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**YIELD Students Give Facelift to Iconic Footbridge**

MASON CITY, IA - Each year, the YIELD group (Youth Investing Energy in Leadership Development) completes a community impact project as a graduation requirement. YIELD students are high school juniors from Mason City, Newman Catholic, and North Iowa Christian, identified by school administrators and faculty as future leaders. The group quickly decided on a project to help fill a need in the community. After discussing with the City how they could help enhance public parks, they learned the famous Footbridge over Willow Creek, connecting River Heights Drive and South Connecticut Avenue, needed a fresh coat of paint.

The footbridge has been a part of Mason City history for more than 100 years, originally built of wooden planks with a handrail bolted to the walk and covered by wire mesh. The current footbridge, built in 1940, is comprised of a steel arch, cement deck, and an iron guardrail. Through the years, Iowa weather has contributed to chipped paint and rust, so students have been working hard this fall painting more than 900 feet of iron rails at the historic attraction.

Weather pending, students are planning to finish the bridge by November 1. **Local news media is invited to interview the students at their project work session starting at 3:45PM on Wednesday, October 23 at the Footbridge.**

Thanks to the dedication of the YIELD students, Mason City's iconic "The Music Man" Footbridge will be looking fresh this fall and for years to come.

YIELD, which originated in 2003, is program of the Chamber of Commerce to provide leadership training to local high school youth. The program now serves as a model for other communities.

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