



greenagers
youth environment community



LEARNING Together, *Growing* TOGETHER

"IT WAS GREAT TO EXPERIENCE THINGS I KNEW ABOUT
BUT HAD NEVER ACTUALLY DONE BEFORE."

“By participating in this program it showed community members that I care.”



Greenagers does a great job employing high school youth--over 70 paid youth jobs this past year. We also do a great job with opportunities for youth just out of high school. But we encountered a major (unsurprising) issue: Housing for entry-level employees is prohibitively expensive and unavailable in much of the Berkshires.

So we bought another barn. 72 Main Street in Egremont to be exact and it has a five bedroom apartment along with commercial space (formerly the Hank Kearsley Gallery). Starting this September, 72 Main will be the home of five folks from our new Americorps team. We're excited to welcome these conservation newcomers to our community and organization!

This was a big step for Greenagers. It wasn't in our strategic plan but it became plain that if we were to achieve our mission goals, we had to offer some housing. The fact that 72 Main was available, affordable, and close to April Hill was a huge opportunity, one we could not pass up. We are deeply grateful to **Lee Bank**, the **Gilson Family Foundation**, and the **Winter-Lehman Family Foundation** for helping us secure mortgages and philanthropic lending to enable the purchase of the property. We are grateful to be able to move at the speed of the housing need. We will now need to backfill this bridge funding that was essential to acquire the property for Greenagers.

The timing seems auspicious. South Egremont has cut the ribbon on a redeveloped Main Street and Greenagers is bringing young people to downtown. Stay tuned for our thoughts on the commercial side of the property....we have some exciting ideas to bring our mission to Main Street.

As always, thank you for your support. We couldn't take bold steps without sound fiscal footing and the help of our community. You keep us going, creating more opportunity for our region's youth.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Will Conklin".

Will Conklin, Executive Director



South Egremont students.



Americorps Partnership

Greenagers is excited to partner with the Massachusetts Service Alliance to offer 7 full-time year-round and 11 reduced half time AmeriCorps positions with our Trails and Education programs. These members will serve in small crews to build and improve trails, implement forest management practices, and offer environmental education in Berkshire County and beyond.

EDUCATION

SPRING & SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

924 YOUTH OF ALL AGES ENGAGED IN HANDS-ON
OUTDOOR LEARNING ALREADY THIS YEAR!



Summer Camps, After-school Programs

April Hill visits Service Learning

In-School Partnership Programs Field Trips

Workshops Overnight Camping

EDUCATION

SPRING & SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

- * Every SBRSD elementary student visited April Hill.
- * Students from DuBois Middle, Salisbury Central, and New Marlborough Central learned through exploration in after school programs.

Workshops for all

- Elementary Ecology Workshop Series
- Elementary Pollinator Workshop
- Council On Aging Art in Nature Workshop

What's next for Fall 2024

- North Adams Colegrove After School Program grades 5-6
- North Adams Drury After School Program grades 7-12
- DuBois Middle School After School Program grades 5-8
- DuBois Middle School In-School Exploratory Program

