

## **Toastmasters Youth Leadership Program**

**It creates confident speakers and builds extraordinary opportunities!**

**Crossroads Toastmasters has hosted an annual summer YLP for the past 7 years**, including an online “**Zooming into Leadership**” themed program in 2020 due to the pandemic.

**Crossroads YLP opened up opportunities for youth ages 11-17 to speak and demonstrate their leadership skills within the community.** From 2015-2019 Crossroads youth participants have visited senior residents at Southwest Commons in Strongsville to practice their showcase speeches.

Here is how Crossroads YLP has impacted the young -

- Vardaan Shah, a Crossroads youth participant, started a debate club at the Strongsville Middle School after completing his second year of YLP, where participants learn about debates in the Interpersonal Communication manual. He also later presented a speech in front of the entire faculty at Strongsville city schools.
- Crossroads youth participants have also won D10 sponsored youth speech contests, giving them the opportunity to kick-off the D10 International Speech Contest with their winning speeches.  
  
Jacob Ritzert won the D10 YLP Middle School Speech Contest *3 years in a row* and performed his speech “How to Annoy You Mother” in an elf costume at the IX Center Christmas Connection.  
  
In 2018, Jacob Ritzert and Grace Zarzour presented speeches at the Strongsville Rotary breakfast meeting.
- At the 2018 D10 conference, youth speech contest winners Grace Zarzour (Middle School) and Vardaan Shah (High School) kicked off the D10 speech contests. They *were personally acknowledged* by the conference keynote speaker, Randy Harvey, 2004 World Champion of Public Speaking.
- Also at the 2018 conference, Annette Palmer, a key contributor to Crossroads YLP, facilitated an education session about YLP called “Paying Toastmasters Forward: Mentoring the Next Generation” Four youth participants - Chase Carrington, Alyssa Carrington, Grace Zarzour and Jacob Ritzert all gave presentations during Annette’s breakout session.

**For the past 7 years Crossroads YLP has offered youth participants extraordinary opportunities and experiences which will help them build a successful future.**

**Thank You Sharon Stadul and Annette Palmer for your wonderful contribution!**