

AYLUS Leadership Application Form

Name	Ellie Zhu
Grade	12 - Rising Senior
Branch Name	AYLUS at Greater Buffalo
Current Branch Position	President
City and State	Buffalo, NY
Email	elliezhu2009@gmail.com
PVSA Award(s) & Year(s)	Gold: 2024, 2025 Adult AYLUS Volunteer Service Award (Bronze): 2026
Position to apply (1 st Choice)	Vice President
Position to apply (2 nd Choice)	Chief Philanthropy Officer

When I joined the Greater Buffalo AYLUS branch entering ninth grade, I never imagined its profound impact on me. Now, four years later, I am running for National Vice-President to utilize innovative, interdisciplinary service to empower youth, foster collaboration, and uplift underserved populations nationwide.

AYLUS has completely redefined my leadership. Serving as Co-Secretary in 2025 and President in 2026, I led our team in actionable advocacy, organizing 100+ community events, helping launch 8 initiatives, recruiting 30+ members, and partnering with 20+ nonprofits to support marginalized populations, ethnic minorities, the Special Olympics, refugees, and seniors.

Rooted in my Asian heritage, which deeply treasures our elderly, I founded the BRIDGE-Initiative (Building-Relationships-Intergenerationally-for-Development-Growth-and-Engagement) at local Bristol Village assisted living. Our mission is to reduce loneliness through shared experiences. Under the motto “Melodies and Memories,” I blend artistic, intellectual, and scientific concepts to innovate volunteering. Utilizing music as a neurological backdoor into deteriorating minds, I organize biweekly recitals that temporarily anchor memory care residents to their histories, restoring their dignity.

Driven by a commitment to underserved communities, I consistently spearhead initiatives for marginalized groups. To aid newly arrived families, I organized a Movie Night collecting vital winter clothing and funds for Journey’s End Refugee Services. I also worked on the ground as a summer camp counselor for WEDI and MiniAcademy (Bridges from Borders programs) to provide mentorship and academic support to inner-city youth. To strengthen regional ties, I initiated and collaborated with Buffalo Health Professionals (BCHP) to launch targeted events (with over 50+ in attendance) for middle schoolers, building a supportive network for the Asian community across Greater Buffalo. Furthermore, I coordinated community-building events with the Clarence Youth Bureau and served as an NHS leadership intern for Camp Invention, guiding elementary students through science and teamwork.

With 400+ service hours and 2 Gold President’s Volunteer Service Awards, I have honed the logistics, communication, and empathy needed for a national role. As Vice President, I am ready to help branches nationwide design unique projects that fuse service with innovation, reaching even greater heights.