



FROM: Youth Leadership Institute of Erie
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TO ALL MEDIA
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
****WE STAND STRONG ERIE 2021****
YOUTH ART INSTALLATION

ERIE, PA, September 9, 2021- Thursday, September 9, 2021, The Youth Leadership Institute of Erie youths will install an art piece at the Blasco Library Teen Space in remembrance of the September 11, 2001, attack on the World Trade Center. As a group we will commemorate its 20th year anniversary by remembering the 2,977 people who lost their lives on that day. Normally the youth would outreach in the communities with hands on projects in various areas of the city. However, this year, YAB (Youth Advisory Board) and YAC (Youth Advisory Committees) took the time to honor each individual.

Every year, Youth Leadership Institute of Erie works alongside of YSA (Youth Service America), to honor this day. This year, we are excited to have the privilege to display our piece in the presence of other September 11th memorials. Our art piece displays the names of each individual that lost their lives on that day. Two thousand nine hundred and seventy-seven (2,977) stars have been individually traced, cut, named, and strung by youth over the course of 23 hours. During this process several of the youth wrote the names of pregnant mothers and were emotionally touched by the fact of the unborn lives that were lost so they chose to represent the unborn with blue and pink pacifiers.

These high school youths were not alive on this tragic day but are touched by the stories that have been told to them by parents, teachers, and other community members. The youth were able to explain the difference with Flight 93, who Tom Ridge was to Erie, how he is connected to that day, and have a unique perspective in their post 9-11 lives.

WHEN: Thursday, September 9, 2021
Where: Blasco Library
Time: 5 pm

Serve to Remember on 9/11 Day of Service. Honoring this moment in our nation's history by serving in your community helps transform 9/11 into a day of unity, empathy, and service as an enduring and positive tribute to those lost and injured on 9/11, and the many who rose in service in response to the attacks, including first responders, recovery workers, volunteers, and members of our military. YSA engages over 100 countries with millions of youths, that celebrates and builds the capacity of all youth ages 5-25 to help our communities and thrive by working together for the common good. On this day, we call on everyone to engage all young people and adult champions to serve, advocate, join, celebrate, or build capacity.