

Healthy Milford YouthWorks Partnership Enriches Participants



“When Maryanne G. joined Nutriforia Nutrition two summers ago as part of the Town of Milford’s YouthWorks program, we couldn’t possibly have projected the positive outcomes this relationship would generate,” reflects Owner Maria Abbruzzese.

“In her first summer, Maryanne quickly became an invaluable asset to our business. She showed exceptional interest in our healthy lifestyle business and manifested that interest through her work ethic, enthusiasm, and natural ability to connect authentically with customers. We were so impressed with her performance and growth that we eagerly and happily welcomed her back for the following summer’s YouthWorks session.

“By the end of her second summer, Maryanne’s contributions (and confidence!) grew far beyond a typical summer job: She asked for more responsibilities and proved herself almost indispensable—in fact, customers frequently asked for her by name.

“During these YouthWorks sessions, Maryanne learned a lot about our business and inspired our entire team through her passion and drive. Recognizing we had a real gem on our team, we were thrilled when she accepted our offer for a permanent role.

“Being a YouthWorks employer partner enables us to give back to our communities and mentor the next generation of workers. But the practical value for small businesses like ours is accessing, cultivating, nurturing, and retaining talent like Maryanne,” concludes Ms. Abbruzzese. “Her story reflects the huge potential YouthWorks unlocks for teens and small businesses.”

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ABOUT YOUTHWORKS: *YouthWorks is a state-funded employment program designed to help teens and young adults up to age 25 build the skills, experience, and confidence they need to succeed in the workforce. The program offers a 6-to-8-week summer session and a year-round option from September to May YouthWorks is coordinated regionally through the MCRWB; programs are managed in Worcester by the [Worcester Community Action Council](#) and in Southbridge by the [Center of Hope](#).*