

Dear Leadership Niagara Board, before LYWC, I thought leadership was about being bossy yet understood. Now I understand leadership to be more than being understood and strict, you have to have compassion and understand other people's feelings and thoughts, you have to respect everyone's opinions as well. Leadership is about telling people what their job is and how to do it well, encourage others and yourself to not be sorry but better. One way my mindset has changed this year is, I thought this would be easy, but it's complicated, being a leader and standing up for what you believe in is complicated sometimes but we all can do anything if we try hard enough and work together. One area where I grew this year is my confidence, a moment I stepped out my comfort zone was where I told Luke how I'm creative. Because of LYWC I feel more confident because people didn't judge me based on looks and my nerd self. Because of LYWC, I am now considering to tell people more about my creative side, this program changed my future by not letting what people think of me, I feel better about myself more now than ever. LYWC helped prepare me for college because people will love to hear what I have to say.

Students in Asagara County need LYUC because this program helps build confidence within anyone, without programs like LYUC no one would be themselves and build relationships for a longer time then what their used to. I would tell a funder that their support matters to me because, without LYUC I wouldn't have ever gotten to meet incredible people that can change the world sans,

Thank you sincerely
Lily Parker.

(you are an amazing human being each and everyone of you)

DEAR LEADERSHIP NIAGARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS,

There were many new things I experienced this year, but I would say the most beneficial one was attending LYNC. Before I had heard about LYNC, I thought that leadership meant success. That being decisive and determined was the most important thing. Now, I realize, thanks to LYNC, that leadership comes from the heart. It's having the courage to unify a group of people for a bigger purpose. Along the way my mindset has drastically shifted to a more positive way of thinking and growing. Having an open mind can lead you to meeting new people and making lifelong friends.

Not everyone is great at collaborating with others. Going into LYNC, I struggled working in groups and would much rather have worked alone to get the assignment done. Having worked with the adults in LYNC, relationships have risen to one of the most important aspects in my life. If you have a good basis or foundation, the situations can only be stronger and more beneficial. One main thing I learned about teamwork is that communication is key to a good relationship.

I highly recommend LYNC to students in high school and students who may struggle stepping outside of their comfort zones. Students need LYNC because it builds a beneficial and strong basis in your personality to be able to succeed in life. With out programs like LYNC, kids all around the community and the world may not be able to explore their interests and see new places. Funders should support LYNC because there is a chance that students may never hear the information provided in LYNC anywhere else. This program is fundamental for development of kids in the community. Thank you to LYNC for allowing me to endeavor on this adventure.

- From Eliana Latore

Dear Leadership Niagara County Board of Directors,

Before LYNC, I thought leadership was telling people what to do. Now, I believe leadership is telling people what to do, among other things. Leadership is directing as much as it is listening; it's acting in the best way to find the best solution. I don't really believe my mindset has changed at all, but my beliefs have been reaffirmed.

One skill I developed through LYNC was public speaking. The school system tries to prepare students for it; this was some useful extra practice. Doing things like the debate and being forced to introduce myself are honestly still terrible in the moment, but it gets easier everytime I do it. I will use this skill in my future by being able to share any ideas I have with whatever groups I may be working with.

Students need programs like LYNC because some of us don't really get anything else. For some students, this is the only team-building, confidence-building, or real-life educational experience they receive. I would tell a funder that their support matters because kids need more than they're getting from public schools.

Every educational experience gives a student better chances of having a life they'll enjoy in their future.

Sincerely,
Emma Dawidson

Dear Leadership Niagara Board of Directors,

Thank you so much for organizing this fun and insightful program for Niagara County High School students. I really enjoyed the good conversation and interesting places we visited! Before LYNC, I thought leadership was taking initiative to be dominant in a group situation and tell people what/how to do certain things and be the "head" of the group. I learned that I wasn't ^{totally} wrong, but leadership comes in many different forms and everyone of all personalities and gifts can lead in some sort of way. Everyone who is empathetic, passionate, & considerate can be a good leader. A moment specifically that shifted my thinking was with the Indigo Assessment results. I learned that no personality trait is "less than" and we need leaders of all dominance, influence, steadiness, and compliance levels to make a group run smoothly. Every one is important! A skill I developed through LYNC is public speaking. I practiced this skill when I expressed myself and my thoughts and feelings to the group throughout the whole program. I plan to use this skill in college and a job one day especially because I want to go into communications, theater, and public relations! Students in Niagara County need LYNC to meet new friends outside of school, go to important and beneficial places throughout the county, and have important

Conversations and exercises around leadership and its many forms. Without programs like LYNC, these opportunities would be MUCH more limited! I would tell someone funding LYNC that their support matters because I learned a lot about myself and what kind of leader I am while meeting a TON of new friends with similar interests as me and learning more about the community. You all are awesome! I can't wait to recommend LYNC to people at my school. Thank you for a great year and breaking up my usual routine with these enlightening & fun meetings! Keep it up!

Sincerely,

Cassidy Jensen

Dear leadership Mayara Board of Directors,

Before LYNC I thought leadership was overrated and all about speaking first. Now I don't think that's true, I believe it's about listening, taking a step back and believing in your team. One way my mindset has changed is at the start I was talk first now I wait till more people speak.

I am truly thankful for all that LYNC has taught. I am better with public speaking, working with diversity, and how to problem solve. Collaborating with many people opened my eyes to how the world works.

