

NORTH SHORE YOUTH CAREER CENTER | FALL 2023 UPDATES



300 Broad Street (North Shore Community College) Room LE139, Lynn MA | 781-691-7430

F1rstJobs Summer 2023

Summer of 2023 marked our 19th year of F1rst Jobs and was a huge success!! Working in partnership with Commonwealth Corporation and 34 North Shore municipalities and non-profit worksites, MassHire NorthShore Youth Career Center and Workforce Board placed over 500 youth in summer jobs across the region.

F1rstJobs, our Summer Jobs initiative, began in 2005, and was a response to the incredible demand for summer jobs on the part of young adults, their families, and educators. Through this program, young adults not only participate in hands-on job experiences, but also engage in training on career readiness, soft skills, finding, getting and keeping a job.

This summer all young adults worked in-person at worksites, with some online work, at a variety of agencies and experiencing firsthand what it is like to join the workforce! Youth participants were from 20 communities in and around Essex County. Jobs included, but were not limited to camp counselors, clinical services aide, classroom/educator/group aides/leaders, community service projects, farming, maintenance, marketing, office work, operations, resale/recycling, and introduction to trades such as carpentry, culinary, electrical, HVAC, and landscaping.

Summer 2023 Worksites

- Action/Ipswich High School
- Beverly Children's Learning Center
- Beverly Historical
- Beverly Local Food Collaborative
- Beverly Public Schools
- Boys and Girls Club of Greater Salem
- Boys and Girls Club of Lynn
- Bridgewell
- Cairn Hill Nature Preschool
- Cape Ann Art Haven
- City of Beverly Recreation Dept.
- City of Lynn
- Cultivate Pathways
- DanversCARES
- Essex County Community Fdn.
- For Kids Only
- LEAP for Education
- LEO Inc.
- LifeScene
- Lynn YMCA
- Lynn Community TV
- Lynn Housing Authority & Neighborhood Development
- MassGenBrig/Partners
- New American Assoc. of MA
- Newhall Fields Community Farm
- North Shore Community Development Coalition
- North Shore Essex Agricultural & Tech School
- Open Door/Cape Ann Food Pantry
- Peabody Institute Library
- Peabody Veteran's Memorial High School
- Pingree School-Prep@Pingree
- Salem YMCA of the North Shore
- The Food Project
- The Real Project



Summer youth employees from the Food Project

Best Wishes to Ann-Marie O'Keefe!



We want to send our Best Wishes to Ann-Marie O'Keefe, our dedicated Youth Career Center Manager, as she retires from MassHire next month.

Ann-Marie started here in 2009 as a Case Manager in our main center, before moving over to the Youth Career Center in 2010. Ann-Marie brought leadership skills from years of experience at Gillette and IBM, among other experiences, and quickly moved to a leadership role in 2014. Since then, she has led the team in Lynn through many changes and significant expansion of the youth programs, increasing the staff, more than doubling our outreach, and continually improving the services offered to young people on the North Shore. In her time here, she has helped thousands of young people enter the workforce in a supported environment, building quality steppingstones for their future and creating quality memories of their first jobs!

Ann-Marie is incredibly knowledgeable about systems that can be very hard to navigate and has a supportive way of sharing this knowledge with her team. Her guidance has helped them grow and develop in our work with the youth of the North Shore in our own individual ways, but also as a team. Her team reports that she always took the time to meet, answer questions and break things down so they made sense, despite the complex nature of government funding.

Through many changes over the years, Ann-Marie developed a workplace that is open and accepting. With all the different personalities and backgrounds, she has worked to cultivate a team to guide North Shore youth that approaches the work from different perspectives. Ann-Marie managed all the day-to-day operations for her team with a sharp eye for detail and strong organizational skills, but more so, with her heart, her dedication and compassion. She was the first with a birthday card and cake or sympathy card and support, and always celebrated life's milestones for her team.

She will be sorely missed at the YCC, but her retirement is well earned. We hope she enjoys this time with her husband Tim, her daughter Sarah, and of course her loyal pup Gracie.

We have been lucky to have her at the helm and wish her well!

SUMMER STORIES

Peabody Institute Library- Peabody, MA-Holly Travis

The Peabody Institute Library had three youth at the main branch who worked on the Summer Eats program, which provided meals to kids during the summer. They set up activities such as games and crafts to do with the kids when they come, as well as serve and inventory lunches. They also helped with other tasks in the library. One youth at the West Peabody branch worked on shelving books and internal library tasks. At the main branch, they had a 6th grade volunteer who did all the activities. One of the projects they had was to have the kids make their own creepy dolls. The doll their young volunteer made, scared one of the YouthWorks kids so badly, and the little volunteer teased him with it! Two of the youth at the main branch and the one at the West Peabody branch have been there for multiple summers and volunteered there before. This was the first job for the third youth at the main branch, and they thought she did a great job!

