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Bellevue Youth Council Brings Community Together with Successful "Just Dance, Just Listen" Teen Event

Bellevue, FL — The Bellevue Youth Council created a fun and engaging evening for local teens on Thursday, April 10, 2025, as they hosted *Just Dance, Just Listen* at the Bellevue Community Center. The event, designed by the Youth Council as part of their annual civic engagement project, provided a safe, welcoming, and high-energy space for teens to gather, express themselves, and celebrate community spirit.

The night began with rounds of *Just Dance* on an 85" television, where teens danced to popular hits and encouraged one another to step out of their comfort zones and have fun. Following the gaming portion of the evening, the spotlight shifted to the stage as several attendees showcased their talents in poetry, stand-up comedy, and live musical performances — many of which featured original works written and composed by the students themselves.

After an evening filled with creativity, the crowd spent more than an hour singing karaoke, with group sing-alongs that had nearly everyone in the room joining in. Laughter and positive energy filled the room.

A complimentary dinner was provided, featuring meatballs, pasta, and salad. While admission was free, the Youth Council asked guests to bring canned food items to support EveryDay Church's local food program. Thanks to the generosity of those in attendance, nearly 80 cans were collected for families in need.

The Bellevue Youth Council, composed of high school students from Bellevue and surrounding communities, meets monthly to discuss youth issues, engage with city and community leaders, and learn about the workings of local government. Each year, the council is tasked with designing, planning, and executing a community-focused event, and for 2025, they were passionate about creating something specifically for their fellow teens.

Bellevue Mayor Christine Dobkowski praised the youth-led initiative, stating, *"It's truly inspiring to see our local youth not only stepping up as leaders but creating meaningful opportunities for their peers. The Bellevue Youth Council recognized a need for a space where teens could relax, connect, and express themselves freely — and they delivered something really special. This event is a shining example of what can happen when young people are empowered and supported by their community."*

Robert Vass, the City of Bellevue's Events and Promotions Manager and the Youth Council's program coordinator, echoed that sentiment. *"I couldn't be prouder of these students,"* Vass said. *"They came up with an idea, built a plan, and worked together to make it happen — and they did it in a way that brought people together for a great cause. The energy in the room was incredible, and you could see how much it meant to the teens to have a space that was created just for them. It was everything a community event should be."*

The success of *Just Dance, Just Listen* reflects the Bellevue Youth Council's ongoing commitment to fostering leadership, civic responsibility, and community service among local teens — and sets a high standard for future initiatives.

For more information about the Bellevue Youth Council contact Robert Vass at rvass@bellevuefl.org.