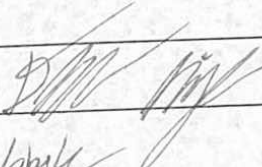
I think LYNC should continue because of the skills it forms, the confidence it creates, and the useful connections it built. Without programs like LYNC many kids would not have the confidence to be a leader.

Sincerely

~~Adam~~

Dear, Leadership Niagara Board of directors

Before LYNC, I thought leadership was only about directing people the most efficient way possible. After LYNC however I realized leadership is more than just directing people, it's about listening and problem solving, along with communication. Participating in Lync has helped me be more open minded to others ideas instead of being narrow minded. Through out LYNC we practiced many ~~soft~~ skills, but the skill that I developed the most is my listening skills. This skill can help me become a better leader along with a better follower. The skills that I learned and practiced can be applied to my every day life me when I graduate High school along with college to move on to a new job. I believe LYNC has helped me tremendously through out these past months.

From: 
Dylan Lytle

Dear Leadership: Niagara Board of Directors,

Before LYNC, I did not realize how many people in our community needed help from others in the world we live in. Visiting the Community Missions impacted me since it allowed me to help those in need and give back to my community. I now understand our community differently because this gives me a look into how others in our community live and I get to help them.

One skill I developed through LYNC is my public speaking, I practiced this skill by talking in front of my peers and going outside my comfort zone. I will use this skill in the future in job interviews, presentations, and projects. Students in Niagara County need LYNC because it helps work on skills that we will definitely use in the future. Without programs like LYNC students won't have a place where they can grow and work on their skills with others like them. I would tell a funder that their support matters because the friends and skills we learn and make here will last us a lifetime and are important in everyday life.

From, James Scully

Dear Leadership Niagara board of directors,

Before LYNC, I thought leadership meant it was just a role someone initially took just out of spite. LYNC taught me that leadership meant more than just a role. It carries responsibilities, being yourself, being able to handle tough crowds. LYNC taught me that understanding others before handling the bigger picture is super important. Being a leader means stepping out of your comfort zone, and not always being the one to take credit. LYNC took us to the Legislative building in Lockport, showing us how legal situations are handled. LYNC exposed us to a real world of leadership, and I don't regret this experience. Luke & Liz did a good job exposing us to the reality of what it means to be a leader. I will miss Luke and his amazing camera skills

Abby Zmuda

abby zmuda

3-3-26

Dear, leadership Niagara Board of Directors

One Area where I grew this year was my confidence. Often having to talk to new people and public speak- helped me understand its really not scary. I feel more confident about Networking and making new connections. Before LYNC I thought it was difficult to make connection in community and to find ways to volunteer. After visiting places like community missions and the Court House I realized its easy to get involved and many places are always looking for help. Students in Niagara County need LYNC because ~~not~~ not only is it Beneficial for College but it helps you find a new sense of confidence. Students are constantly thinking and problem solving. Lync has taught me to always be myself because it truly does not matter what people think of me.

, Addyson Kiner-Ranson

Dear Leadership Niagara Board of Directors,

Firstly, I'd like to thank you for providing me with this amazing opportunity over the last year. When I started this program I found myself physically shaking at the idea of talking to a group. I cared what everyone thought of my opinions and censored them before speaking. Over time I found myself sharing more and more and ignoring my anxiety over what others thought. Today I can confidently say that I am enthusiastic about public speaking, not only in the classroom, but out in the world. LYNC also introduced me to people all over the county, and asked me to empathize with others and understand other points of view. LYNC should continue because it challenges the student to step out of their comfort zone and discover who they are in a different setting than a school. I would not trade the skills I've learned or the relationships I have built for the world.

Thank You,
Addison Carr

2/3/24

★ Closing Letter ★

Dear Leadership Niagara Board of Directors,

One skill I developed through LYNC was problem solving. At all the meetings I worked with different groups of people to make observations be efficient, and work together for various tasks. LYNC further supported ~~me~~ my decision to lean towards working with others in my future career, because I can see how much it helps due to how much it did in LYNC. Without programs like LYNC, students/the youth of Niagara wouldn't be as informed and aware of how many areas of the community could use volunteering (like community missions), could inform us (Niagara power plant), and the jail/local legal system. We wouldn't be able to have all these opportunities without funder support!



- Olivia O'Sheehan

Lockport High School Senior

3/3/26

Dear Leadership Niagara Board of directors,

One skill I learned through LYNC is problem solving. I was able to communicate my thoughts to my groupmates so that we were able to solve problems together. I practiced this skill while doing numerous different activities such as the number circle jumping activity where we had to communicate with our teammates in order to solve the problem and come up with the best, most time efficient solution. One area where I grew this year is my communication skills. Before Lync I would get nervous to talk to new people, but now I feel comfortable communicating with new people and getting to know them. A moment when I stepped outside my comfort zone was at the ice rink for the first LYNC session when I didn't really know anyone and I had to go and meet new people from different schools. Before LYNC, I did not realize ~~how~~ now easy it is to talk to new people. Visiting the jail impacted me b/c it showed me how the different 911 calls are divided up to the different counties and dispatch centers. Students in Niagara County need LYNC because it allows you to meet kids your age from different neighboring schools, and it helps build connections. Without programs like LYNC kids wouldn't be able to make connections with other students. I would tell a funder that their support matters b/c of the opportunities that ~~is~~ this program has created.

Thanks,

Sophia Shailch (Lewiston-Porter High School)

Dear LYNC Board of Directors,

Before LYNC I was a very quiet timid person who honestly had very few friends outside of my close circle. Through LYNC I learned how to communicate better with others and meet tons of different kids outside of my community. LYNC helped me to realize that everyone has leadership skills and everyone contributes ideas based on their different thought process.

