



THE AYLUS TIMES

Alliance of Youth Leaders in the United States

No. 2

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to the Great Neck, West Essex, Murrieta, San Diego, Frisco & Plano, Basking Ridge, Syosset, Roslyn, Columbus, and Morris branches for winning Branch of the Month for September 2025.

Congratulations to the McLean and Lake Washington branches for winning New Branch of the Month for September 2025.

October's monthly theme is "Health Awareness". We invite branches to incorporate this theme into their events.



Monthly Themed Challenge:

Arts and Creativity

With the arrival of September, the chilly air hums with a spirit of belonging and celebration. This year, that spirit shines through a renewed dedication to arts and creativity. AYLUS branches nationwide embraced this creative expression in festivals, classrooms, and community events, using artistic endeavors to bring people together.

AYLUS Bridgewater ignited smiles among children at a lively carnival with booths brimming with hands-on activities such as face painting and balloon making, brightening the community with every colorful brushstroke and imaginative balloon creation. AYLUS Frisco & Plano members crocheted hats for children in hospitals, weaving strength and encouragement into the fabric of creativity. Branching in a new direction, AYLUS Pearland used graphic design to promote community events, channeling their artistry to foster connection and boost community morale. Meanwhile, the Roslyn branch celebrated culture through the arts, teaching children traditional Chinese calligraphy and dance.



Through each creative effort, AYLUS demonstrated that art is more than mere expression, but rather a bridge of empathy, culture, and unity that strengthens every community it touches.

Written by: Stella Zhao
Revised by: Henry Tang

BRIDGING GENERATIONS



Sadly, nearly one in four senior citizens aged 65 or older live in social isolation. To combat this, AYLUS members dedicated themselves to providing direct engagement and indirect support to senior citizens.

Some branches, such as Columbus and Murrieta, focused on entertainment. Volunteers helped out at senior centers and performed live shows for the residents, bringing laughter and joy to their days. Other branches emphasized education. San Diego's *Online English for Elderly* program helped Chinese senior citizens learn English; meanwhile, Basking Ridge's weekly iPad club, Tech Support sessions, and Stony Brook's tech-related Q&A enhanced seniors' digital literacy. AYLUS branches also provided indirect support in different ways. Through the *Senior House Preservation* initiative, Murrieta members painted senior homes to improve community living conditions. Additionally, Murrieta and San Clemente members participated in the *Walk to End Alzheimer's*, raising awareness for a disease disproportionately affecting seniors.

No matter the activity, supporting seniors is more than just volunteering—it's about connection, compassion, and creating memories that truly make a difference.



Written by: Sarah Xue
Revised by: Henry Tang

Youth-Led Park Cleanups Across the Nation



According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Americans generate more than 292 million tons of waste each year—about 4.9 pounds per person every day.

In response, this September, AYLUS branches from coast to coast set out to clean up their neighborhood parks. In Bellaire, Oakland Gardens, Great Neck, McLean, and Murrieta, volunteers collected litter, pulled invasive plants, and cleared overgrowth, transforming cluttered green spaces into inviting community areas.

Oakland Gardens members focused on clearing weeds from Browne Park and filled up 43 bags of trash. Meanwhile, Great Neck members aimed to remove invasive plants through artificial weeding, extracting 265 pounds of invasive plants from Bayard Friendship Garden.

These cleanups protected ecosystems, strengthened community bonds, and inspired local residents. AYLUS members demonstrated that environmental action doesn't need a megaphone—it needs action and commitment. As parks continue to serve as vital public spaces, AYLUS will continue stepping up to ensure they stay clean and safe for all.



Written by: Audrey Kuo
Revised by: Henry Tang

The Cornerstones of Communities: Libraries

Though libraries are traditionally viewed as centers of education, they also serve as a community hub—packed with enriching activities and supportive services that foster tight-knit communities.



This September, AYLUS branches nationwide engaged in creative initiatives to uplift libraries. The San Diego and Newtown branches unpacked new books and organized shelves to support their local libraries, improving the browsing experience for patrons. AYLUS Murrieta focused on restocking and maintaining the Little Libraries in their community, promoting literacy and ensuring access to books throughout their neighborhood. The Morris branch, on the other hand, devoted their efforts to

aiding their library's ongoing mission of providing both educational and recreational resources. They spearheaded a collection drive, acquiring items ranging from board games to puzzles and novels, all to broaden the library's public offerings.



From education to entertainment, AYLUS strives to create a future where everyone has access to information and recreational opportunities, starting with their local libraries.

Written by: Eason Wang
Revised by: Megan Wang

Branch Spotlight

Service Without Borders: AYLUS Frisco & Plano Branch

Located in the northern suburbs of Dallas, Texas, the AYLUS Frisco & Plano Branch has grown to over 500 members in less than three years. Since its founding in December 2022, the branch has organized nearly 500 volunteer events and has been honored as the 2023-2024 AYLUS Branch of the Year, as well as Branch of the Month on multiple occasions.

The Frisco & Plano Branch demonstrates that love and compassion aren't just limited to nearby communities. To help less fortunate children in Africa learn and grow, the branch initiated the *African Libraries Project*, aiming to donate books to establish libraries in Africa. The branch's efforts resulted in the creation of eight libraries in six African countries, shipping over 8,000 books to serve 20,000 children.

At the same time, Frisco & Plano Branch members never forget that service starts with local communities. Providing comfort and support to children diagnosed with cancer, the branch members collaborated with *Loops For Love* to crochet items, mostly hats, to donate to local children's hospitals. The branch members also host weekly fundraising events to raise money for the children's hospitals. In August 2024 alone, they raised \$10,000 to fund research and treatment for children with cancer and blood disorders.

In less than three years, the compassion, collaboration, and dedication of AYLUS Frisco & Plano Branch members have made a significant impact on communities near and far. Their contribution will continue to exemplify the vision of AYLUS—uplifting our communities and creating positive change.



Written by: Zoe Cheng
Revised by: Megan Wang

SPREADING JOY THROUGH SHARING MELODIES

Music is often referred to as the universal language, transcending words and connecting people of different cultures and backgrounds. This September, AYLUS branches embodied this idea by using music to bring joy and comfort to their communities. Members from the San Diego and Murrieta branches performed at senior centers, providing an opportunity for senior citizens to enjoy live music and for musicians to share their passion. At the Plantation Branch, volunteers brightened the local hospital with a piano and violin concert. Similarly, the Howard Branch organized the *Music in Town* program, staging a performance for individuals with special needs. Meanwhile, other AYLUS branches cultivated connection and appreciation for music by teaching children how to play new instruments. AYLUS Williamsville introduced children to the gamelan, a traditional Indonesian instrument. Together, AYLUS demonstrates that music can do more than just entertain—it can heal, uplift, and unite communities.



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