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Young Leaders Alliance brings together next generation through cornhole

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Walker Wells, infection prevention manager at the Lakewood Ranch Medical Center, and Chase Binkley, commercial producer at Atlas Insurance, are among the 80 participants to gather at the Cornhole and Connections event put on by the Young Leaders Alliance.

Photo by Madison Bierl

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As Nicole Hackel arrived at the inaugural Cornhole and Connections event, she felt shocked to see so many young faces in one place.

Hackel, the Young Leaders Alliance chair, said the event, which took place at Waterside Park on Sept. 17, was on a much larger scale than their other, smaller networking events.

"That's the future of our community," Hackel said. "I think that's awesome to see us come out and represent."

Ashley Cole, the vice chair of the Young Leaders Alliance, said cornhole was a great activity to spice up networking in a new and fun way.

She encourages other young community members to check out future events.

"There's a lot of people that work in the area that you may not know, even if you're from here, because lots of people have moved away," Cole said. "People are moving here every single day, so there's always new people that you could be meeting and connecting with."

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Young Leaders Alliance Vice Chair Ashley Cole plays alongside Education Foundation of Sarasota County's Amber Rylak at Cornhole and Connections Sept. 17.

Photo by Madison Bierl