As I was going through my application to the United States Naval Academy, I had to complete a series of interviews to obtain a Congressional Nomination. Through the public speaking and our visit to the community missions, I was able to talk about my experiences at the mission and get through my interviews and get my nominations. LYNC helped me to get into my dream school and has encouraged me to continue public speaking.

Students should join LYNC because it opens so many opportunities and seriously helps public speaking. Our visits to the many different places created exposure and helped to show different communities. Especially our visit to the mission. That showed me that I shouldn't take what I have for granted and that I can serve for something greater than myself. LYNC is such a great opportunity and I strongly encourage students to join.

Sincerely,

Torriann Franke

Niagara Falls High School

Dear LYNC,

One skill I learned through ~~W~~ LYNC is problem solving under pressure.

I practiced this skill during group competitions and activities.

I will use this skill in the future at work.

I learned how to work with people different from me by cooperating and being mindful.

One thing I learned about teamwork is how important communication is.

A meaningful relationship I built this year was with Zach Berubitt. We are for lifers.

Students in Niwot County need LYNC because it builds knowledge and connects ~~students~~ ^{students} without programs like LYNC.

With leadership skills, may not realize they have them. I would tell a funder that their support matters because it lets us get involved in our community.

- Melzi

Dear Leadership Niagara (LYNC),

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this amazing group! I had so much fun while also learning how to develop as a leader and as a person. Before LYNC, I was not very keen on talking to people I don't know super well or making new friends. But coming to each session, and not knowing many people, forced me to branch out and make new friends. As a result, I am now more social and more confident in conversating with people I don't know very well. It was also super cool being able to visit a bunch of different places. I really liked visiting the homeless shelter. It had a very big impact on me because it made me more aware of how many people struggle day to day with basic necessities. I strongly enjoyed volunteering there because I know that I made an impact on somebody's life by being there. LYNC is such an impactful organization that needs to keep being implemented in students' lives. I feel that because of LYNC, more students are improved with their problem solving, communication, and social skills. Again, thank you so much for inviting me to be involved in this program this year!

Sincerely, Sarah Tracz

Dear LYNC Board of Directors,

LYNC was an incredible experience and I feel that I learned many valuable lessons while. Before LYNC, I did not realize that leadership was more than just being a boss to people and telling people what to do. I have now learned that leadership is being cooperative and having good social skills. One skill I developed from LYNC is my ability to work with anyone I come across. Students in Niagara County need LYNC because it will help young people like myself develop the needed skills to make the leap into their adult lives. I know that this was valuable for me, and I know that it will be for others as well. Thank you for everything,

- Zachary P. Berwadt

Dear Leadership Niagara (LYNC)

Before LYNC, I thought leadership was just about telling others what to do. Now I believe leadership is all about listening, supporting and setting a positive example. One moment that shifted my thinking was when they make work in groups for the first time (I'm a person that always choose to do things by myself) at first the communication between the group was really hard, but instead of trying to control everything we listened to everyone's idea and thought and that teach me that communication is key and that teamwork is really important. There's one skill I developed through LYNC is communication and I know this skill in the future is going to be really important. I also learned how to work with people who are different from me by age, economy even different race (I'm Dominican) and others that are vere similar.

Thank you LYN

by Nashla Gonzalez.

Dear Leadership Niagara Board of Directors,
LYNC has been ~~an~~ an experience.
An opportunity to meet new people,
and explore new places.

One ~~thing~~^{skill} I ~~developed~~^{developed} this year was
my ability to interject within different
social circles. This skill of course, has
been abused to form new connections
and newfound confidence.

I did not realize the amount of influence
each of the places we visited has on
the surrounding area. Each one was
a valuable experience.

The connections formed and the
experience gained, should prove to be
helpful moving forward.

Sincerely,

Jillian Elizabeth Fisk

Dear LYNC Board of Directors,

I would first like to start this letter off by thanking you for the opportunity to be apart of something so special. Before lync I always thought being a leader meant taking charge in situations but after lync, I learned that leaders come from all backgrounds and can be different types. One thing that changed my mindset about this is helping at the city mission. I learned how to socialize with me by trying to get to know everyone from the beginning one thing I learned about teamwork is it comes in all shapes and sizes. A meaningful relationship I made this year was with Sarah, She became a good friend of mine. I feel that students in Niagara County need LYNC because it gives kids from all backgrounds the opportunity to be a leader. Without programs like LYNC underprivileged children wouldn't have the opportunity to be great. Your support matters because it gives all kids equal opportunity. LYNC has changed me for the better

Sincerely,

Mariana Buecelato

Dear Leadership Niagara Board of Directors,

Before LYNC I thought leadership was simply taking charge and directing a group but now I realize there's more to it now. Leadership is also uniting a group, bringing together different people to make a group work well together. Leadership is also not just a position, it's a quality people have, a quality that can be used in my career or field of work. With LYNC I learned to better communicate and work in a group, effectively improving both my teamwork and leadership skills. I learned that a leader does have to take charge, but they also have to listen, to advise, and still be a part of the team. Students in Niagara County need LYNC because the community needs more leaders and this program can help to foster the growth of leaders. Without programs like LYNC many students with potential could lose the chance to grow and develop key skills in leadership. I would tell a funder that their support matters because it gives kids a chance, a chance to learn, to grow, and to become the leaders of the future.

