



## We Have Updates!

A look back at our progress, partnerships, and the positive steps we are taking for Aurora's youth.



## A Big Big Thank You!

We want to give a huge thank you to our amazing surrounding communities, Congressman Bill Foster, Alderman Michael Seville, and Jerry Butler for their continued support. Because of your generosity, WeNxt has been able to provide scholarship opportunities and host informational seminars that help guide our youth toward brighter futures. Your donations, time, and belief in our mission make all the difference — together, we're creating lasting change and opening doors for the next generation of leaders.

## Recognizing Excellence at the 2025 WeNxt Scholarship Banquet!

This quarter, WeNxt proudly hosted our annual Scholarship Banquet — a night filled with celebration, inspiration, and hope for the future. Surrounded by family, community leaders, and supporters, we recognized outstanding students who continue to embody resilience, leadership, and a commitment to growth. Thanks to the generosity of our donors and partners, these scholarships are helping our youth take the next big step toward their dreams and higher education.



**Big congratulations to these 4 incredible young ladies for receiving a scholarship presented by WeNxt!**

Shanna Wright

Zoe Thomas

Barbra Nunez

Dayana Hernandez

## Community Leaders and Officials in Support of WeNxt.

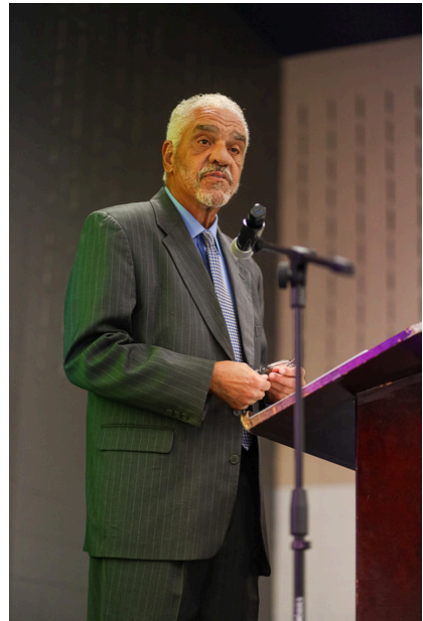
We were honored to have Congressman Bill Foster, Alderman Michael Seville and Commissioner Jerry Butler taking time out of their busy schedules to attend and support our event. Their presence was a powerful reminder of the importance of community collaboration and leadership in uplifting our youth. By showing up and engaging with our students, they demonstrated genuine commitment to creating opportunities and fostering hope for the next generation. We are deeply grateful for their continued support of WeNxt's mission and the young leaders we serve.



Alderman  
Michael Seville



Congressman  
Bill Foster



Commissioner  
Jerry Butler



## Serving Up Support: Culver's Fundraiser Success!

Our recent Culver's Fundraiser was a huge success, thanks to the incredible support from our community and the hard work of our WeNxt youth! Throughout the event, our kids stepped up and took part in serving guests, taking orders, and greeting customers with big smiles and enthusiasm. It was a fun and meaningful way for them to engage with the community while raising funds that go directly toward youth programs and future scholarship opportunities. A big thank you to Culver's and everyone who came out to show their support!



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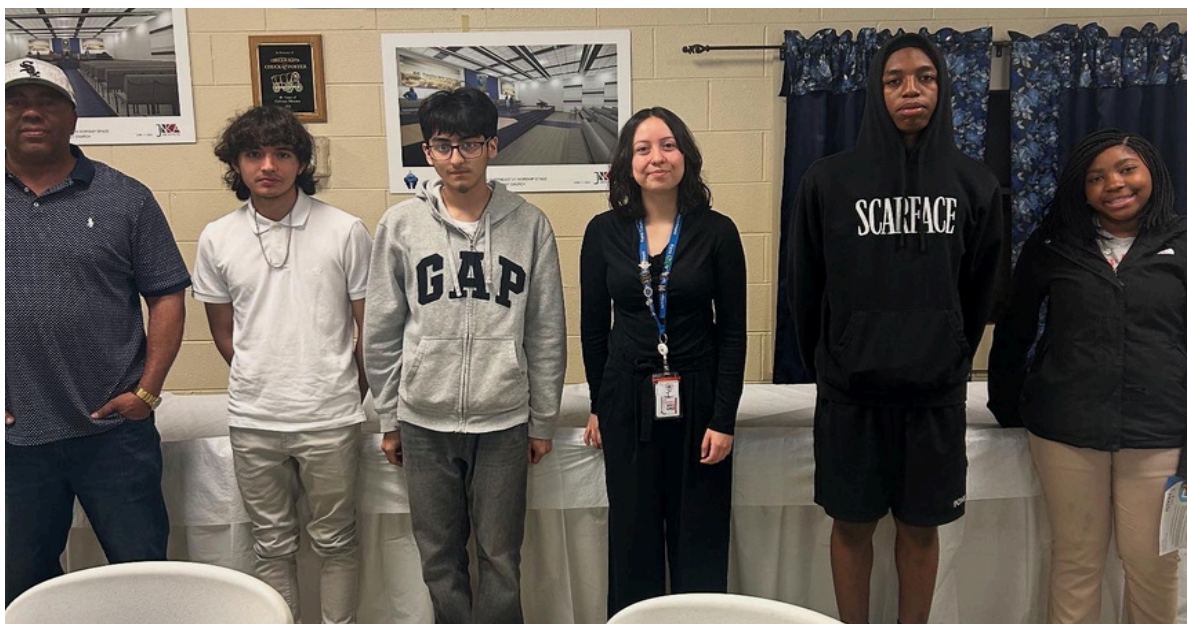
## Protecting Our Community: Narcan and Opioid Response Training.

