



THE AYLUS TIMES

Alliance of Youth Leaders in the United States

No. 5

Announcements

Congratulations to the San Diego, Murrieta, West Essex, Roslyn, Great Neck, Chapel Hill, Pearland, Newtown, Frisco & Plano, and Greater Buffalo branches for winning Branch of the Month for December 2025. Congratulations to the Gainesville branch for winning New Branch of the Month for December 2025. January's monthly theme is "Community Clean-Ups". We invite branches to incorporate this theme into their events.



Monthly Themed Challenge: Holiday Cheer

December is truly the season to be jolly. Throughout the month, AYLUS members across the nation dedicated their time to volunteering and spreading holiday cheer.

The Austin, Raritan, and Twin Cities branches led efforts in handmaking holiday cards for senior homes, sharing warm wishes and heartfelt messages. To help families stay warm during the winter months, AYLUS Morris Branch partnered with Helping Hands to collect winter coats for those in need. Continuing the seasonal spirit of giving, the AYLUS San Diego Branch collaborated with a local food pantry to collect barrels of food, including cereal, oatmeal, and canned vegetables, to help combat hunger during the holidays.



As the year comes to a close, AYLUS members once again demonstrated that the true spirit of the season lies in service. From handwritten cards to winter coats and food donations, each act of kindness helped make the holidays brighter for those in need.



Written by: Eason Wang
Revised by: Megan Wang



The Season of Giving



As the holiday season approaches, communities are filled with the spirit of giving. This December, AYLUS members across the nation have embraced that spirit through a variety of impactful donation drives.

The Morris Branch partnered with the United Methodist Church for a canned food drive, providing essential groceries to 60-80 families in need. AYLUS Syosset also collaborated with Island Harvest, collecting 1,000 pounds of food to support local households.

Beyond food distribution, AYLUS members also addressed other community needs. In Roslyn, volunteers worked with the NOSH Delivers! food pantry to distribute donated toys to families, bringing joy and comfort during the holidays. Meanwhile, AYLUS Jericho supported Island Harvest's donation drive by raising over \$500 in cash and gift cards.

Through these compassionate and collective efforts, AYLUS members continue to exemplify the spirit of service and remain committed to supporting their communities throughout the holiday season and beyond.



Written by: Angie Feng
Revised by: Megan Wang

The Gift of Knowledge



There's no better time than winter break for children to catch up on learning and explore new interests. This December, AYLUS branches nationwide demonstrated their dedication to student success by tutoring and providing accessible educational resources.

The San Diego Branch hosted its 88th Smiling Stars Reading program to help children with autism strengthen communication skills while fostering a supportive community. Meanwhile, the Newtown Branch partnered with a local Chinese school to provide math tutoring for students in grades 3rd-7th, preparing them for the second semester of school.

However, the impact of AYLUS members extends beyond just core subjects. The West Essex Branch volunteered at a Taekwondo class, teaching proper form and sparring techniques to help children build confidence and learn self-defense skills.

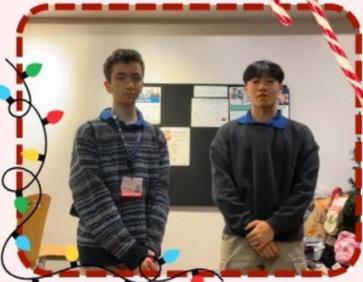
Throughout the holiday season, AYLUS members' dedication to enriching students' education reflects their long-standing commitment to service and community support. After all, education is a gift that lasts a lifetime.



Written by: Zoe Cheng
Revised by: Megan Wang

Holidays at Hospitals and Residential Homes

During the holiday season, AYLUS branches nationwide collaborated with hospitals and residential homes to share the spirit of the holidays. Through hands-on events and personal outreach, volunteers helped brighten the season for patients and residents alike.



In Oakland and St. Louis, members used music to provide relief for those spending the holidays in elderly homes, while AYLUS Chapel Hill volunteers made pillows and origami to soothe the pains and brighten the rooms of patients. In addition, the Twin Cities branch fundraised over 1,000 dollars for their local hospital, and Newtown AYLUS members volunteered at their local hospital, transporting patients tirelessly.

The dedication of these branches exemplifies the ways AYLUS balances events that embody the holidays and those that are necessary for the community's well-being. As the new year comes, AYLUS will work harder than ever to bring joy and support to local communities.



Written by: Stella Zhao
Revised by: Henry Tang

Giving Beyond Gifts



As the year draws to a close, AYLUS reflects on their core mission: together we rise. During December, volunteers rose to the occasion by bringing extra warmth to their community as temperatures dropped.



From children to seniors, volunteers provided amenities beyond basic living needs. For children, Murrieta restocked their local Little Library with books, while Roslyn organized a toy drive and clothing drive to CP Nassau Child Learning Center. Meanwhile, Mendham collected used soccer gear for low-income Argentinian children, and Frisco & Plano distributed 30 crocheted stuffed animals and 20 crocheted hats to patients at their local hospital under their Loops for Love initiative. Other community members also weren't forgotten: Chapel Hill Branch collected local flowers to donate to Charles House Eldercare Center, and Murrieta organized a supply donation drive to their local animal shelter.



In the spirit of giving, AYLUS brings something even more meaningful than gifts under the tree: comfort and care.

Written by: Sarah Xue
Revised by: Henry Tang

Spotlighted Branch: Murrieta, CA

Founded on August 8, 2022, the Murrieta Branch has become a model of consistency, intention, and meaningful community service. Led by Founder and President Jessica Lu, the branch exemplifies what it means to serve with purpose. Jessica, a junior in high school, has been involved with AYLUS for five years. As president, she plans initiatives, organizes events, and ensures each project aligns with the branch's mission of giving back to their community. "Service became an important part of my life," she shares, "and I wanted to create a space where teens could lead, feel supported, and understand the value of appreciation."



While the Murrieta Branch's core mission has remained the same, its impact has expanded significantly. The branch now maintains long-term partnerships with food banks, Habitat for Humanity, senior centers, and city programs, while still supporting smaller local efforts. This approach has earned Murrieta the Branch of the Year Award three consecutive years, a success Jessica attributes to holding high standards and prioritizing meaningful, sustained service over convenience. Among its many initiatives, the branch's work with Habitat for Humanity stands out. Volunteers don't just repair homes, they gain a deeper understanding of how their time and teamwork can directly shape a family's future. Behind every event is extensive planning and coordination, a behind-the-scenes effort that transforms ideas into lasting impact.

In the future, the Murrieta Branch hopes to expand partnerships and create more leadership opportunities, while continuing to inspire youth to lead with compassion, responsibility, and purpose.



Written by: Audrey Kuo
Revised by: Henry Tang

The AYLUS Times Team

Editor-in-Chief

Yang Amy Wu

Co-Editors

Henry Tang, Megan Wang

Layout Editors

Mingyao Xu, Selina Yuan

Writers

Angie Feng, Audrey Kuo, Eason Wang, Sarah Xue, Stella Zhao, Zoe Cheng