

LAUNCH_{nw}
YOUTH COUNCIL 2025

Empowering Independence Report

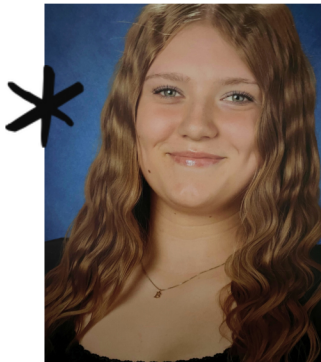
Prepared by: Empowering Independence Team
Date: Dec. 13 2025

ABOUT US

Hi! My name is Elora Smith, I am a Running Start student at SCC and a Junior at West Valley High School. I am involved in many leadership roles, including ASB, National Honor Society, WVSD Board member, WVSD bond planning committee, and WVSD Superintendent Student Advisory Board! My absolute favorite of all, I am on the support staff for Millwood Impact's STAR Club, which is exactly where my inspiration for this project came from.



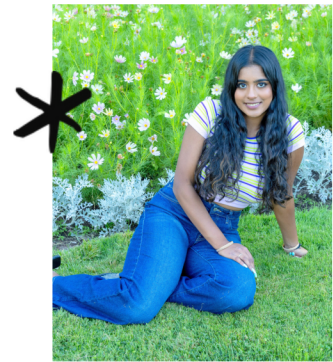
The Team



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ABOUT OUR PROJECT

Empowering Independence teaches elementary students essential life skills, focusing on personal hygiene, healthy habits, and self-care. By showing how these routines affect confidence, relationships, and learning, the program addresses gaps in knowledge that have existed across generations. Through hands-on lessons, group activities, and guidance from mentors, participants build self-esteem, develop positive routines, and strengthen social-emotional skills, empowering them to succeed personally, socially, and academically.

RESEARCH

The research aspect of a project like this is genuinely very hard to define as a specific set of data. These students and their needs could never be summed up in a single amount of research. Each day, you learn something new about the best way to deal with their specific needs. Not only that, but their teachers are the people who see the most of the things these students need. But at the end of the day, these students can tell you what they need without any explanation needed, and the look on their face when they realize you really care is all of the information you could ever need.

INSPIRATION

The inspiration behind this project was the gap I saw in students at Millwood Impacts STAR Club. Students were missing the part that included taking care of themselves, learning how, and being supplied with materials. These were simple things like brushing hair and simple body care.

These students are truly the exact targeted population for this specific program.



having someone teach them and value them as much as they should value themselves.

Our Hope For The Future

Our hope by the end of our 10-week Curriculum at each school is that every student who is involved or is around our program can access the things that make them feel confident in themselves.

Students in this area often come from a long line of generational failure to access material and knowledge. This then passes on to affect their children, which we are working to change.

KEEP MOVING FORWARD!

So far, this entire project has been one big learning curve. Every student has their own thing they are going through and their own specific needs. Each student comes from a different background of values, behavior, and family styles.

All of these things affect how each student takes care of themselves and how we approach issues. Students are starting to really take to the idea of



52% of students at West Valley School district elementary schools fall under free and reduced/low income. These students are often the same students who need the most help from us!

After the 2025 Launch NW Term, Empowering Independence will continue to be run by Elora at schools in WVSD through funding from Millwood Impact.