Summer Work Crew youth gets his license.

Thank you for putting this teen in the driver’s seat.

You never forget your first car, and neither will this Lynn teenager.

This summer Ellijah Marte, a 17 year old senior at Lynn English High School, worked for our Community Safety Initiative’s work crew. He spent his days painting, cleaning up parks, clearing brush, and even trying his hand in urban agriculture at the Cook St. Community Gardens.

The summer employment program which was designed to expand gainful employment opportunities for Lynn youth, also helped Ellijah obtain his driver’s license.

Thanks to the generous support of folks like you, F&CS offered 4 scholarships to encourage youth to attend driving school. Ellijah jumped at the opportunity and was the first to receive his license.

Ellijah’s Case Manager, Christian remarks, “Ellijah worked hard and he’s smart. He was always trying to go in the right direction.”

With the money that he earned from employment in the work crew, Ellijah purchased a 2001 Honda Civic for only $300! “The frame was bent from an accident, the radiator needed repair, and I had to replace the condenser and a headlight...but, it’s my car,” he says with a smile.

Ellijah, who would like to be mechanic one day, is slowly rebuilding his ride. He says, “So far, I’ve done a lot of repairs, and put gas in it. If I didn’t do this program, I wouldn’t have gone to driving school and I wouldn’t have this car.”
Family Fun Day will be a virtual info-tainment event, and we are getting ready!

This year, viewers will be treated to interactive performances in English and Spanish from Curious Creatures and Bruce the Clown, as well as a music and a craft demonstration. Production of the videotaped segments is currently underway in preparation for the Thursday, October 8th one-hour special which will air on Facebook, YouTube, and Lynn Community Television. Also, sprinkled throughout the broadcast will be the chance for viewers to win 3 prize raffles. The event is generously sponsored by Eastern Bank and local businesses.

Families are encouraged to pre-register online at https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/G553P5T to receive a sports backpack filled with school supplies, information about community services, and fun materials to participate in the interactive program.

“Family Fun Day has been a great in-person event on Lynn Commons for the past 13 years and we just couldn’t bear to cancel it because of COVID-19. During this pandemic families need to know about the services, agencies, and support that exist to help them not only survive, but thrive. The show must go on,” says Interim Executive Director, Ruben Montano-Lopez.

Tune in to Virtual Family Fun Day
Thursday, October 8, 2020
6:00 PM
On Facebook, YouTube, and Lynn Community Television
Register online at:
https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/G553P5T
A Labor of Love

Meet Africa Beato, a participant in our Family Resource Center (FRC) Latina Mothers Support Group. As an immigrant from the Dominican Republic and a single mom, Africa found community at the FRC.

For 10 years, she’s attended countless parenting workshops, support groups, and special events. Inspired by a generous heart, Africa has created beautiful handcrafted gifts like quilts for pregnant mothers and winter hats for families. She even teaches a wildly popular knitting class at the FRC every winter.

Most recently, Africa donated 260 face masks that she made to families in the support groups.

“Now more than ever, we have to support all the people and give things from the heart. Life has been very generous to me and me giving something back in return is just fair. I feel compelled to be generous and share this blessing with other families,” says Africa.

Every gift to Family & Children’s Service is more than an investment in programs — it is an investment in people, like Africa. Your gift then ripples out to impact the lives of others, and so on and so on.

Thank you!

Others like you are proud to be part of this family

Name: Esther Summersett

Lifelong Lynn resident, Esther Summersett is known as a community activist with a passion to serve youth. The former Director of Straight Ahead Ministries is also a realtor at Re/Max Hadassah Homes and the owner of Divine by Hadassah, a full-service interior design firm with a mission to empower youth through employment.

Part of the Family Since 2012: Donor and member of the F&CS Board of Directors since 2018.

Committed because: “It’s not just the work itself but the integrity about the work. They bring a different level of passion that I haven’t seen in other places; they don’t just give resources, they provide a foundation.”

Unshakeable belief: “I think destiny puts you somewhere, and I feel blessed to be a part of this work.”

Proud because: “I’ve seen community members start as program participants and become leaders [at Family & Children’s Service]. I see the Executive Director, Associate Director, the Development Director pushing for more – and coming back to the table with a smile. And that is the work: building leaders in the community.”

“We all can help, but will we? I would tell someone coming to Family & Children’s Service for support not that we can—we will.”
For the past 5 years, Marblehead nonprofit SPUR has generously donated backpacks to youth in our Youth Services programs.

SPUR is on a mission to make volunteering accessible by creating opportunities that have short shifts and by giving people of all ages the flexibility to sign up when they can. “Volunteering should be normal and happen all the time. The thing I hear the most from volunteers is that they enjoy being a part of a community of other volunteers while giving back at the same time”, says Brian Lamoreau, SPUR’s Volunteer & Event Drive Manager.

This year over 100 individuals were involved in donating 680 backpacks to local school children in Lynn, Marblehead, Salem, and Swampscott. Volunteers packed the backpacks outside during the summer in 30 shifts of about 6 people per shift, all adhering to safety protocols.

The high-quality backpacks were purchased in bulk and came with personalized labels for each child. Each backpack contained age-appropriate school supplies, like pencils, notebooks, erasers, dry erase boards, markers, etc. New editions to the supply list this year, due to COVID-19, were bottles of hand sanitizer, masks, and headphones for virtual learning.

Our programs are supported in part by grants from:

- Eastern Bank
- Cummings Foundation
- United Way
- Lynn Cultural Council