck Medical Center opened in 1911 as a 17-bed facility. Today, they have a staff of over 1,200 employees, serving Jackson, Jennings, Scott, and Washington Counties. As she has for the past several years, Shery Tiemeyer met with LJC class members to talk about disability awareness, sensitivity, and advance care planning. The class also got to meet with Dr. Fish, President/CEO of Schneck, to hear about the future of healthcare. Visit Schneck online at: <https://www.schneckmed.org>



Centerstone has been serving Jackson County since the 1970s and offers a full range of mental health treatment, addiction care, and social support. Kathy Christoff discussed mental health care and provided information about the 988 crisis hotline and Stride, a mental health crisis diversion center located in Columbus which serves Jackson County. Kathy also completed an active listening activity with the LJC class members. For more information about Centerstone, visit: <https://Centerstone.org>



Girls Inc. of Jackson County was the first stop for the LJC class in February. The mission of Girls Inc. is to inspire all girls to be strong, smart, and bold. Located in Seymour on North O'Brien Street, and led by Executive Director, Ginger Schneck, Girls Inc. supports and encourages girls in Seymour and throughout Jackson County to reach their full potential. They offer after-school programming, summer programs, and gymnastics at their facility, but also provide school-based programs for girls and boys in Jackson County Schools. Learn more at: <https://www.girlsincjackson.org>



Under the leadership of Ryon Wheeler, **Boys & Girls Club of Seymour** has expanded in recent years to serve youth located not only in Seymour, but also in Brownstown and Jennings County. Their facility is located on North O'Brien Street in Seymour, and they provide a variety of programs for youth with the mission of empowering all young people to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. For more information, visit: <https://empowerkids.club/s>



The next stop for the LJC class in February was **Child Care Network**. With the mission of improving the lives of children, Child Care Network offers child care and preschool at their Seymour facility. They are also home to Jackson County GAL/CASA, an advocacy program for child victims of abuse and neglect, Kids Klub, a before and after school program that operates in elementary schools in Seymour and Brownstown, and they host Kids Fest, an event to link families with resources in the area. To find more information about any of these programs, please visit: <https://childcarenetworkkinc.org>

Jackson County United Way was founded in 1962 to help support the social service agencies in Jackson County. Currently, they help fund several organizations in Jackson county including: Anchor House, Boys & Girls Club of Seymour, Child Care Network, Girls Inc., Meals on Wheels, Turning Point, The Arc of Jackson County, The Salvation Army, and the Senior Centers in Brownstown, Crothersville, Medora and Freetown. Jackson County United Way hosts the Rock 'n Ready initiative to provide school supplies for youth in need. They also offer free income tax assistance to low income households, and host community conversations to hear about local needs which they use to create action plans for change. Since 1996, they have also hosted an annual Day of Caring event. Engagement Director, Emily Engelking, is a member of this year's LJC class and she spoke to the class about Jackson County United Way. To learn more or get involved, visit: <https://www.jacsy.org>



**Jackson County
United Way**

Executive Director, Megan Cherry met with LJC class members to talk about **Anchor House** and to offer tours of their two facilities. Anchor House offers shelter for the unhoused at both their South Vine Street and Dupont Drive locations. The South Vine Street location also operates a food pantry for residents of Jackson County who are in need. <https://anchorhouseshelter.org>



The last stop for the LJC class in February was at the work release facility at **Jackson Jennings Community Corrections**. The class got to tour the facility and learn about the program. The group met J.L. Brewer, Executive Director, and Case Manager, Heidi Earnest. Community Corrections is a diversion program for felony offenders, offering alternatives to incarceration at the state and local levels.



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/>

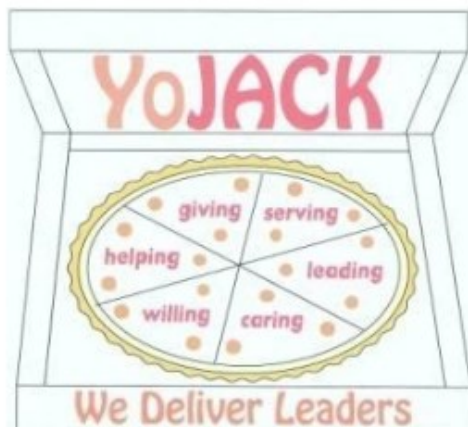
Thank You

Our youth leadership program, YoJACK, relies on sponsors in the community to fund the program, so students can participate at not cost. Our Gold sponsors this year are:

- ☆ Beacon Credit Union
- ☆ Bob Poynter GM
- ☆ Dr. Tamara Heister
- ☆ JCBank
- ☆ Rose Acre Farms
- ☆ Rumpke
- ☆ S & J Engraving
- ☆ Stahl Insurance
- ☆ SIHO

Sponsors Needed!

We are currently seeking sponsors for the 2025-2026 YoJACK cohorts. If you or your organization is interested in supporting our youth leadership program, please visit our website at: www.leadershipjacksoncounty.com/support.



LJC
Leadership Jackson County