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**CommonBond Communities**

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To Whom it May Concern:

I started going to the Teen Program when I was in 7th grade. That was back in 2017, and it has been six years since. When I started, I was quite a shy kid. Going through the program and participating in the activities and social problems helped me get out of my shell. When I started high school, I received assistance with any problems that not only I, but everyone else, had. Whether it was education or job help, we got it done. To this day, most of the teens I joined with are still participating.

I was able to get experience working in the Teen Program as an assistant and also grow through the experiences that I went through. Another thing was my involvement in volunteer work, which I am now able to put on my resume and on my college applications. With this, I was able to do PSEO at Saint Paul College for my last two years of high school.

Altogether, my friends and I have benefitted a lot from this program in the long run. We got help and practiced the process of getting jobs, such as interviewing. We all got our first job in the Teen Program thanks to the help of Demetrius Shaw. We worked on projects to make life easier for those around us. Finally, I would say that we are different than when we first started this program; it's more of us growing older and more mature while being prepared for the real world.

Sincerely,

*Ana Jarso*

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