



Meriden Department of Health and Human Services

Youth Services: 2021-2022 Mini Grant Summary Report

The Meriden Department of Health and Human Services' Youth Services office offers annual opportunities for Meriden youth to apply for mini-grants for projects to make Meriden a better place to live, work, and play. Projects must be youth-developed and youth-led, under the guidance of an adult adviser at a recognized organization that serves Meriden. This program puts youth in a leadership position to make a difference in our community. This year the Youth Services office funded 10 projects at \$500 each. Funding is provided through our [Youth Service Bureau grant from the Department of Children and Families](#).

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB:

This year the Boys and Girls Club of Meriden were awarded two projects:

1. Youth Art Show: The Youth Art Show took place on April 22, 2022 where 75 youths sold paintings, drawings, sculptures and other pieces of artwork they created. This show was a great success and youths were able to express themselves through the power of art.



2. Garden Project: The garden project was designed to encourage kids to connect with their roots, grow as individuals, and cultivate change in their communities, near and far, through nature-based activities. A total of 25 youth participated in this program.

Thank you to the Youth Leader for coordinating these projects: Music Rodriguez

BALL HEADZ, INC:



Ball Headz, Inc. completed the "Keep our Silver City Polished" projects in collaboration with the city Mayor Kevin Scarpati. These activities included:

- Repainting signs at City Hall
- Repainting signs in front of the Augusta Curtis Cultural Center
- Cleaning up the area around Hanover Pond and the trail surrounding the pond.



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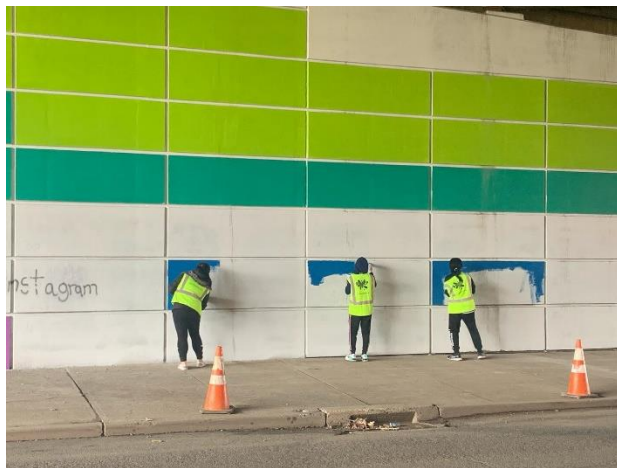
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Twenty-eight (28) youth participated in these activities in May and June. Ball Headz goal is to continue to do projects to keep our city looking good!

Thank you to the Youth Leader for coordinating this project: Jeremiah Soto.

SUSTAINABLE MERIDEN

The Bunker Avenue Bridge Mural project was a collaboration between Sustainable Meriden Youth Group, Gallery 53, RiseUp Arts, and the City of Meriden Dept. of Public Works. Youth in our community completed this project in three phases from fundraising, to cleaning up the bridge area, and finally painting the mural. The bridge area is approximately 120 feet by 40 feet on each side and the design is a rainbow pattern with many color variations.



Thank you to the Youth Leader for working on this project: Xavier Febles.



GIRLS INC

The youth leader at Girls Inc. of Meriden implemented a project called “Hygiene Candy Project” to help young teenage girls have access to supplies to maintain their physical hygiene. This bundle included deodorant, dental care products, sanitary pads, hand sanitizer, lotion, and hair ties. These bags were distributed at a Girls Inc. event where they created beaded animal keychains. The event was an opportunity to teach girls about self-care and learn about other initiatives and programs provided by Girls Inc.



Thank you to the Youth Leaders for coordinating this project: Mackenzie Hamilton, Hailey Pasinski.

MALONEY HIGH SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS CLUB

Youth from Maloney High School’s Mental Health Awareness Club collaborated with the School Counseling Department to complete a “Summer Self Care Kickoff”. This event was held on June 1, 2022 where students were able to participate in activities including making your own stress ball, practice yoga, and educate others on relieving stress. This events was a huge success with 800 youths participating!

Thank you to the Youth Leader for coordinating this project: Lea Heart Valeno.



**FRANCIS T. MALONEY
HIGH SCHOOL**



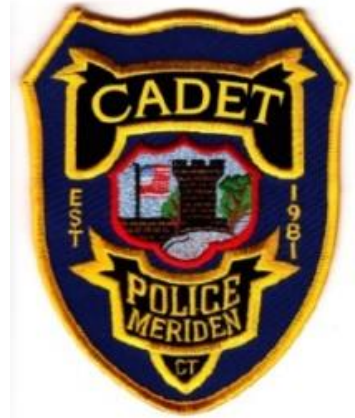
MERIDEN POLICE CADETS

The Meriden Police Cadets received two \$500 mini-grant awards:

1. Cadets collaborated with the Meriden-Wallingford Chrysalis Center to complete “Operation Helping Hand “. Youth donated clothing and bedding items to be distributed at Chrysalis’ Safe House in Meriden. Youths were able to collect and donate diapers bags, first aid kits, bed sheet, umbrellas, rain/snow boots, slippers, and raincoats for children.

