

## Memo: Young Leaders Collective

### What is the Young Leaders Collective? Who are they?

- The Young Leaders Collective is made up of 15 youth and young adults in Toledo who have been impacted by gun violence and are dedicated to making a positive change.
- Participants range in age from 16 to 21 years old with an average age of 18.33 years old.
- Participants were identified by the Save Our Community program and partner organizations.
- 10 members are young men, and 5 members are young women.

### What do they plan to focus on, at least initially?

- **Advocacy, Systems Change, and Youth Power** (100% of respondents): Community organizing, advocacy, exploring root causes of violence, working with local leaders, and the history of social change.
- **Hope and Healing** (87.5% of respondents): Trauma-informed and responsive skills, processing grief and loss, creating safe spaces, conflict resolution, peer support, and restorative justice.
- **Community Action and Event/Project Planning** (75% of respondents): Designing projects, organizing events, fundraising, and community-based problem solving.
- Public speaking, community engagement, and supporting other youth.

### What work has happened to date?

- Before joining the YLC, participants engaged in several ways:
  - Outreach activities at Toledo Pools alongside Save Our Community.
  - Community Action Table Working Groups focused on supporting gun violence victims and addressing conflict on social media.
  - The *Shoot This, Not That* photovoice project.
  - Provided mowing services to elders and people with disabilities through the Mowbility Aid SOC job training program.
  - Asset and risk mapping in and around their neighborhoods.
- Since their initial meeting alongside Cities United in October, they've developed group agreements, began identifying current MONSE projects to join, and are actively developing new ideas. They will begin meeting twice per month beginning in January 2026. Two also spoke at the Cities United conference in Louisville, Kentucky.

### How does this align with recommendations from the Peace in Motion plan?

- Pillar 2: Enhancing the Community Violence Intervention and Prevention (CVIP) Ecosystem
  - Recommendation 8: [Youth Fellowship/Leadership Program](#)
- Pillar 3: Fostering Hope & Healing
  - Recommendation 4: [Online Conflict Mediation Workshops](#)
  - Recommendation 5: [Youth Peer Support](#)
- Pillar 5: Building Engaged Neighborhoods and Networks
  - Recommendation 4: [Support Youth-Led Community Projects](#)
  - Recommendation 6: [Social Media Action Research Team](#)