



## **ROCHESTER AREA YOUTH ASSISTANCE**

A nonprofit organization serving the Rochester community for decades, our passion at RAYA is to strengthen youth and families and reduce delinquency.

# **Rochester Hills City Council Presentation**

**October 20, 2025**



### **financial assistance**

Parents may apply for help covering student expenses such as sports, lessons or tutoring



### **counseling**

Voluntary, confidential, professional short-term counseling by our certified case worker



### **family education**

Workshops, guest speakers and classes addressing current issues facing our youth

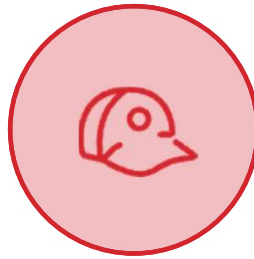
**Every service we provide is free or low-cost.**

# 2024 - 25 Highlights



## Leadership Transition

Lindsay Wood transitioned from Vice Chair to Chair of the Board.



## Strengthening the Youth Council

Cultivated a more robust Youth Council, bringing in fresh ideas and enthusiasm to invigorate programs and increase community visibility



## Securing More Grants and Gifts

Successfully obtained a greater number of grants and gifts, significantly enhancing RAYA's capacity to provide financial assistance and innovative family education programming

# Camp Safari at RARA

- **8-week camp from June 16 to August 15**

Camp Safari continued to grow and thrive, offering unforgettable experiences for campers and families.

- **Maintained popular pickup locations**

Convenient transportation options at Northridge Apartments, Rochester Estates, and Hampton Elementary helped ensure access to camp.

- **Average of 19 campers per week**

Totaling around 150 Camp Safari participants, an increase of over 55 campers from last summer.

- **Affordable cost of \$20 per child per week**

Allowed families to choose the weeks that worked best for them, whether it was just one or the full eight.



# 51st annual Youth Recognition Reception

- **21 honorees recognized**

For their dedication and charity to the community, from elementary to high school

- **Natalie Mahnke awarded the Coats Family Memorial Scholarship**

Donated by the Coats Family in honor of Judy Coats, a longtime RAYA supporter



# Membership and Volunteering

## Strong Partnerships

Collaborate closely with the Rochester Community School District, local businesses, and a network of committed nonprofits to provide essential support through financial assistance, counseling services, and educational programs.

## Fresh Perspectives from Youth Council

Student representatives from all three main Rochester Community Schools high schools bring invaluable insights to help us better understand and serve the needs of local youth.

## Join Our Journey

Seeking dedicated volunteers and new Board of Directors members to join our vibrant team and make a tangible difference in the lives of young people and families.

## Board Member Responsibilities

Attend monthly meetings, actively participate in committee work, and contribute to vital fundraising initiatives.

**RAYA is incredibly hopeful for the future and eager to welcome more passionate individuals into the organization as we continue our impactful work strengthening youth and families in the community.**



## **RAYA Board of Directors 2025 – 2026**

Lindsay Wood – Chair

Jennifer Cordon Thor – Vice Chair

Liang Fu – Treasurer

Laura Bagley – Acting Secretary

Darrett Pullins

Charlie Rewold

Kimberly Russell

Leslie Sheldon

Jan Willite-Iserman

Debbie Jones – City of Rochester

Theresa Mungoli – City of Rochester Hills

Michelle Buelte – RCS Board Trustee

Lindsay Hurst – PTA Council

Sgt. Dan Prachar – Oakland County Sheriff

**RAYA Staff:** Amy Sullivan, LMSW

Mihaela Becker



**Rochester Area**

Strengthening Families  
Through Community Involvement

# Thank You

**Any Questions?**

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