

**EXPECT**

**MORE**

**WEST END HOUSE**



# MORE THAN A CLUB

At West End House we are redefining what it means to be a Boys & Girls Club. We foster a safe and secure environment for our young people, but that's only the beginning. We're helping children and teens from all over Boston graduate from K-12, and then persist and graduate from college. The vast majority of our young people are living in poverty. They could easily fall through the cracks, but at West End House they are learning about healthy lifestyles and eating nutritious meals. They are expressing themselves creatively, performing in bands and staging plays. Our children and youth are improving their grades and making giant academic strides. They are discovering who they are and how to reach their full potential. Day after day and year after year, West End House is making a difference for the young people of Boston and their families.



**EVERY WEEK  
500 YOUTH  
EXPECT MORE  
THAN SWIM  
AND GYM.**

Number of youth advanced  
to higher levels of art  
instruction

**2 out of 3**

Number of teens employed  
in year-round jobs

**60**

Number of healthy meals  
served annually

**More than  
91,000**



# WE'RE SERVING MORE TEENS, AND THE STAKES COULDN'T BE HIGHER.

How a teen performs inside and outside of the classroom can have lifelong implications. We have created high quality academic and leadership programs that attract and retain teens, a challenging population to serve given their increasing independence and ability to navigate the city. We are now serving more teens than ever before as our teen population has exploded from 36% to 57% since 2009, putting us at the top 2% of Boys & Girls Clubs serving teens nationwide.

## OPTING IN

Teens are coming to West End House because they want to be here. They vote with their own two feet and actively seek out our programs. At West End House, teens are building skills, preparing for college and careers, finding mentors and developing true and lasting friendships.

## WE COULDN'T BE MORE HONORED—OR MORE COMMITTED.

We're proud to have the opportunity to earn the trust of so many teens. We're helping teens not just prepare for college, but thrive on campus in pursuit of their degree, to not just find a job, but to become the next generation of leaders engaged in meaningful, important work.



## A MEASUREABLE IMPACT.

Our programs have proven to be highly effective and are having a direct impact on the lives of our youth. As the numbers below show, teens that come to West End House are graduating high school and enrolling in college at a greater rate than their peers across the state.

### High School Graduation Rate

West End House Youth	MA Public School Youth
96%	86%

### College Enrollment

West End House Youth	MA Public School Youth
94%	73%



# MORE THAN 88% OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE READ AT GRADE LEVEL

## THAT'S A GOOD START.

High school  
freshmen on track  
for graduation

85%

Seniors who  
graduate from  
high school

96%

High school  
graduates enrolled  
in college

94%

### HELPING MORE YOUTH OVERCOME GREATER CHALLENGES.

West End House is a dynamic and diverse after-school program in the City of Boston. We serve more than 1,500 young people that represent more than 40 different countries and 10 languages. With 75% of West End House families earning less than \$25,000 per year, we're truly reaching the children and teens most in need.

### WE EXPECT MORE FROM OURSELVES.

Here at West End House it's not just our young people that are held to a higher standard. We're diligent about staying informed about changes in our industry and regularly attend trainings on a variety of youth development topics. Staff members feel a tremendous sense of pride and satisfaction in the positive impact they have on our youth, resulting in an employee retention rate that is significantly higher than the industry average.





# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following principles help guide both our program development and everyday decision-making. Adhering to these ideas allows us to have the greatest possible impact on the lives of our young people.

## Meeting People Where They Are

Every young person has unique needs and interests. We tailor our programs to match our youths' specific skill sets and challenges. We welcome all those in need and seek out those whose disciplinary or academic record make them ineligible for other programs.



## Long-Term Relationships

Change doesn't happen over night. Youth programs require time to work. For this reason all of our programs are designed to keep children and youth engaged from grade school to college. The best progress occurs when our young people form long-term relationships with our staff.

## Choice-based Programming

We give our young people choices. We empower them to make decisions so they can develop independence. And while we don't require youth to participate in particular programs, staff members are always there to provide guidance based on observed needs.

