The Youth Philanthropy Initiative of Indiana (YPII) uses a four-pillar model to explain the progression that youth take from caring within their families to engaging others in their communities.

1. **Serving**: Teach youth how to serve in their communities. Most children naturally care about their family members and notice their needs. Helping them is an extension of a caring attitude. Once youth demonstrate care within a family, it is an opportune time to talk about the importance of serving others in their school and community.

2. **Giving**: Use time, talent, and treasure to give to others. Giving time, talent, and treasure (toys, clothes, books, money) is a visible, concrete way to experience philanthropy as an individual. Youth will notice giving and volunteer habits demonstrated by family and friends. It is important to begin building and encouraging the spirit of generosity at a young age to form a lifelong habit of giving.

3. **Leading**: Young leaders can model philanthropic action. All young people can be leaders within their communities. Youth leaders who model a philanthropic behavior will help others to learn from them and gain confidence in their own ability to give and serve. A philanthropic leader’s actions encourage others to share their time, talent, and treasure for the common good.

4. **Engaging**: Giving with peers will engage others to be philanthropic. Youth often assume their role in communities is limited and that their voices will not be heard. The ability to engage others to make a difference is unrelated to a person’s age; youth can play the role of change-makers. Forming a Giving Circle or philanthropic club is an excellent example for youth to magnify their caring voices.