

Our mission states, “Youth Go is a voluntary, youth directed, supportive community which offers youth opportunities to learn, grow and feel comfortable with themselves and others.”

Youth Go, Inc. is a drop in center located at 213 Nicolet Boulevard in Neenah. Youth Go was founded in 1969 by youth and supportive adults looking for a safe gathering place. Our agency is committed to making a lasting and positive difference in the lives of youth. Through our no cost Recreation, Education, and Support and Wellness Programs, Youth Go strives to provide underserved and at-risk youth in grades 5-12 with opportunities to do well in school, develop as individuals, and prepare for their next step in life. We hope that through participation in programming, youth can learn about themselves, develop positive relationships with peers and adults, grow through their experiences, express their creativity, and cultivate their skills and potential in a safe and supportive environment. Youth Go is attended by youth of all family, socio-economic, and cultural backgrounds, and the diversity among participants makes the center a very unique place. A special emphasis is placed on recruiting youth who are underserved by traditional after-school activities or who are “in most need” of our services.

Youth Go provides the youth of this community with a place where they can belong. We offer those youth who may normally be overlooked or who might “fall through the cracks” with a second home. Youth Go celebrates the value of all youth and sees potential in each child that we come in contact with. Through our Recreation, Education, and Support and Wellness Programs we strive to provide them with the support, encouragement, and guidance that they may not be receiving from other aspects of their lives. We do our best to provide a wide variety in programming so that any youth who walks through our door will be engaged by an activity, club or program. Whether it is helping a teen with their homework, expanding a child’s horizons, or offering a listening ear to a youth struggling with a personal problem, the staff members at Youth Go do all they can to make a difference each and every day.

Youth Go served 921 unduplicated youth in 2017

- 401 walked through the doors of Youth Go
- 30 participated in Badges for Baseball who are not regular center participants
- 34 youth who are not regular center participants, received help through Homework Club
- 56 were a part of the Bridges Truancy Program
- 60 were Haunted House youth volunteers who are not regular center participants
- 27 took part in Winnebago County’s PACT Program
- 24 received mentors through Winnebago County’s Early Intervention Mentoring Program
- 259 youth were served through presentations at their schools
- 30 young adults (ages 18-25) served through our Young Adults Group





Our impact can best be seen in the words those involved.

Gus, who is on the Autism spectrum, has been a regular participant at Youth Go since he signed up in May of 2015, along with his sister. When he first started his time was primarily spent playing Minecraft on the PS3, and his social interaction consisted of a “hi” when he would arrive and “bye” when he would leave for the night, along with very short answers to conversational questions posed by different staff members. After a couple months we noticed his sister was no longer coming in with him. When we asked him where she was he said, “she had to go away.” That was when we learned of the instability in his family situation (a family history of mental illness and alcohol and drug abuse), and soon would no longer be living with his mother – eventually ending up with his aunt. Her thoughts are expressed below.

“Youth Go is an absolutely priceless experience and resource for Gus. Without Youth Go he would have limited social outlets. When he was with his mother it was a safe and warm place for him to have consistency and normalcy. When he was with his mother this was the only place he would have a hot meal and stability. Youth Go has been a significant part of his life, which I am beyond grateful for. Words...cannot describe the respect and gratitude I have for all you do and have done for Gus. Without you all I honestly do not know if I would have been able to provide such an enriched life to Gus since finally getting him to a safe home.”

Throughout the past few years, Gus has opened up in many ways and has expanded his interests and involvement. When he arrives at Youth Go each night, he walks around the center and greets each staff member with a “Hello!” and a high five. He took a leadership role by joining our Youth Board. He has more interaction with his peers while at the center and is more likely to join in a game of Mario Kart or Smash Brothers on the Wii U than just playing Minecraft by himself all the time. He looks forward to sharing the fun experiences of many of the summer field trips with the friends he has made at Youth Go. He is eager to share videos he posts to his YouTube channel to anyone interested in watching. He is more willing to try different planned activities than when he first started. He even joined us for the second day of our leadership camping trip, and the rest of the youth were waiting for his arrival with great anticipation and showed their excitement once he finally arrived. He is more open in talking about his life outside of Youth Go with staff and peers. He has become an integral part of the Youth Go dynamic, and his presence is sorely missed on the rare occasion he doesn’t make it in for high school time.

**Participants name changed to respect his privacy.*

More information about Youth Go can be found at our website at www.youthgo.org or by calling and talking to staff members at (920)722-1435.