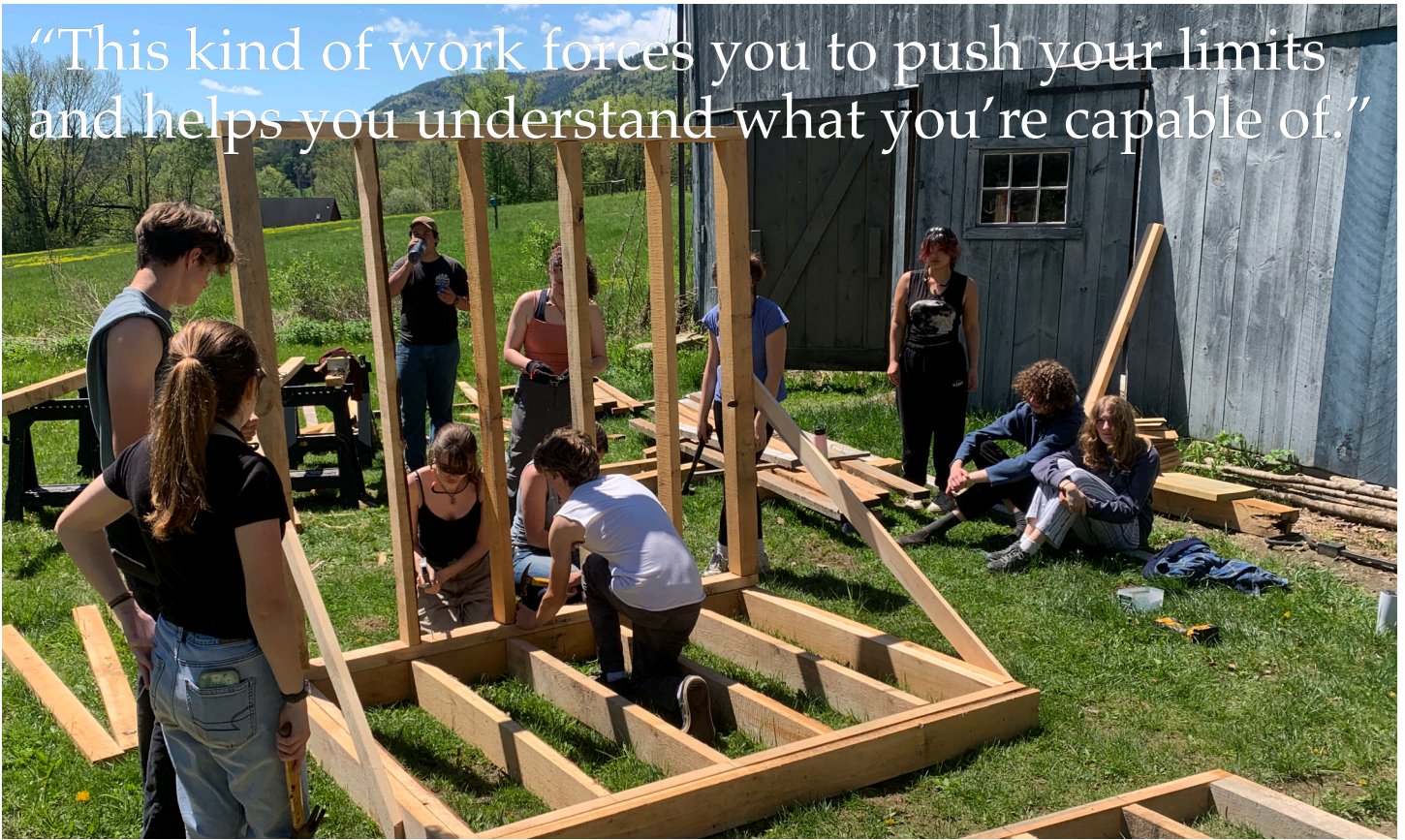
Plus new in-school partnership programs and new experiential learning programs are in the works for the Winter and Spring 2025.

Cooking in our outdoor classroom.

EDUCATION

SPRING & SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

“This kind of work forces you to push your limits and helps you understand what you’re capable of.”



Waldorf High School Service Learning Project in collaboration with the Build Crew

10th Grade students from the Berkshire Waldorf School built a mobile shed which will be used at a trailhead on the Appalachian Trail. Build Crew Leader Landon Curletti oversaw the project with the help of Assistant Leader Donny Scaglione.

Using hand tools and locally sourced rough sawn lumber, students measured, cut and assembled the shed in 1½ days - enthusiastically working through an afternoon downpour.



YOUTH CREW HIGHLIGHTS

Farm

First year assisting with distribution at People's Pantry.

6,100lbs food donated so far this year.

Began 3 year civic science study of perennial crops with The Land Institute.



Trades

Skills learned:

- Woodworking
- Framing
- Milling
- Roofing
- Plumbing
- Measuring & layout
- Fabricating from drawings

The Build Crew visited the Decumanus Green jobsite to observe a home installation from pre-assembled components and meet with architects, managers, operators, and builders.

Trails

27 projects completed across NY, MA, VT, CT.

Universally Accessible Trails created/improved in Dalton, Egremont, Great Barrington, Hudson.

First spike crew - camping on Appalachian Trail - since 2019.



DINNER DEMOCRACY DANCING

OUR SUMMER GALA

Our Summer Fundraiser Dinner Democracy & Dancing was a wonderful celebration of youth working alongside their community to care for the environment and create positive change.

Special thanks to:

Gov. Deval Patrick and Rep. Smitty Pignatelli for joining us and leading an inspiring conversation with Greenagers youth.



Georgie, Izzy, Nick, Jesse, Nate, Ellie, Iris and Landon for sharing your stories during the panel discussion.

PHOTOS: JEANNY TSAI

The Build Crew for installing a staircase and additional exit so the barn was ready for our dance party, and for constructing our new stage.

The Farm Crew for growing so much of the produce we enjoyed and growing and arranging flowers.

Megan Lawrence Cooks for the delicious meal.

Berkshire Mountain Distillers for the lovely drinks.

Oskar and Michael of Only In My Dreams Events for coordinating this event.

Bob MacVeety, Conor Meehan, Rob Putnam, Taz Ramos, Jeff Stevens, Jon Suters, Charlie Tokarz, Billy Voiers for bringing music to the party.



