

ISSUE 10

May 2026

**THE  
AYLUS  
TIMES**



# THE AYLUS TIMES

Alliance of Youth Leaders in the United States

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to the Great Neck, San Diego, West Essex, Frisco & Plano, Murrieta, Basking Ridge, Roslyn, Chapel Hill, Pearland, Greater Buffalo, and Syosset branches for winning Branch of the Month for May 2026. Congratulations to the Gainesville, Irvine, and San Ramon/Dublin branches for winning New Branch of the Month for May 2026.

June's monthly theme is "Supporting Mental Health." We invite branches to incorporate this theme into their events.



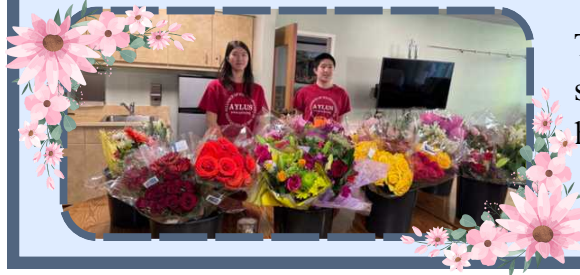
## MONTHLY THEMED CHALLENGE:

### Senior Support



As communities become more digitally connected yet socially distant, support for older adults has become an increasingly important focus of local service efforts. This May, AYLUS branches nationwide addressed this need through programs that assist seniors with daily challenges, while fostering meaningful interaction and engagement.

In New Jersey, the Basking Ridge Branch hosted technology support sessions at Fellowship Village, helping seniors with email navigation, cloud storage, and device settings, followed by a shared meal that encouraged continued conversation. In North Carolina, the Chapel Hill Branch delivered donated flowers to Charles House, where they were used in creative activities for seniors with dementia. Musical performances from the Columbus and Miami branches brought entertainment to retirement and healthcare centers, while Irvine volunteers supported interactive games and concert assistance.



Through these initiatives, AYLUS branches continue to strengthen intergenerational connections through consistent, hands-on service.

*Written by: Audrey Kuo  
Revised by: Zoe Cheng*

## SCORING FOR A CAUSE



Playing sports is an excellent way to stay in shape and engage with the community. This May, AYLUS members teamed up to make community sporting events fun and enjoyable.

In New York, the Great Neck Branch served as referees and ball boys/girls at their local country club's Smash Hunger Tennis event. Meanwhile, AYLUS North Hollywood taught their local youth how to set and hit volleyballs at a volleyball training clinic, introducing them to an inclusive, team-building sport.

Many branches also volunteered at their local Special Olympics. Volunteers from the Greater Buffalo Branch helped escort athletes and assisted with the awards ceremony. Similarly, West Essex helped swimmers from their local Special Olympics swim team, and Greater Tulsa taught tennis to children with special needs. Their efforts ensured that people with disabilities could enjoy community sports as well.



Together, these efforts highlight AYLUS's lasting dedication to teamwork and community inclusivity!

*Written by: Zoe Cheng  
Revised by: Zoe Cheng*



## BRIDGING THE HUNGER GAP

Over 10% of households in the United States experience food insecurity. This May, AYLUS branches across the nation responded by lending support to local initiatives focused on food support and hunger relief.



The AYLUS Irvine branch volunteered at a local food bank, where volunteers sorted, processed, and distributed donations to families in need. Similarly, the Houston branch assisted the Houston Food Bank, creating boxes filled with grains, canned fruit, and canned tuna for the elderly.

Continuing these efforts, the Morris branch partnered with a local United Methodist Church to carry out a hunger relief initiative, collecting over 25 pounds of canned goods and food items. Additionally, AYLUS Roslyn participated in the "Smash Hunger" fundraising event, raising support for hunger relief programs.



From fundraising to delivery, these efforts highlight AYLUS branches' coordinated focus on food support programs and their continued dedication to building a hunger-free society.



*Written by: Angie Feng  
Revised by: Zoe Cheng*

**SPOTLIGHT BRANCH:**  
**COLUMBUS**

Established in June of 2016, the distinguished branch of Columbus, Ohio has emerged as the Branch-of-the-Year for six consecutive seasons. Starting with only eight members, the branch has accumulated over 150 members and organized 600 events.



While the Columbus Branch champions environmental stewardship, mental health awareness, and musical performances, their remarkable quality is establishing annual events to truly build a connection with local initiatives. By establishing the Walk to End Alzheimer's event each year, the Columbus Branch effectively advocates for a devastating disease, while also contributing to a fundraiser that fuels scientific research. Whether it is setting up colorful flowers that are representative to one's connection with the disease, or rallying on participants to complete the walk, the volunteers of Columbus have shown their dedication to fighting against Alzheimer's.



Aside from combating chronic health conditions, fighting food insecurity farm-to-table style is not an afterthought. By being active participants of both the Dublin Ferris Wright Garden and Dublin Giving Garden, volunteers in Columbus learn more about how to garden while also providing for families that are most in-need. Through the Giving Garden alone, they have produced over 300 pounds of fresh, local produce that is directly sent to the Dublin Food Pantry, and onto the tables of local families.

Columbus doesn't just have a mission statement, but they truly act upon it. Through offering a diverse array of volunteer opportunities, they have made a profound mark throughout local communities.



*Written by: Rachel Zhang*  
*Revised by: Max Yang*

**A MARVELOUS MOTHER'S DAY**



May 10th marks Mother's Day, when many spend time cherishing the meaningful women in their lives, while others spend their time indoors unwinding from a stressful school week. Likewise, dedicated AYLUS branches spent the entirety of May preparing for this blissful holiday.

The Pearland branch celebrated with a jubilant performance consisting of ballet, lively music, and a lion dance. Similarly, the Morris branch led a Mother's Day gift drive with Helping Hands, an organization devoted to providing essentials to underprivileged families. Volunteers organized and packed gifts, helping spread love in tangible ways. Lastly, the Oakland Gardens branch beautified Lawrence Triangle for Mother's Day by meticulously soaking floral sponges, arranging flowers, and delivering them to a local hospital.



Overall, AYLUS's efforts made this year's Mother's Day extra special for mothers around the world.

*Written by: Chloe Wang*  
*Revised: Max Yang*

**PRESERVING THE NATURE AROUND**



As summer approaches, more and more AYLUS branches have turned their attention to environment-based service, allowing the nature around them to flourish. This May, branches focused on cleanup and growth to minimize human impact.

Members of San Clemente and RSM participated in recycling initiatives, where they prevented plastics from entering their local parks. Meanwhile, other branches focused on replenishing the nature around their community, with Oyster Bay preserving pollinator gardens. At Oakland Gardens and Syosset, members planted and maintained flower beds, allowing for the beautification of the parks as well.



Through each branch's continued efforts, AYLUS members all across the United States contributed to maintaining the environment around them, ensuring that future generations can still enjoy what nature offers. AYLUS members continue to be dedicated to serving their community and look forward to future opportunities.

*Written by: Stella Zhao*  
*Revised: Max Yang*

**The AYLUS Times Team**

**Editor-in-Chief:**

Henry Tang

**Co-Editors:**

Zoe Cheng, Max Yang

**Layout Editors:**

Selina Yuan, Taige Shi

**Writers:**

Audrey Kuo, Angie Feng, Stella Zhao, Chloe Wang,  
Rachel Zhang, Emily Tang