



# Project YES!

**\*\*Upcoming Dates:**

- March 6- NUSH Bazaar

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**—ABOUT US—**

**PROJECT YES!** connects caring adults with youth in and around the West Town community through mentorship, educational, service, artistic, and recreational activities in order to support their academic achievement, provide them with positive alternatives to destructive behaviors, and foster an ethic of service in the entire community.

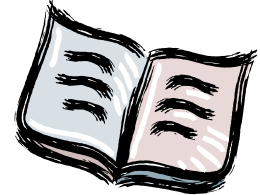
## Grade-level Mentoring at Noble

Noble Street Charter High School is a innovative institution replete with caring administrators, teachers and staff. Project YES! members have had the unique opportunity of working with the high school for five years, both assisting teacher with in-class teaching and running after school programs. This year a new program has been instituted— grade level mentoring. This is an after school program aimed at giving students an outlet for homework help and an extra guiding force in their lives. The following quotes are from two Noble Street Project YES! members who lead this programming. Lauren Nichols, Mike Shiel, and Alex Stryker all take part in the initiative.

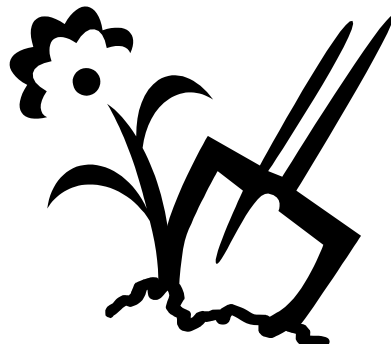
Noble member Mike Shiel says, “My classroom has two purposes. One is to be an open class for students

to come after school to get their work done or to get extra help on their work. The other is a bit more structured and involves a handful of students who are assigned to come a few days a week to earn one of their enrichment credits. I think the opportunity has allowed me to build some closer relationships with the freshmen class at Noble. It also gives the students a safe place to get homework finished and a non-teacher role model. Working with freshman I think is more about keeping them focused and working hard on their academics and making good choices.”

Fellow Project YES! member, Alexandra Stryker says, “the program functions as a place for students to come for peer tutoring, or independently complete their assignments if home is not the most conducive place to getting things done. I am afforded the



opportunity to work one-on-one with students who really need the attention and I have developed a mentoring/tutoring relationship with several of them. Our study methods are reflexive reviewing and study techniques. I tell them that I’m not convinced that they know the concept they’ve been taught until they can teach it to me. I want my students to be aware that learning is a cycle. I want them to know that most of the time simply knowing an answer is not enough. The skills to adequately communicate what they know are the ones that are going to bring them success.”



National and Global Youth Service day is rapidly approaching. Project YES! members have chosen the focus of their project to be community gardening. The goal is to recruit 150 community volunteers. If you are interested in partnering with us, please use the contact information on page 4 to reach us. Stayed tuned to the newsletter for more details.

## Peabody Students Lend a Helping Hand

Project YES! members at Elizabeth Peabody Elementary School organized a school-wide food drive that helped feed others in need.

The project was advertised throughout the school and then was made into a friendly competition among classrooms.

The food was then counted and gathered by students and picked up by volunteers of the Greater Chicago Food Depository

*Below are figures from Peabody's food drive.*

Project start date:

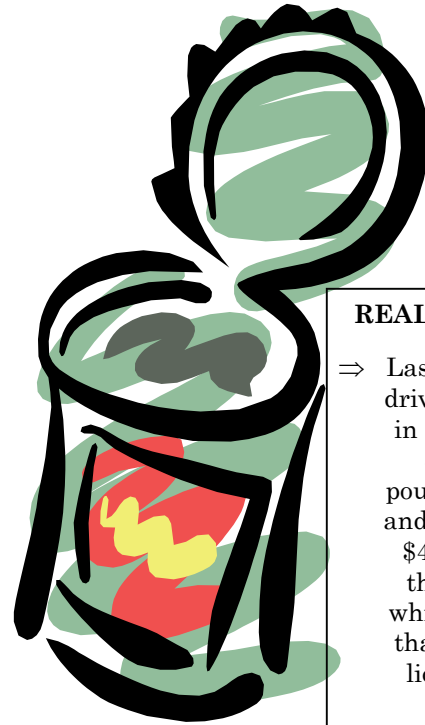
**Jan. 30th, 2006**

Project end date:

**Feb. 10th, 2006**

Pounds of food raised:

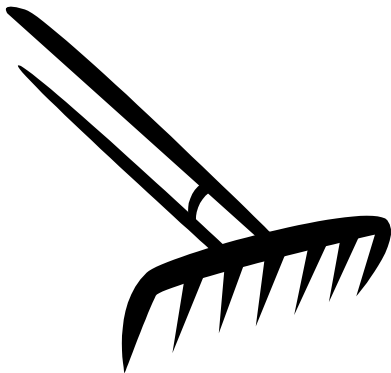
**835 lbs.**



### REAL FACTS:

⇒ Last year food drives brought in more than 541,300 pounds of food and more than \$434,000 to the GCFD, which is more than 1.7 million meals.