Sincerely,

Droce Jackson

Dear Leadership Niagara,

Before Lync, I thought leadership was who had the most power. Now, after this wonderful experience I ~~now~~ know leadership is a mindset. One way my mindset has changed this year is I learned many leadership skills, by working with my peers and new friends, it helped. ~~working in groups~~ Especially with a positive mindset and ~~with~~ patience. I learned how to work with people who are different from me by learning more about who they are as a human and combining our weaknesses to be one big strength. Students in Niagara County need LYNC because it truly helps leaving the classroom and interacting with other kids, learning more about public speaking, communication, understanding community issues, and time management. It's important to meet new people because when you're in school it feels like that's all you have.

-Sincerely, Peyton Bell

Dear Leadership, Niagara board of directors.

Before LYNC, I thought leadership was leading people.

Now, I believe leadership is working as a team

together. One way my mindset has changed this

year is being more social. One area where I grew

this year was in my confidence. I have always

stepped out of my comfort zone. LYNC has given

me more opportunity to get out to places I've

never been before and meet people I've never

had the opportunity to meet. Students in Niagara

County need LYNC to be more apart of the

community.

10/10 experience

My deepest love

Brady Jagen

3-3-2020.

Dear LYNC Board of Directors,

Before LYNC, I thought leadership was being the loudest in the room, being the big one in charge always, and having all the big important ideas. Now, I believe leadership having the ability to influence others, without overshadowing them. Leadership is taking initiative when necessary, while also listening to & incorporating the ideas of others for the best product, and also not only taking the lead, but also being a great team player. I learned how to work with people who are different from me through LYNC by not prejudging anyone's ideas or personality based off looks and first encounters alone. LYNC has changed how I see my future by showing me that there's not just one path to financial success. ~~I would~~ I would tell a fund that their support matters because programs like LYNC allow students in Niagara County to get access to resources & knowledge / ^{experiences} ~~resources~~ that are super beneficial & they wouldn't have access to without programs like LYNC, so THANK YOU!!!

Sincerely, Kaleigh Booker.

Dear LYNC board of directors, Before Lync I was not aware that it was easy to find a connection between people. Visiting the hockey rink impacted me because from our first exercise I met new people and connection between us. Because of Lync, I am now considering playing sports in college. This program changed my future because it made me realize confidence is key. Students in Niagara County need Lync because it opened opportunities and made me think differently in situations. I would tell a funder that their support matters because it opens up opportunities for future students.

Sincerely Roland Davis IV

Dear Leadership Niagara Board of Directors,

Because of Lync, I now feel more confident about making friends. On the first day, we were put into groups at the ice rink. The people I was in a group with became my friend group at Lync. They made me happy and we always had a good time. One skill I learned in Lync was leadership, and how to lead well. I practiced this skill when we did the tarp and balls activity. We had to tell the others the best way to get the balls around the tarp and not in the holes. I will use this when I start my career later in life.

Students in Niagara County need Lync because it allows the younger generations to understand leadership more and get better influence by peers. Without programs like Lync, most students would not gain friends from other schools. Lync has allowed me to step out of my comfort zone and have a great experience throughout the year.

From,

Giannina Tice

Tesse

Dear Leadership Niagara Board of ~~Directors~~ Directors,

Before LYNC, I thought leadership ~~was~~ ~~just~~ ~~telling~~ ~~people~~ ~~what~~ ~~and~~ ~~how~~ ~~to~~ ~~do~~ ~~things~~. ~~I~~ ~~now~~ ~~know~~ ~~that~~ ~~it~~ ~~handles~~ ~~for~~ ~~more~~ ~~than~~ ~~that~~. During my time here I learned many things that built leadership skills. For instance I know that a leader in a group doesn't have to just be one person. It can be shared. Another thing that I learned was that if you think that you could contribute then being able to speak out rather than staying silent ~~is~~ ~~just~~ ~~like~~ demonstrates leadership skills. I truly believe that LYNC should continue because it strengthens our ability to guide others as LYNC did to us as well as show us how the world works with that court room that we visited and community mission.

Dear Leadership Niagra Board of Directors

Before LYNC, I thought that leadership was telling and instructing others what to do. However since the first meeting I learned leadership was also being able to listen and take ideas and put them together. My mindset then became more open to ideas and perspectives. I stepped out of my comfort zone by talking to new people including adults which let me share ideas and speak openly. This program let me feel more confident in how I speak and I learned how I communicate best with people. One skill I improved and learned about was my understanding of community problems. With volunteer work we participated in I learned not everyone is as lucky as I am. I liked volunteer work because of this experience and now plan to do more to help. LYNC has improved many aspects of my life even skills I thought I was good at. I am very lucky and thankful for this program and hope it can remain for others to learn in the future

Sincerely,

William Turk

Dear Leadership Niagara Board of Directors,

One skill I developed through LYNC is working with people different from me. Through LYNC, I learned how to look past differences between people and see similarities. I learned that teamwork is about trusting the people around you and working together for a common goal. I built relationships with people from other schools and even got to know my existing friends better.

Before LYNC, I didn't realize just how much community is based in teamwork. Visiting the Community Mission really helped me to understand this because it helped me see how people donating just a bit of their time can make a huge impact on other people's lives. I now understand our community differently because I understand that community is based in helping others when they are down, and maybe one day they will do the same for you.

Students in Niagara County need LYNC in order to build leadership and communication skills. Without programs like LYNC, students may not realize as quickly how they must work together with both their peers and their community. I would tell a founder that their support matters because

by supporting LYNC, you are supporting future leaders and innovators who will one day pass their skills and knowledge on to others. Supporting LYNC supports the future.