## Social and Emotional Skills

Success requires more than a diploma. We help our children and youth develop character, tenacity and heart. Our young people learn to respect themselves and those around them, to stand strong in the face of adversity, and to seize opportunities.



## Access For All

At West End House, we believe that support and guidance should be available to all young people. Our annual membership is \$15 and there is no charge for teens. In addition, scholarships are available for those unable to pay.

## Age-appropriate Programs

As children mature, their needs and goals change. Teens, in particular, need specialized programming to keep them fully engaged. We offer age-appropriate programs for all of our members, from young children to middle-school age youth and teens.

## Data Driven Decisions

Caring alone is not enough. To best serve our young people's unique needs, we track their progress using an evaluation tool called WISDOM. We continuously monitor our youth performance data and adjust resources and develop interventions accordingly.



IT'S MORE THAN OFFERING VOCAL TRAINING.  
IT'S HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE FIND THEIR VOICE.

**TASHA** came to West End House dreaming of the stage. In no time at all she began vocal lessons, even taking lead roles in numerous live performances. Through the mentorship and support of our staff, she developed more than performance skills, she gained the confidence and strength to pursue her dreams. Now Tasha's enrolled in the Drama and Dance department at Boston Arts Academy while remaining an avid member of the West End House.



# YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

## RAISING EXPECTATIONS. DELIVERING RESULTS.

At West End House, we offer programs in four key areas. This program offering is deliberate and based on research showing that providing our youth with an in-depth and well-rounded experience is vital to their success.

### Academic Support and College Success

Through one-on-one mentoring, timely academic interventions and partnerships with schools and families, we're helping our children and teens achieve academic success. The majority of our young people are now reading at grade level and improving academically. With our College Access and Persistence Programs and financial aid counseling, more of our teens are preparing for and getting into and through college.

### Leadership and Career Readiness

West End House youth develop the initiative and problem solving skills necessary to become leaders and decision makers. We provide practical, real world development opportunities and are one of the largest year-round teen employment programs in Boston. In addition, we offer civic and community-based internship programs and youth-led community action projects. These hands-on programs, combined with ongoing mentorship and support, help our young people develop the confidence and skills they need to succeed.

### Visual and Performing Arts

Our music, visual and performing arts programs provide our young people with opportunities to develop true artistry. We offer vocal, instrumental, drama, dance, and applied visual arts classes taught by experienced, professional artists. Our youth showcase their talents in museums and performance spaces throughout greater Boston.

### Fitness and Nutrition

Our young people develop healthy living habits that will serve them long after they leave West End House. Through our Kids in Motion Fitness and Nutrition program we provide a nutrient-rich menu of whole grains, fresh fruits and vegetables and lean proteins. Our youth get at least 60 minutes of physical exercise every day through a variety of traditional and non-traditional workout activities including sports leagues and fitness clubs.



# TURNING A LOVE FOR BASKETBALL INTO AN ACADEMIC SLAM-DUNK.

When **KEVIN** joined West End House he was struggling academically and having trouble engaging in school. At first he would spend only an hour a day at the club, but as he developed a trusting relationship with the staff his involvement blossomed. Soon Kevin joined the basketball team, paired up with an academic tutor and was selected for the teen employment program. Later he became a Peer Leader in our Education Center, where he mentored, taught, and inspired our youngest members. When Kevin made the honor roll in high school, West End House staff was the first to know.

## EVOLVING EXPECTATIONS

~~High School Graduation~~

→ College Graduation

~~Academic Tutoring~~

→ College Preparation

~~Summer Jobs~~

→ Career Readiness

~~Arts and Crafts~~

→ Arts Mastery and Exhibitions

~~Music Lessons~~

→ Audio Engineering and Performance

~~Swimming and Recreation~~

→ Full-body Fitness

~~Hot Meals~~

→ Nutrition and Education





**WEST END HOUSE  
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**

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