



With the Winter Solstice in sight, *my brain is starting to power down*. Yours too? The blur of Nov(Dec)ember is already almost done. I am dreaming of some time to hibernate, snuggle with my loved ones, and heal from this barking cough that is relentless. Once I am completely powered down, melted into a couch for a few days, it is only then that I can begin to again dwell in the possibilities of Solstice. Possibilities become wide open and we can truly dream. So go ahead. Decompose on a soft thing, so that we show up ready next year. **Let's get ready to lean into the space of newness, possibility and dream it so.**

Steering Committee News Headline:

Twin Cities OYN digs in and prepares for 2023

Far more work than one is willing to admit, we have sculpted ourselves into a Steering Committee that we can be proud of! Three work groups built out our vision of decision making and holding each other accountable, roles and responsibilities, and drafting our strategic plan.

We do have a drafty draft of the 2023 Strategic Plan. But we need you! A small group came together to build a drafty draft plan with goals and results from the Fall OYN Meeting and survey. We are holding adaptation workshops to build consensus on these goals and results, and to align on HOW we achieve these goals together.

Youth only meeting will be held at Youthlink on January 11th at Noon.

Intergenerational Meetings (Youth + "The Olds") will be held on January 17th & 19th.

Sign Up HERE: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E48A9AE28A4F9C25-2023>

Limited Slots Available. Youth will be paid a \$50 gift card for their contribution.

Policies for Opportunity Youth This '23 Legislative Session

Mark your calendars for January 20th at Noon. As our young policy leaders are driving the process to build out our three-year policy strategy (see the strategic plan!), we are hosting a conversation with our coalition leaders pushing key policies that center Opportunity Youth. Join us to learn about what we are supporting and how you can tag in and have your voice be heard.

- Ending Youth Homelessness

- Ensuring Youth Justice in the State & Ending Youth Prisons
- Policies to Support Foster Youth
- And a discussion on aligning support for tax revenue from possible adult legalization of cannabis for a fund for youth development/out of school time and Opportunity Youth.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvc-qopjkqH9akuJx35E58jSVW97LcQziS>

Check Out These Opportunities from OYN Members:

Upcoming RFPs

The Greater Twin Cities United Way RFPs: [Pathways Home](#) & [Purpose Driven Paychecks for Youth](#) opening in *early January*.

Events

End Youth Prisons MN campaign is hosting an Arts & Community Gathering on Monday, **December 19th from 5:30-8:00 p.m.** at the Wilder Foundation. Register [here](#).

Disrupting with Purpose: **Clean Slate or Scarlet Letter? Removing Barriers to Success through Expungement.** Mark your calendars for **January 24th at 3 p.m.** for a virtual exploration about the need for youth expungement of juvenile records in Minnesota. Eventbrite registration is [HERE](#).

Fellowships for Young People

The Legal Rights Center is looking for youth leaders to join the **Youth Action Squad fellowship**. This opportunity is geared towards young people with a passion for youth justice who want to grow their organizing and leadership skills. Fellows will attend workshops in three focus areas (policymaking, advocacy, and storytelling) and design their own youth justice-related vision, project, or campaign. The fellowship runs from January-May 2023 and includes a \$1000 stipend for each fellow. Please spread the [application](#) (due 12/19) and encourage any youth you know to sign up.



Quincy and I meant to take a holiday picture together, but here's a cute pic of Quincy at [The CREW Urban Youth Equestrian](#). You all need to hit up Jenny to connect with the horses!

Happy Solstice! Light is coming our way! See you next year!

Quincy & Kristy