Sincerely,

Jasper Sippel

Dear Leadership Niagara Board of Directors,

Because of LYNC I learned how to work with people who are different from me by taking time to listen and consider everyone's idea and encouraging others to participate when silent. One thing I learned about teamwork is that people will disagree with each other, but that is alright. It is important to work through those differences and come to an agreement. A meaningful relationship I built this year was with all my peers in my group. I was able to communicate, connect, and work with them, building friendships in the process.

One skill I developed in LYNC is public speaking. I practiced this skill when sharing my thoughts and ideas with the whole group during leadership activities. I will use this skill in the future by being able to confidently speak in front of others without worry.

Students in Niagara County need LYNC because they need a place to learn and further develop leadership skills. Without programs like LYNC students don't have an opportunity to learn and develop these skills. I would tell a funder that their support matters because this program is important for the futures of Niagara County youth.

Regards,
Ben Dwyer

Dear leadership Niagra board of directors,

Before I joined LYNC I did not realize how important leadership is. Over the duration of My time in the program, I learned how I could be a better leader. I also learned it is ok to speak your thoughts. Before this program I was a quiet kid and now I am able to freely talk to people. Also during this program I made many new friends and learned more about myself. Because of LYNC I am now a more open, aware person.

I feel the LYNC program should definitely continue.

I believe that there are many more kids that need to become a more open person and be able to share their thoughts.

I loved being part of this program and I am very grateful for everything you helped me with. Thank you.

Your Friend,

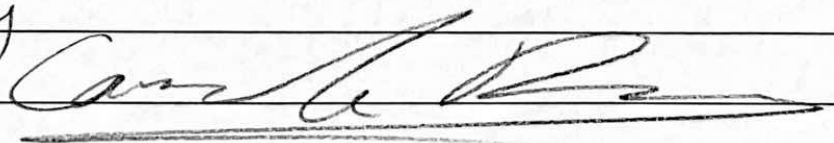
Liam Jucker

Liam Jucker

Dear Leadership Niagara Board of Directors,

Thank you for this amazing opportunity! Before LYNC, I thought leadership was taking control of situations. Now, I believe leadership is listening to others and learning how to also be a follower. One way my mindset has changed this year is that I listen more than lead. When I listen, I am able to help others more thoroughly. One skill I developed through LYNC is communication. I practiced this skill when I am working in groups with other people. I will continue to use this skill when I am in college and when I have to adjust to a new environment. Students in Niagara County need LYNC because it is a good way to find new people in schools and to be able to learn a variety of new skills. Without programs like LYNC there wouldn't be as many leaders in this world. I would tell a funder that their support matters because youth every where can make the world a better place.

Sincerely



Dear, leadership Niagra Board or Directors

Before LYNC, I thought leadership was to not follow in other people's foot steps. Now I believe leadership has a lot more meaning than what I thought. One way my mindset has changed this year is that I don't have to be what anyone wants me to be I can be myself. One area where I grew this year was my confidence. A moment when I stepped out my comfort zone was when I had to talk to new people. Because of LYNC, I feel more confident about trying to talk to new people. One skill I developed through LYNC is communication. I practice this skill when talking to my mom and girlfriend. I will use this skill in the future by talking more. Before LYNC, I did not realize that I am shy. Visiting community missions impacted me because it made me see even in the hardest times there is always a smile on someone's face. I now understand our community differently because people are nice even when they look mean. I learned how to work with people who are different from me by problem solving one thing. I learned about teamwork is everyone is smart in their own ways. A meaningful relationship I built this year was with my girlfriend and my mother. Students in Niagara County need LYNC because this program helps build your confidence to talk to new people!

From - Kevanna S

Dear LYNC Board of Directors,

I have experienced so many amazing things, and met so many amazing people through my time at LYNC. Before LYNC, I thought leadership meant taking charge and guiding others, although that is part of it, it is more about representing the people you are leading, and taking other's opinions into account.

I've gained many skills as well, such as public speaking, social skills, and learning to go out of my comfort zone. I am a more shy person, and I am not very outgoing. Through LYNC I've learned that I am more outgoing and personable than I thought I was, and I find myself being more outgoing.

Students in Niagara need LYNC because it brings you out of your comfort zone, and gives you an outlet to practice your social skills. I would recommend LYNC to every student, and I've thoroughly enjoyed every session. Thank you LYNC!

-Parker Allard ♡

Lockport High School

Dear Leadership Niagara Board of Directors,

Before LYNC, I thought leadership was taking control of a situation in order to succeed. Now, I believe leadership is helping everyone work together for a good outcome. One way my mindset has changed this year is that I now like working in groups rather than alone. When everyone worked together in decorating Community Missions for Christmas, it really made me realize what this program is all about.

One area I grew in this year was public speaking. A moment when I stepped out of my comfort zone was when I shared my thoughts and answers to everyone in the program. Because of LYNC, I now feel more confident about communicating with other people who I might not know very well.

Students in Niagara County need LYNC because it helps them to build skills like communication, teamwork, problem solving, and public speaking. Without programs like LYNC, students will have fewer opportunities to get involved in the community. I would tell a funder that their support matters because it could improve the future generations of students.

Sincerely,
Allie Ventry

Dear Leadership Niagara Board of Directors,

LYNC has helped me grow tremendously by teaching me that it's not scary to meet new people. By going to new places with my peers, I've met new people and familiarized myself with the idea of speaking and taken charge around new faces. I will use this in the future to meet new people in college and create a comfortable place for myself and other newcomers.

