BE A CHANGEMAKER

Young Community Changemakers (YC2) is a leadership development program designed to educate and empower local youth to become our community's next generation of philanthropists — those who give their time, talent, treasure and ties for the common good. YC2 is sponsored by Community Memorial Foundation and designed around a shared vision that young people need opportunities to develop the skills to be future leaders and stewards of our community.

By joining YC2, you can make a positive impact in your community while teaming up with other high school students. You'll site visit local organizations, delve into community needs and grant money to important causes. Unlike other volunteer opportunities, YC2 puts the decision-making power into your hands, empowering you to be a changemaker in your community.

Community Memorial Foundation

THE BURJAN FAMILY

MOIRA & PAUL AFFAH

CORLYN & JEFF SIMMONS

THE DETAILS

Sixty students from Hinsdale Central High School, Lyons Township High School, Riverside Brookfield High School and Nazareth Academy will be selected as Young Community Changemakers. Program curricula begins with students exploring social challenges in their community, and learning philanthropic theory and organizational evaluation.

Students will review grant applications from local organizations, conduct site visits, and at the end of the semester-long program, **award up to $30,000** to nonprofit organizations that further the mission and vision of Community Memorial Foundation.

WHAT YOU'LL GIVE

Your time: participation in 10 program sessions, including a kickoff event and community celebration

Your talent: the opportunity to bring your unique perspective and skill set to the grantmaking table

Treasure: the ability to collectively award up to $30,000 of Foundation funding to local nonprofits

WHAT YOU'LL GAIN

Critical leadership skills

Knowledge of nonprofit organizations, philanthropy, and their important roles in our community

Empowerment to make decisions that have a real impact on our community

TIMELINE

All program sessions will be held at Plymouth Place (315 N. La Grange Rd., La Grange Park, IL 60526).

Participants will be divided into two groups of 30 students. Both groups will meet concurrently on the following Sundays from 1:30PM–4:00PM.

A community celebration will be held on Tuesday, May 11, 2027 at Premier Countryside (6240 Joliet Rd.) from 4:30–6:00PM.

Students are expected to attend all sessions.

1.10.2027
Kickoff Session

1.24.2027
Session 1

1.31.2027
Session 2

2.7.2027
Session 3

2.21.2027
Session 4

3.7.2027
Session 5

3.21.2027
Session 6

4.11.2027
Session 7

5.2.2027
Session 8

5.11.2027
Community Celebration

Students must also be available to attend a site visit on *one of the following dates/times:*

4.21.2027
4:00–5:00PM

4.23.2027
4:00–5:00PM

4.27.2027
4:00–5:00PM

4.29.2027
4:00–5:00PM

5.1.2027
10:00-11:00AM

ELIGIBILITY & HOW TO APPLY

- Juniors and seniors from Hinsdale Central High School, Lyons Township High School, Nazareth Academy and Riverside Brookfield High School are eligible to apply.

- Applications should be submitted via Google Form and can be accessed at https://bit.ly/2027YC2 or via the QR code.
- **Applications are due Friday, November 20, 2026 by 5:00PM.**
- Accepted students will be notified the week of December 7th.

cmfdn.org/yc2

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Commitment to attend and fully participate in all program sessions
- The ability to work with a diverse group of people in a respectful and collaborative decision-making process
- An interest in local nonprofits and the communities they serve
- A demonstrated desire to support the Foundation's vision of transforming the Western Suburbs into the healthiest region in the country

QUESTIONS?

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