MEGAN LAWRENCE



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Mark & Lorry Newhouse
ACRES
Lee Bank
Theory Wellness

And we are deeply grateful to the young folks doing this work and to *you*, our amazing network of supporters, who make this work possible.

Youth & Community

Greater Impact with our Partners

TRAILS

Cornwall Conservation Trust, Sharon Audubon, Great Mountain Forest, Norfolk Land Trust, and the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area partnered with Greenagers so we could run a summer Trail Crew in Northwest Connecticut for the first time. Six youth from the area spent their summer eradicating invasive species, bench cutting tread, constructing stone staircases, and clearing trails.

FARM

April Hill Farm collaborates with **High Spirit Community Farm (HSCF)** to transport the food grown by our youth Farm Crew in South Egremont to **Mercado de Vida**, a food access site in Pittsfield. Each Thursday, members of HSCF pick up boxes of produce from our cooler, add it to their own farm goods and generously drive it north to be distributed by Mercado de Vida.



Preparing onions for storage.

Community In Partnership



Removing invasive plants on the trail



Visiting the Mumbet sculpture in Sheffield

TRADES

Mumbet's Freedom Farm gave the Build Crew an opportunity to work alongside them and gain hands-on experience with water supply and irrigation systems. They built a utility structure for equipment, installed a booster pump and tank, and upgraded 200+ feet of piping. The system will be solar-powered and, in the next phase, will include rainwater collection.

EDUCATION

In partnership with **DuBois CLEO Summer Program** Greenagers brought students to visit **Sheffield Historical Society** where **Aretha Whitehead** taught us about local history, engaged students in a service learning project, and shared the Sheffield Resolves - the town constitution believed to have helped influence Elizabeth Freeman (Mumbet) to pursue her freedom.



Irrigation at Mumbet's Freedom Farm

EDUCATION

MANY FORKS FARM SUMMER PROGRAM

We are very excited that in 2024 the Many Forks Farm Summer Program in North Adams became part of the Greenagers Education Program.

At Many Forks Farm youth from North Adams work together in teams to harvest vegetables, cook the daily snack or lunch for their peers, build farm structures and explore the outdoors. We support them in developing positive peer interactions, teamwork, a sense of pride in what they can accomplish, and work ethic toward daily responsibilities. They finish the program with: greater self-confidence, new, healthy friendships, and deeper engagement in learning in the outdoors. Our greatest goal is that their growth during the program leads to strong attendance during the school year, continued engagement and curiosity in their learning, and participation in leadership opportunities.

Each day begins with a group circle co-led by staff and youth to set intentions, create community values, and open up communication. Learning prosocial and outdoor skills is continuous and paced to each student's needs. All families and caregivers send their youth to the program at no cost. North Adams Public Schools, Greenagers, and Many Forks Farm are weaving this program into the fabric of the North Adams community. The investment of time and care in these young people will have immeasurable benefits for them, their families and the North Adams community.

Thanks to Ry Gundrum of Gundrum Lumber, John Pitroff of Second Chance Compost, Patrick Lang of Hexagon Bagels, and Sue Gundrum of Frost Eco.

Big thanks to Molly Comstock, the farmer at Many Forks Farm.



Summer 2024

22 5th & 6th grade students

25 7th - 9th grade students

All students from North Adams Public Schools

6 Team leaders and 2 volunteers

“I really REALLY just can’t contain my excitement for the next farm program because I really wanna come again. I love also the teamwork we all put in this community to make a better civilization.”



Farmer Molly with students.

“I was really touched when we were on a hike a little bit ago, and we were walking by a creek. Ella started telling me about the bugs and what you could see in the water and how they were signs of whether the water was contaminated or not. She shared that certain bugs are fragile and won’t survive in contaminated water so they are good indicators of the health of the watershed. I said where did you learn that stuff? That’s awesome. ‘At camp.’”

- Many Forks Farm summer program parent



Meet Sue Wells

Sue has been involved in education since her first summer job more than four decades ago. Her work has always been about cultivating a culture of teamwork and mutual trust with a shared commitment to individual and institutional/organizational growth. She firmly believes the answers all lie within a student, teacher or a team, and her role as an educational leader is simply to listen, connect and ask the questions that unlock their answers for them.

*Friendship Building Self Confidence
Outdoor Exploration Cooking Gardening*

MISSION

Greenagers works to inspire teens and young adults to develop deep connections to land, work, and community. We prepare youth for success in work and life by offering paid jobs and education in the areas of conservation, sustainable farming, and related trades.

VISION

Greenagers envisions a culture of community where young people work together to restore forests and fields, grow food, and build spaces that support natural systems and sustainability.

To realize this vision, we work to get young people outside; working with their hands; talking to each other and their elders; listening, leading, and learning. We believe that this work is foundational and the heart of a culture that values education, stewardship, and community.



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