We were grateful to partner with the Health Department for an impactful seminar focused on opioid awareness and prevention. During the session, health professionals educated our youth and their families on how to properly administer Narcan in the event of an overdose and shared valuable information on recognizing the signs of opioid addiction.

The discussion emphasized compassion, safety, and community responsibility — equipping attendees with the knowledge and tools to save lives and support those in need. This important workshop reflects WeNxt's ongoing commitment to promoting education, wellness, and empowerment within our community.



Kane County Health Department





## Empowering College Talent: Aurora University Internship Program

WeNxt is proud to partner with Aurora University to provide meaningful internship opportunities that help students gain real-world experience while contributing to our mission. Our current interns play key roles in both social media and finance — managing our online presence, creating engaging community content, and assisting with budgeting and resource planning to support our programs. Through this partnership, students are able to apply their classroom knowledge in a hands-on environment while making a positive impact in the community. We're grateful for their dedication, creativity, and professionalism as they help us continue growing WeNxt's reach and effectiveness.

This semester, we're excited to highlight **Scarlet Muñoz**, a Finance and Marketing major, who contributes to WeNxt's social media and financial planning efforts, and **Myra**, a pre-med student who volunteers her time to help with outreach and community engagement.





## Thank You for Being Part of the WeNxt Family!

As we close out this quarter, we want to thank everyone who continues to support WeNxt and the work we do for our community. The months ahead are full of exciting events — including a **Gang Task Force Seminar** hosted by the Aurora Police Department, a **Toy Drive**, a **3-on-3 Basketball Tournament**, and a **Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser** to help fund future programs. We can't wait to keep growing, learning, and making an impact together. See you next quarter!

## From the Desk of the Executive Director, John Pannell.



Greetings,

First of all I would like to thank our generous supporters, our partners, and our dynamic team for making 2025 an impactful year. Our young people today are navigating a world that often feels overwhelming and out of their control. Many are facing extreme levels of anxiety, depression, loneliness, anger and helplessness. But with the right support they can move from helplessness to hope and action. Adult allies (parents, caregivers, educators, mentors or community leaders) play a powerful role in shaping environments that are not just supportive but truly empowering. Our goal at WeNxT is to help our youth combat feelings of loneliness and helplessness, and build resilience and agency. We also want to equip adult allies to encourage advocacy and leadership. while creating space where young people feel seen, heard and valued. As you know non profits face significant and interconnected challenges primarily centered on financial sustainability, workforce management, governance, and technology. These challenges are often intensified by economic uncertainties and growing demand for our services. That is why our partnerships (Aurora Police Department, Aurora University, and Kane County Health Department) are so vital to being able to offer programs and services to our youth family and community. We treasure these partnerships and look to build on these relationships to offer our youth more positive experiences. I am proud of our accomplishments in 2025. Helping our youth gain confidence from developing coping skills; to learning how to resolve conflict. between themselves or a teacher or parent. Our scholarship program has provided needed resources for our high school graduates entering college, trade school, or the military. Our internship programs continue to give our young adults real-world experience and use their skill set for the advancement of Wenxt while at the same time learning social responsibility. WeNxT continues to provide our community training such as how to administer Narcan to someone who is overdosing. WeNxT is on the front line of the gun violence crisis by handing out over 40 safety gun lock boxes in our community to help reduce gun violence. In closing, the waters are choppy but God has given WeNxT the ability to be difference makers in our communities in spite of the many challenges. We are excited about our future and our ability with the help of individuals and the business community, to be a beacon of light in our youths' lives.

Thank you for your continued support.

Regards,

*John*



## Ways to Donate!

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