## Noble Street Cleans the Streets!



Project YES! members at Noble Street Charter High School organized an area "Clean and Green" with 30 students. Participating students reported at 1:00pm on Friday, February 24th. They worked tenaciously for 3 hours to brighten and clean the area around the high school and other area schools and facilities. Tasks included garbage pick-up, painting over graffiti, and general beautification of the area. The hope is that students who work hard to make a clean and aesthetically pleasing environment will continue to maintain the area and teach others of the importance to do so as well.

## Poet Laureates Beware!

Project YES! member Alissa Catiis has worked hard on a poetry unit for the past 6 weeks with Ms. Nicandro's fourth grade class.

The unit culminated in an "invitation only" poetry party for the students who completed all of their work and exhibited good

behavior throughout the duration of the course.

Project YES! staff was invited to this posh affair, where we were greeted with pink programs, appetizers and sodas. Not only was this a chance to see Alissa in action, but hearing each student read aloud an original poem was

really wonderful.

The students seemed to embrace the unit and no doubt felt like true performing poets during the celebration.

Students were awarded with beautiful journals, handcrafted by Project YES! member Andrea Hill.

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS!



## Melody Brooks:

*KIPP Ascend Charter School Member*

**College:** University of Illinois

### ***Favorite Celebrities?***

Halle Berry, Denzel Washington,  
Musiq, Lauren Hill

### ***What is your dream vacation?***

A cruise around the world.

### ***Favorite Vocabulary Word?***

This question does not apply to me.

## Jim Publicover:

*Northwestern Settlement Member*

**College:** Northwestern University

### ***Favorite Celebrities?***

Kobiashi, the hot-dog-eating guy. Or that weird French dude who dresses up like Spiderman and climbs buildings only to get arrested when he reaches the top.

### ***What is your dream vacation?***

A houseboat that follows warm weather up and down the east coast. Is it still a vacation if you plan to do it for ten years or so?

### ***Favorite vocabulary word?***

'Watch your corners' (an archaic phrase that died out late 17C meaning 'be careful when you go out tonight'), because, c'mon, that's hysterical.

## Lauren Madle:

*Peabody Elementary School Member*

**College:** Central Michigan

### ***Favorite Celebrities?***

Jake Gyllenhaal and Johnny Depp

### ***What is your dream vacation?***

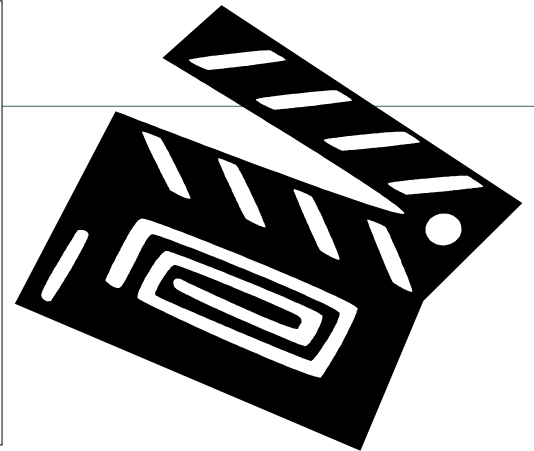
Europe, particularly France.

### ***Favorite vocabulary words?***

Conundrum and plethora

## AmeriCorps Movie Night: *Part Deux*

Last year Project YES! staff organized an "AmeriCorps Movie Night" where Chicagoland area programs were invited to enjoy pizza and a movie at the Settlement's very own state of the art Vittum Theater. It was held on a Thursday night, with the movie beginning at 7:00pm. Last year's movie selection was *Hotel Rwanda*. The turnout was good, but less than we hoped. Representatives attended from Jumpstart, City Year, VISTA programs and others. Each member was given a chance to explain his/her program and share upcoming service plans. This year we are hoping to increase attendance and improve the event. The hope is that if we start advertising early, programs can set aside time to announce at weekly/monthly meetings. Project YES! members earn Member Service hours for Movie Night, as is a networking event that hopes to connect Illinois AmeriCorps programs to one another for future service events. This year's event will take place on Thursday, May 4th. **Stay tuned for more details!**



## AMERICORPS, PROJECT YES!

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## Announcements!

If a representative(s) from your organization would like to attend the Tutor-Mentor Exchange (May 25-26), please visit the website:

[www.tutormentorexchange.net](http://www.tutormentorexchange.net)

for more information about the event.

If you are interested in partnering with Project YES! for *National Youth Service Day* (April 22nd) OR are interested in attending *AmeriCorps Movie Night* (May 4th) please email Shea Coughlin at :

[scoughlin@nush.org](mailto:scoughlin@nush.org)

## Member of the Month: Andrea Hill

*Andrea Hill was voted Project YES! Member of the month for February by her peers.*

Andrea Hill is a member at Northwestern University Settlement. More specifically, she works within the Vittum Theater department at NUS.

Andrea was praised by her peers for her outstanding artistic abilities and her great leadership for the corps' Dr. MLK Jr. Day mural mosaic project. Andrea played a large role in transferring the student-produced images onto the

huge 8x11 canvases.

She holds a Masters degree in art education and offers the group her expertise through her quiet, calm leadership style.

Andrea has designed several elaborate displays for Vittum Theater productions and works closely with teaching artists in Chicago Public Schools.

We are proud to have such a talented individual here at Project YES!