Second Glance Thrift Store-Gloucester, MA- Bob Fraizer

At the Second Glance Thrift Store in Gloucester, they had one youth, Marlenny, who was hired through the F1rst Jobs program. During a site visit to the non-profit store, which specializes in clothing and home accessories, the manager pointed out to a young girl manning the cash register. When she first started, Marlenny was very shy and lacked confidence but grew to be outgoing and learned the skills to use the cash register. At the end of the visit, a customer who overheard speaking to her friend on how pleasant and nice the young girl on the cash register is and did her job very effectively.

The Food Project - Lynn, MA-Julia Austin

The Food Project has hired a Youth Crew for many summers in their efforts to expand food access throughout the community. This year they had twenty-two youth who were funded by YouthWorks. The responsibilities of the Youth Crew include to plant and harvest vegetables in raised garden beds. Youth also gain experience handling money at the cash register and interacting with customers when selling produce at the local Farmers Market. Students even had the chance to show off some of their individual talents while running events such as; Flower Arrangements and Arts & Crafts at the annual Farm Fest.

Lynn Community TV-Lynn, MA-Jethro Alouidor

One of the many joys of our summer jobs program is when we get to work with new worksites to give youth new opportunities. This year we had the opportunity to partner with Lynn Community TV. They took on two local youth and gave them an experience to remember. Paw & Red described their summer job as a fun learning experience. Handling expensive camera equipment, working with studio lighting, dealing with audio and video components and working on various editing projects assigned was a thrill for them. In speaking with both youth, I found that the success of the summer for them was not having to be pent up in the house, one said "that would be depressing". A big shout out and thank you to Lynn Community TV for coming on board as a partner and being an instrumental piece in the lives of our youth this summer.

Newhall Fields Community Farms-Peabody, MA-Valerie Milardo

Returning to the F1rst Jobs program for their second year, was Newhall Fields Community Farm, a small, two acre farm just outside of downtown Peabody . This year, ten youth were hired to work alongside volunteers, to be members of the Youth Crew, and among them was the Youth Crew Leader. Their jobs included; tending to produce beds, assisting with food boxes, working in the herb garden, and harvesting produce at the end of the summer. They also learned about farming, working the soil, and the benefits of pollinators. This year saw a combination of returning and new youth workers. One stated 'I needed a job, something to get me out of the house this summer, and I've had the opportunity to learn and experience so much.'

Pingree Prep-South Hamilton, MA-Ann-Marie O'Keefe

This is the first year Pingree Prep participated in F1rst Jobs. An intense four-week program for middle school students, taught by experienced public and independent school teachers assisted by twenty F1rst Jobs Instructors from neighboring High Schools as well as College students, many of which are Alumni of Pingree Prep's summer program. The 200 'prep' middle schoolers and twenty F1rst Job instructors, co-existed with hundreds of young campers on the Pingree campus in Hamilton Mass.

The program focus was to prepare students for High School by balancing rigorous academics, math, English, history with co-curricular experiences such as public speaking, job application, interviewing, arts, athletics as well as trips within Essex County and greater Boston, with focus at developing the whole student. The summer program provides transportation, school supplies and meals for the middle schoolers and F1rst Jobs staff.

SUMMER STORIES

Family Children Services of Lynn/Life Scene-Lynn, MA-Juan Williams

One of the YCC's year round work sites, Life Scene, in Lynn, hired fifteen youth to be a part of the F1rst Jobs program. LifeScene's Project Success is a career and workforce development program for youth and young adults. One of the cohorts had the opportunity to spend a 'day-in-the-field' with Lynn Police officers. For many of the youth, this was the first chance they had to spend time with an officer in a safe setting. They had the opportunity to tour the precinct, and ask questions. At the end of the day, many of the youth saw the police in a new light, and some hope to one day join the force.



**Members of the Youth Crew
at Newhall Fields Community Farm**



Passing out lunches at the Peabody Institute Library



Paw and Red at Lynn Community TV



**Working at the Green Space through the Salem
YMCA**



**Muna, at LynnArts, part of
the City of Lynn**



Members of the City of Lynn Crew