

Youth Leaders Tackle Service Projects at Lake Superior Zoo and the Boys & Girls Club of Superior

(May 2008) Nearly 80 Twin Ports' ninth graders wrapped up their year-long *KIDS PLUS Youth Leadership Academy* experience with community service projects in both Duluth and Superior on Saturday, May 17. The Academy is a Northland Foundation program.



Duluth Youth Leadership Academy

Duluth's youth leaders chose to **rebuild a nature trail and beautify the wooded area over Kingsbury Creek at the Lake Superior Zoo**. The new trail rerouted an infrequently used one to create a safer, more eco-friendly path that will be more inviting for zoo-goers to explore. The group

rebuilt the trail, planted trees and shrubs, and created new wood signs to mark the trail.



Superior Youth Leadership Academy

Superior youth leaders **chose to help meet some of the needs of the Boys & Girls Club of Superior**. The youth leaders along with adult mentors spent the day painting, organizing, and cleaning at the club. Academy members also sponsored a car wash, a bake sale, and a walk to raise money and gather

donations to supply the Club with much-needed items including a freezer, storage shelves, equipment, and a freshly painted and cleaned facility.

"These students did an outstanding job with their service projects and displayed great energy and dedication," said Lynn Haglin, Northland Foundation Vice President and *KIDS PLUS* Director. "Their families, schools, and communities should be very proud of their accomplishments."

(more)

About the Youth Leadership Academy

As part of the Northland Foundation's KIDS PLUS Program, the Youth Leadership Academy's goal is to help develop young leaders who will serve their communities now and in the future. Youth and adult mentors participate in a year-long series of interactive sessions to sharpen leadership, communication, and team-building skills, culminating in the planning and implementation of a community service project. Since 1998, nearly 800 young people in 11 communities around the region have discovered they *can* make a difference. This year, 36 youth from Superior and 37 students from Duluth were involved.

“Young people don't always have many opportunities to learn leadership skills,” explained Haglin, “that is why we seek to include youth from all different backgrounds and experiences. Their progress over the course of the year, culminating in these community projects, is a shining example of how young people who are valued and given the opportunity to act as leaders eagerly do so.”

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The Northland Foundation is a resource for people, businesses, and communities working toward prosperity through economic and social justice in Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and St. Louis Counties. The Grant Program directs resources to nonprofits whose programs address children and youth/strengthening families, poverty alleviation/self-reliance, and programming to help older adults remain vital and independent. The Business Finance Program provides loans to help grow a sustainable economy. The KIDS PLUS family of programs is focused on improving the well-being of children and youth. Visit www.northlandfdn.org for more detail.



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