Before LYNC, I didn't realize how receptive people can be to leadership and help. I always thought of people taking offense to being told what to do or seeing weakness in the idea that they need help, but this experience has taught me otherwise.

Going to Community Missions helped me realize that many people who are struggling appreciate help, and will show gratitude to those who give it. They don't see leadership as bossy, they see it as a weight lifted off their shoulders and someone who cares.

Students in Niagara County need LYNC because it teaches them how to function in the real world. As an adult, not everything will be done for you, so it's important to know how to lead and care for yourself. The one thing better than that is also knowing how to care for others, which LYNC teaches. Without programs like this, upcoming generations will have no sense of leadership or independence, leaving them at a great disadvantage. I would tell a funder that their support matters because it sets up the future! Thank you for reading, I hope you support the program I've grown to love.

Sincerely, Ava Daniels

Dear Leadership Niagara Board of Directors, before LYNC I thought leadership was one person voiced their opinions better than others. Now, I ~~leadership is~~ believe leadership is how well we can adapt and communicate ~~with~~ with ~~each~~ each other. One way my mindset has changed this year is now I am ~~more~~ confident in taking initiative in stressful situations. One skill I developed through LYNC is Public speaking. I practiced this skill when we went to Niagara Falls community missions. Towards the end we had to present different leaders in history in front of each other. I will use this skill in the ~~next~~ future by using public speaking in College, work, ~~and~~ and etc. Students in Niagara County need LYNC because it brings a community of students together to help others. Without programs like LYNC students cannot learn skills like problem solving, Time management, and public speaking. I would tell a funder that their support matters because the ~~next~~ future of students can depend on them.

From, Samera

Dear Leadership Niagra Board of Directors

Before LYNC, I thought leadership was who was the loudest but that's not always the case. Now I believe leadership is who is willing to voice their opinion right or wrong. It takes a true leader to hear & understand others. When we took the personality test to determine what kind leader we are, really shifted my thinking. I was able to see my strengths and weaknesses. LYNC helped me feel more confident about speaking out in groups. When I attended the Damen Scholars Day event, I was put in a room with other seniors like me. We were split into 3 groups of about 15 and needed to get a group leader. I used what I learned in LYNC to volunteer myself! I led my group to victory with the skills I learned.

Junior year I had a lot of tough classes, I wished I had my current LYNC skills to help me then; that I use now. I would procrastinate with my assignments, not have good communication, and had trouble with public speaking. I know manage all of these skills much much better. A meaningful relationship I built this year was with ~~me~~ Lucky from group B. We both work at Chick-fil-A and do LYNC, these are some of the things we've bonded with! Students in Niagara County need LYNC because it will give them a chance to meet people from different schools and learn new point of views. The funders support means so much because they are helping the ~~future~~ future youth!!

Sincerely, Amayah Cowart

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Closing Letter:

Dear Leadership Niagara Board of Directors,

I joined LYNC in October, one session later than everyone else. Before that, I believed that leadership was about being loud and assertive. After LYNC, I've realized that you can be a leader without being what others would consider "bossy". There are different types of leaders; I don't think leadership can be defined in one way. My mindset has changed because I never really believed I could be a leader because of relatively reserved, but now my mindset has shifted and I do believe I can be a leader. One area where I grew this year was putting myself out there, being able to talk to new people. One moment where I stepped out of my comfort zone was when we had to present on different leaders throughout history; I'm not big on public speaking but LYNC really helped me feel more confident when it comes to public speaking. I believe it is crucial for LYNC to continue because we need more young leaders. Without programs like LYNC, kids will only do what they're comfortable with and not be able to grow. Funding matters because we would not be able to include all the schools we do, go to all these different places, and learn so much. In closing, LYNC helped me build my confidence when it comes to meeting new people and public speaking and I think everyone should have that opportunity.

Best regards,

Ruby Holly

Dear Leadership Niagara Board of Directors,

During my time in L.YNC I have made many friends from different areas and have been able to learn how to work with people I don't already know. I have been able to develop my skills in communication and problem solving during the group activities. Such as using the game where we maneuvered the ball around the cloth with holes in it and the whole group had to work together. I believe that the L.YNC program is a valuable experience for students to have in order to develop relational skills as well as have new experiences. I am grateful for this experience and hope that it may continue for future students.

Neah Kneeland
Neah Kneeland

P.S.

The food was amazing at all meetings except the jail (not a fan of the sandwich). Especially the chicken and pasta. Thank you.

Lync

Dear ^Leadership People

Before LYNC, I thought leadership was having power and taking charge. Now I view leadership as a Mindset. Because of LYNC, I now feel more confident, not only as a black man, but in my people/leadership skills. I practice these skills when I play sports, and do group activities in / outside of school. Visiting LYNC impacted me as a person because it improved and heavily impacted the way I approach certain tasks. I love this program and the person it made. I made a lot of friends thru this program. 10110 would recommend.

Sin City, Kayvon

Dear Leadership Niagara,

Leadership is the ability to guide and inspire others toward a common goal. Through my experience, I have learned important skills such as effective communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and empathy. These skills help me understand others better and work together to achieve success.

Leadership has a strong impact on the community because it brings people together, encourages positive change, and helps address challenges. When leaders step up, they create a supportive environment where everyone feels valued, motivated to contribute,

People need the Leadership Niagara program to develop important skills like communication, teamwork, and problem solving. It helps individuals become confident leaders who can make positive changes and inspire others. The program also teaches how leadership impacts the community by encouraging collaboration and creating solutions.

