

2020 Youth Council Community Service Contest



HYPE

CIVICS

EDUCATION

YOUTH

EMPOWERMENT

Helping Youth by Providing Empowerment

Empowering Local Learners

According to The Institute of Politics (IOP) at Harvard University, “civic education is essential if we are to continue as a free democratic society.” The Village of Wellington, located in South Florida, understands the importance of empowering its youngest residents and future leaders with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to participate responsibly and effectively in political and civic life.

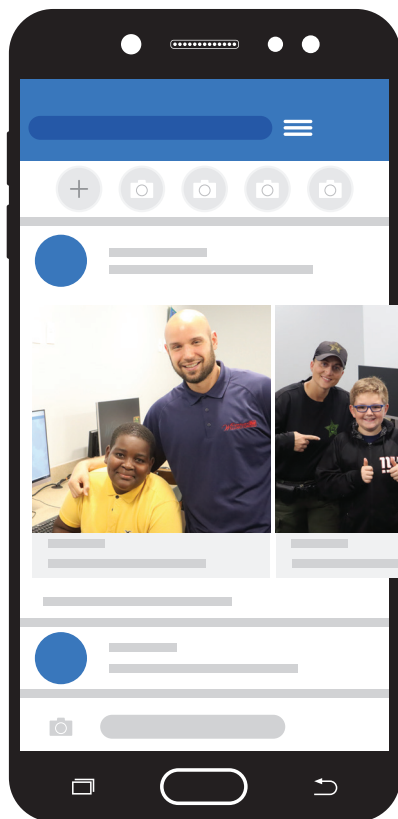
In an effort to ensure that Wellington continues to meet the needs of its youth, Village leaders re-established a Youth Council in May 2019. The vision of the Village of Wellington’s Youth Council (VOW-YC) is to empower youth dedicated to personal development and leadership through civic engagement. The objective of the Council is to establish a direct line of communication between our youth and the Village’s leadership, while simultaneously helping promote civic engagement and community service, and fostering an understanding of the inner workings of municipal government. The Youth Council is an advisory board comprised of 16 students from Wellington’s two local high schools. Looking to provide new initiatives to support the needs of the community’s youth, the VOW-YC hit the ground running, by creating “HYPE Hall.”

HYPE (Helping Youth by Providing Empowerment) is a program designed to provide academic support to elementary through middle school students. HYPE Hall (named by VOW-YC) is a place where Wellington’s youth may congregate to do homework, prepare for tests, complete group projects, compete in e-sports, and take part in playing board games. HYPE Hall is helping fill an important service gap in our community. There are very few free programs in Wellington, where youth can come together in a positive environment. The overall objective in creating HYPE Hall was for elementary and middle school students to have a safe and welcoming place they can call their own.



Enriching Education Experience

Wellington's Council and staff are passionate advocates for the inclusion of all of all residents. Through the creation of the HYPE Program, the Youth Council is assisting Village leaders in effectively fulfilling on their commitment. This project has positively affected our community by helping all youth within Wellington, especially those under served from families who cannot afford aftercare programs.



Village leaders understand that in order to be an effective local government, all residents, including our younger generation, must understand the functions of Village Hall. Wellington's Youth Council is working to address community concerns and developing ideas that will help Village leaders pave the way to a better future. Through the creation of the HYPE Hall

Project, and their continued commitment to developing this program as volunteers, Wellington's Youth Council

has shown us the true meaning of civic engagement. The group is ensuring their contributions will have a lasting impact in their hometown.





Council

Anne Gerwig, Mayor
Michael J. Napoleone, Vice Mayor
John T. McGovern, Councilman
Michael Drahos, Councilman
Tanya Siskind, Councilwoman

Manager
Paul Schofield

March 9, 2020

The Florida League of Cities
301 S. Bronough Street, Suite 300
P.O. Box 1757
Tallahassee, Florida 32302

Dear Florida League of Cities,

It is with great pleasure that Wellington's Village Council recommends the Village of Wellington Youth Council (VOW-YC) *Helping Youth by Providing Empowerment* (HYPE) Hall Project for consideration for the 2020 Youth Council Community Service Contest.

HYPE is a program designed to provide academic support to youth elementary through middle school, especially the underserved population. HYPE Hall (named by VOW-YC) is a place where Wellington students have access to technology to aid in completing homework, test preparation, completing school projects and competing in e-sports. HYPE Hall is a place they can call their own.

As a Council, we are very proud of this successful program and pleased that we are contributing to creating the strong future leaders of tomorrow.

Sincerely,


Mayor Anne Gerwig


Vice Mayor Michael Napoleone


Councilman John T. McGovern


Councilman Michael Drahos


Councilwoman Tanya Siskind