



## YOUTH JOBS: A TRUE WIN WIN

The Community House provides a variety of employment opportunities for local youth. Studies have shown that providing teens with jobs advances their personal and social development. Over time, these teens become adults with a better sense of connection to their communities, empowering them to make positive decisions for themselves and others. The Community House has greatly benefited from having these fine young people work for us, but they gain valuable experiences, too. In this way, this program is a win-win.

Many of our teen workers have been with us for multiple years. Lauren Verge, now a senior at Hamilton Wenham High School, has worked with The Community House for two years and shares her thoughts on working with us below.

*This is my second year working as a Teen Staff member at The Community House. My sister convinced me to apply the beginning of my sophomore year in high school, and I am so glad I did! As a Teen Staff member I chaperone all the Middle School dances, as well as working at events. This includes the annual Block Party, Breakfast with Santa, musicals, Harvest Dinner, and more. I work on a team with nine other Teen Staff members, and we have become very good friends.*

*Working at a non-profit in my community is an amazing experience. In addition to being an easy commute, it's wonderful to see how my community is brought-together through The Community House. I run into my neighbors at the Middle School dances, I see families I babysit for at family events, and I have had the opportunity to meet many more community members.*

*As a child, I attended many of the events that I now work at as a teen. I love that I can give back to an organization that gave so much to me when I was a child, and it's also an amazing opportunity to be a part of giving children the same joy that I got to experience.*

*This job has taught me responsibility and accountability, and has definitely taught me how to work with a team. The job has also improved my communication and people skills, given that the job is almost entirely about interacting with others. These skills are essential and will transfer to any future job. In addition, I have learned how to manage my own finances and budget, an important skill for any young adult. Working at The Community House as a Teen Staff Member has truly been an invaluable experience.*