



Northwest Compass's First Annual Young Talent Festival Was Sunshine on a Cloudy Day When Teens Turned Out to Support Their Peers

Teens put away their cell phones for an afternoon to browse merchandise and enjoy live entertainment to raise money for Northwest Compass's HYPE (Helping Youth On the Path to Empowerment) program.

Mount Prospect, IL – May 31, 2017

The weekend before Memorial Day was chilly and rainy in Chicago's Northwest Suburbs, but the weather didn't stop Northwest Compass from packing its lobby and resource center with teen vendors, young performers and their friends to raise money for its HYPE (Helping Youth On the Path to Empowerment) program.

Though the event raised a modest \$160, it was rich in support. Led by HYPE's AmeriCorps VISTA Program Director, Molly Dubow, students from Elk Grove Village High School enlisted friends to sell merchandise, perform and donate food and DJ services to present the 1st Annual Young Talent Festival. The teens also solicited gifts from local merchants such as Starbucks, Blackfinn, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Avon and Garibaldi's, and sold raffle tickets to raise money at the event.

Sonia Ivanov, Northwest Compass's Managing Director of Program Delivery, worked with Dubow and the teens to pull the event together. She said the event was not just a fundraiser, but an important teaching opportunity. Ivanov was able to show her young Program Director the ropes of event management, right down to the necessity of having a backup plan for bad weather.

"It was wonderful to see the support from their peers for the young adults served by HYPE," says Ivanov. "And I enjoyed working with the teens and helping them turn their ideas into what was a wonderful afternoon of fun with friends; shopping, dancing, singing and eating."

About HYPE (Helping Youth On the Path to Empowerment)

A Northwest Compass program that focuses on personal stability including personal health, safety, economic stability, and shelter for the now invisible but ever-growing population of homeless youth in our service area. For more information, visit <http://northwestcompass.org/how-we-help/hype-helping-youth-on-the-path-to-empowerment/>.

About Northwest Compass, Inc. Legacy Corps

In partnership with AmeriCorps, Northwest Compass Legacy Corps provides support services and education to veterans of all wars, military family members and their caregivers of all ages. For more information, please visit <http://northwestcompass.org/how-we-help/legacy-corps/>

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Performances from Northwest Compass's 1st Annual Young Talent Festival