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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Photo Caption: Maia Hansen, AmeriCorps VISTA at Highfields Center for Composting

**Students learn about composting at Laraway**

Maia Hansen, AmeriCorps VISTA at Highfields Center for Composting, facilitated an engaging workshop on composting for students and staff at Laraway School. Imagine worms and dirt and food scraps, just the kinds of things environmentally-minded students like to dig into.

Laraway School already has a compost program. This workshop inspired participants to think about incorporating compost culture even deeper into educational activities with students.

Hansen introduced participants to the practice of composting via hands-on activities, demonstrations and questions that encouraged students to think of why composting matters. She stressed the importance of closing the loop on food waste. Instead of simply burying it, why not re-invent food waste for a whole new purpose, to fertilize gardens?

“A number of students are excited to build compost bins on site as a next step,” said Cornelius Murphy, Laraway’s Farm Steward.

Hansen presented a tailor-made wagon to Laraway, soon to be debuted on the Johnson campus.

Laraway responds to the needs of at-risk kids and their families by offering innovative, strength-based services through alternative education, therapeutic foster care, and public school based support programs. For more information, please visit [www.laraway.org](http://www.laraway.org).

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*Empowering Youth, Strengthening Families, Building Community*

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