Sincerely,

Flva Martell

Dear Leadership Niagara Board of Directors,

Throughout my experience with LYNC I have developed my understanding of what it means to be a leader. Before it was just taking charge and telling people what I needed them to do. Now I know it's more than that. I know now leadership is about listening and understanding. I think the Court room was a major turning point.

I learned to be able to work with people with different mindsets and I learned that teamwork is only as strong as their weakest link. I got closer with my friend Zach because of LYNC.

I feel students in Niagara County need LYNC to spread awareness. Without this program communities won't otherwise interact. I would tell a funder that their support matters because LYNC is a great program.

Thank you,

Cooper Jagow

Elton

Dear LYNC people, talking to people has been one of the more challenging aspects throughout my school years. Being here at LYNC gave me multiple opportunities to display who I was and make meaningful connections. Before LYNC, I viewed leadership as something that could be negative, and a unjust way to claim power over others. After LYNC, I now view true leadership as being able to initiate communication within a group in order to find the most effective way to solve a problem, and step down to let others maybe more knowledgeable take control. This program should continue because it improved my ability to communicate with others and will help me make connections and strong relationships with others forever. This program permanently enhanced my ability to communicate and problem solve with others and this knowledge and experience will always stay with me.



Nasir Spencer

Dear Lync People Thank You for this opportunity I really appreciate It. Due to this Program I no longer view leadership as an action, ~~now~~ now it's a mindset. One thing we did is worked in big groups trying to solve conflict, with a positive mindset it allowed us to solve the problem faster. I learned how to work with people that different from me by letting them speak before me. Student in Niagra need Lync because it allows them to learn positive leadership skills and how to speak to people that have different backgrounds.

Sincerely

Nasir Spencer

Board of Directors

Dear Leadership Niagara, before Lync, I thought leadership was about who is the strongest person and has the most power. Now, I believe leadership is how you cooperate with others. One way my mindset has changed this year is I learned how others may not agree with me and I need to learn to stay patient. A skill I learned this year was communication and working with others. I practiced this skill when we talked about ourselves and when we grouped up and solved conflicts. I can use this in my future when I go off to college and I need to make friends. Before Lync, I didn't realize how different everyone sees a situation. Visiting the court and doing my indigo asserment showed how I would be in the work field. I now understand our community differently because I see how others are scared of the same thing as me. Students in NC need Lync because they will be able to have new friends. Without programs like Lync kids can't socialize and meet new people. I would tell a foster that their support matters because they can help kids learn new ways to communicate and give better public speaking.

The

Lilly DiPasquale

Dear Leadership Niagara Board of Directors,

Before LYNC, I thought leadership was going before other people, and helping them or guiding them through tasks. Now, I believe leadership is setting an example for others, leading through communication, and building up as a team instead of working solo. One way my mindset has changed this year is to learn how to ask for advice and comment to work together instead of only using my own thoughts, but still leading. I also have known to not be afraid to stand out in front of people. Before LYNC I did not realize that there were so many kids my age that enjoyed leading like me. Visiting Community Mission's impacted me through showing how so little help really means a lot to others, people in our community actually care and work together, and its nice to see. Students need LYNC because it teaches you how to lead, it brings people together. I've enjoyed this program because I've gained new friends and skills.

Melodi Murphy

Dear Leadership Niagara Board of Directors

Before LYNC I thought leadership was about control over other people. Or that you have to carry the ~~weight~~ burdens of the entire team. But I learned at LYNC that a team works together and that a leader is supposed to work with the team, and encourage them to work together. My mindset as a leader has changed in that now it is a high priority to make sure everyone is working together and that everyone is being heard. One skill that I developed through LYNC is public speaking and time management. I practiced this skill through the games and through different challenges we did in LYNC. Also through different times when we stood up and shared our "identities." I will use this skill as the President in my class, in future leadership roles and also in my day to day routine. Students in Niagara county need LYNC because it truly prepares students for leadership roles and teaches them the core values and priorities for being a leader. Without programs like LYNC, there is no place for leaders in the community in school to meet each other and learn how to lead. I would tell a funder that their support matters because all children and students deserve the experience to learn and meet new people from other schools.

Sincerely, Naomi Bisk

Dear leadership Niagara Board of Directors,

Participating in LYNC this year has been a really fun and meaningful experience. Personally, I grew in several ways from this program, from helping overcome social anxiety, collaborative skills, and improving the confidence I have in my leadership abilities. As for skills, I gained several (present wrapping and ice skating to name a few), but perhaps the most formative would have to be the skill of making friends in a room full of strangers, a skill that will undoubtedly assist me in my future. LYNC should continue so that future generations of highschoolers can have these same experiences and forge these same skills and friendships. This would need as many leaders/team players as possible, and LYNC is an excellent way of striving for that goal.

Sincerely,

Sydney Lowlight

Dear leadership Niagara Board
of directors, Lync was a very important
and influential program. This program was
Very beneficial to me and I learned
many new things about leadership. Before
Lync, I thought leadership was just about
taking control, however throughout this
program I learned leadership means
much more. I learned ^{that} being a good
leader means having effective teamwork,
communication, and problem solving
skills. Leadership means including
others and working together.

Throughout Lync I learned the
importance of being more openminded
to others ideas and I was able to be
more willing to work with others. I gained
many skills such as teamwork, communication
and openmindedness. These skills allowed
me to work together to achieve
success. I will use this skills as
I further my education in college.

