

Sponsor-A-Scholar – The YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee strives to help Milwaukee students achieve academic success through two unique mentoring programs, Sponsor-A-Scholar and One on One. Sponsor-A-Scholar is a collaborative pre-college program which brings together community resources to help aspiring urban high school students stay in school and prepare for college and careers. The program offers academic, personal, and financial support while also encouraging student leadership and community service.



YHELP – The YMCA Humane Education and Leadership Program is a Sponsor-A-Scholar student-initiated club that strives to improve animal welfare in Milwaukee through education and service. YHELP was founded in September of 2006 when a group of Sponsor-A-Scholar students expressed an interest in helping to improve the treatment of animals in Milwaukee. The students were tired of walking through their neighborhoods and seeing dogs chained up outside during the winter months and stray cats and dogs neglected on the streets. The students began talking about what they could do to help, and their daily experiences with animal welfare issues inspired them to take action. During the past three years, YHELP students have educated themselves and others about animal welfare issues in Milwaukee while giving their time and efforts to help other Milwaukee agencies improve animal welfare.

Mission & Program Components:

- **Mission** – To explore issues relating to the treatment of animals in the Milwaukee community through teen leadership, education, and service opportunities.
- **Student Leadership & Governance** – YHELP is a student-led club. Students elect officers, direct club meetings, and choose their own projects and events.
- **Experiential Education** – YHELP offers students the opportunity to learn about important animal welfare issues through interactive humane education programs.
- **Service Learning** – YHELP strives to help improve animal welfare in Milwaukee through local advocacy and service learning opportunities. YHELP students strive to give back to the community and to animal welfare agencies through direct service.



Service Learning & Field Trips:



- A humane education service project at the world-renowned Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kanab, Utah.
- An educational tour of the Animal Cruelty Society in Chicago, Illinois.
- Raising funds and animal toy donations at various community events.
- Participating in informative tours along with making animal toys and cage comforters at the Milwaukee Area Domestic Animal Control Commission.
- Researching and preparing presentations on animal welfare topics like puppy mills and dogfighting for the annual Great Lakes Family Pet Expo.
- Hosting informational speakers and learning about careers in animal welfare.