2. “Operation Giving Thanks” focused on addressing hunger during holidays as a result of the pandemic and to increase the connection between the community, youth, and police during the pandemic.

Operation Giving Thanks was held on November 20, 2021 cadets handed our turkeys to families in need. This project was a huge success and the cadets were able to help over 1,000 families in need during the holiday season. Efforts were featured in multiple news outlets including the Record Journal and NBC CT 30.



MERIDEN

Meriden Police Cadets Deliver 1,000 Turkeys to Area Charities

By Michael Fuller • Published November 20, 2021 • Updated on November 20, 2021 at 6:41 pm



Trending Stories

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Giving thanks and lending a helping hand is the spirit of the season, and with Thanksgiving right around the corner, that's exactly what the



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Photo Credit: Record Journal

Thank you to the Youth Leaders who worked on coordinating these projects: Abigail Lespier and Leslie Melenciano.

GALLERY 53

Gallery 53 was awarded \$1,000 to host a summer art camp for youth in the community. Funding went towards art supplies.

This camp was geared towards youth between ages 9 and 14 and was split into sessions running from July 18 to August 5, 2022. Through this camp, youths are able to explore their creativity with a variety of projects, connect with peers their age, and grow artistically and socially. Some projects completed included Ice-Dye t-shirts, writing haiku's with symbolic sun drawings, and experimenting with new media. Some pictures of projects are below; many more can be viewed on Gallery 53's Facebook page.

This project was a direct donation from Youth Services to Gallery 53.



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Facebook interface showing the 'Gallery 53' page. The page is titled 'Gallery 53' and has a post from July 17 at 8:07 AM. The post text reads: 'As we get ready to launch our Summer Art Camp tomorrow, we wanted to give a huge THANK YOU to our sponsors: - City of Meriden Health & Human Services Department - YOUTH SERVICES - E. Haberli Electric, LLC - Ion Bank - MERIDEN... See more'. Below the text is a graphic with the word 'SPONSORS' and logos for 'ion BANK.', 'SUZIO INSURANCE CENTER INC.', and 'E. HABERLI Electric'. The City of Meriden logo is also present at the bottom of the graphic.

Local & State

KIDS EXPLORE THEIR CREATIVITY

Bartlem South project design phase on schedule

Stefanowski says he's no vax skeptic, but supports religious exemption

Long Wharf building moratorium advances in New Haven

Record-Journal

Translate to

KIDS EXPLORE THEIR CREATIVITY



Abigail Gold, 9, of Meriden, holds sunflower art she created during Summer Art Camp at Gallery 53 in Meriden on Wednesday.

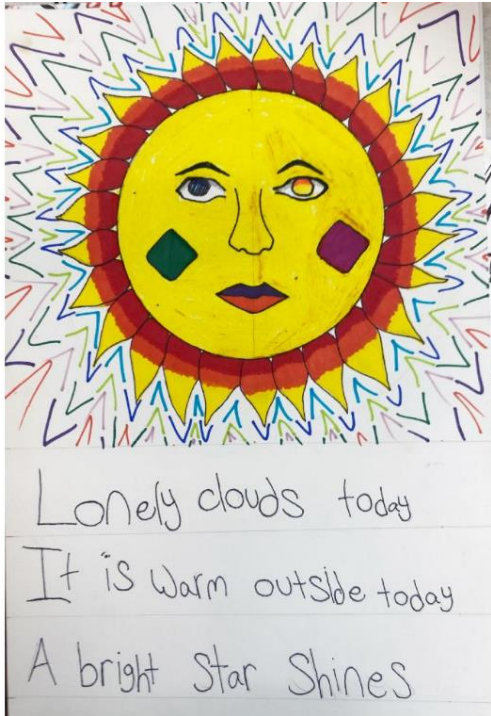


Mahima Rahman, 14, of Meriden, adds some blue to the background of her sunflowers pastel during Summer Art Camp at Gallery 53. The program is designed for kids ages 9 to 14 to explore their creativity with hands-on projects. The camp finishes its sessions on Friday.

Photos by Dave Zajac, Record-Journal



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SOUTH MERIDEN FESTIVALS INC

A new community garden is coming to Meriden thanks to youth working with South Meriden Festival's Inc.! Grant funds went towards fencing and garden start up materials.

Youths started this project in June and will continue maintaining the garden through September. In the fall they plan on planting beans, peas, carrots, spinach, lettuce, and broccoli!

Thank you to Youth Leaders who worked on coordinating these projects: The Grice Family.