~~W~~ Sincerely,
Sophia Contento

Dear LYNC Board of Directors,

Being a part of the LYNC program has been very beneficial to me. Before LYNC, I thought leadership was being in control of others in a group. Now, I believe leadership is much more than that. It is the ability to work together in groups and build off of each other. One way my mindset has changed this year is by participating in group activities and branching out to meet new people. One moment from LYNC that shifted my thinking was when we helped decorate at the homeless shelter. Everyone had their own specific jobs but we were still all working together to assist those in need. One skill I developed through LYNC is problem solving. I practice this skill almost everyday when something unexpected comes up. I will definitely use problem solving in the future when I go off to college. Before LYNC, I did not realize that my city has a homeless shelter I can volunteer at. Visiting the shelter resonated with me since I got to see a realistic view of what people in my hometown have to deal with. I know now that people struggle everyday and I can volunteer to help.

Sincerely,
Claire Burke

Dear leadership Niagara Board directors,
Before LYNC, I thought leadership was just doing most stuff by yourself in a group. Now, I believe leadership is working together while leading. One way my mindset has changed this year is communicating with others around you is important.

One area where I grew this year is believing in myself more. A moment when I stepped outside my comfort zone was when I went in a different group other than mine. Because of LYNC, I now feel more confident about my communication skills with other people and my way of communicating about topics. I participated with hands-on activities.

Students in Niagara County need LYNC because they will get a chance to meet new people and explore more areas and learn how to communicate and lead. Without programs like LYNC, students won't be able to experience activities with other people while learning new skills. I would tell a funder that their support matters to make an impact in students' lives while having fun.

-Saniyah Lokhat

Dear Leadership Niagara Board of Directors,

Before going through the LYNC program, I believed that being a leader was about being in charge and taking control of those on your team. The program has taught me that a true leader is someone who listens to their team and gives everyone an opportunity to voice their opinions. I learned that working with people who are different from me is very important because everyone has different life experiences and thus different ways of approaching a problem; this is a valuable skill for a leader to have. Teamwork is fundamental for a productive & successful team and LYNC taught me the skills to be a good team leader & teammate. Students in Niagara County need this program because they are our future leaders. Without LYNC they will be unprepared for their future. Your support matters because it is up to you to give them the opportunity to learn about leadership & be successful in their career.

-Uvia

Dear Leadership Niagara Board of Directors,

Before LYNC, I thought leadership was simply bossing people around. Now, I believe leadership is the ability to take action when necessary while also taking consideration of others. One area where I grew this year was public speaking & problem solving. A moment when I stepped outside my comfort zone was when taking initiative when my peers were struggling, whether it was on a decision or doing something physical. Because of LYNC, I now feel more confident in my actions & capacity to handle stressful situations. Students in LYNC need LYNC because it teaches them more about leadership & it makes them confident in themselves. Without programs like LYNC, students wouldn't be able to expand their learning in areas like critical thinking. LYNC promoted people to be compassionate, when helping out at Niagara Falls community emission. I would tell a funder that their support matters because this program helps many students in many areas & promotes them to be their best.

-L.G.Y. Cruz

3/13/26

Dear Leadership Niagara Board of Directors,

Before LYNC, I thought that leadership wasn't for everyone. That leaders are only a certain few people. However now LYNC taught me that we are all leaders in different ways. The mindset I had before changed greatly due to each activity we did each LYNC session.

One skill I developed through LYNC is to public speak and communicate better than before. I would practice doing this when debating with my peers and again every session because of the great people in my group as well as Luke helping us out. I will forever use this skill in the future due to ~~me~~ wanting to be a teacher and will need this skill.

Students in Niagara County need LYNC because it helps people come out of their shells and put themselves out there, in which LYNC has helped me personally with this. Without programs like LYNC children would rather stay quiet and not make new friends while also developing important skills for the future. Funders' support matters to help us learn new things about our community.

Thanks for everything!

-Mackenzie Landers → *Mackenzie Landers*

Dear Leadership Niagara Board of Directors,

Before LYNC, I thought leadership was just about being in charge. Now, I think leadership is about listening, serving others, and taking responsibility. A moment that shifted my thinking was during one of our group activities where I took a step back and supported my team instead of trying to control the whole outcome. An area that I grew in during LYNC was my confidence by participating more in group discussions with other students from different schools, which helped me trust myself more and step into different leadership roles. One skill I developed in LYNC was my communication ~~skills~~ skills through team projects and being a bigger part of the community, and I plan on using those skills in college, work, and future leadership positions. I know my communication skills have improved because I'm not afraid to simply speak up, and I willingly give my input in group discussions. I believe LYNC should continue because it gives students, like me, real leadership experience, connects us to our community ~~and~~ leaders, and prepares us to take an active role in improving Niagara County instead of staying on the sidelines.

Sincerely,

Bryson Dancy

Dear LYNC Board of Directors,

Before LYNC, I thought Leadership was about being in charge. However LYNC taught me that the best type of Leadership is Listening to others. When I Listen to others I find it easier to succeed. One area I grew in this moment was my time management. Prior to my experience with LYNC, I had the worst time management because I would often Rush my work. Now that I am a LYNC, I feel a lot better when it comes to taking my time and putting forth my best effort. Finally this program has brought me joy I Tuesday a month without programs like LYNC, kids don't feel the joy I felt.

I LOVE LYNC!

Sincerely,

