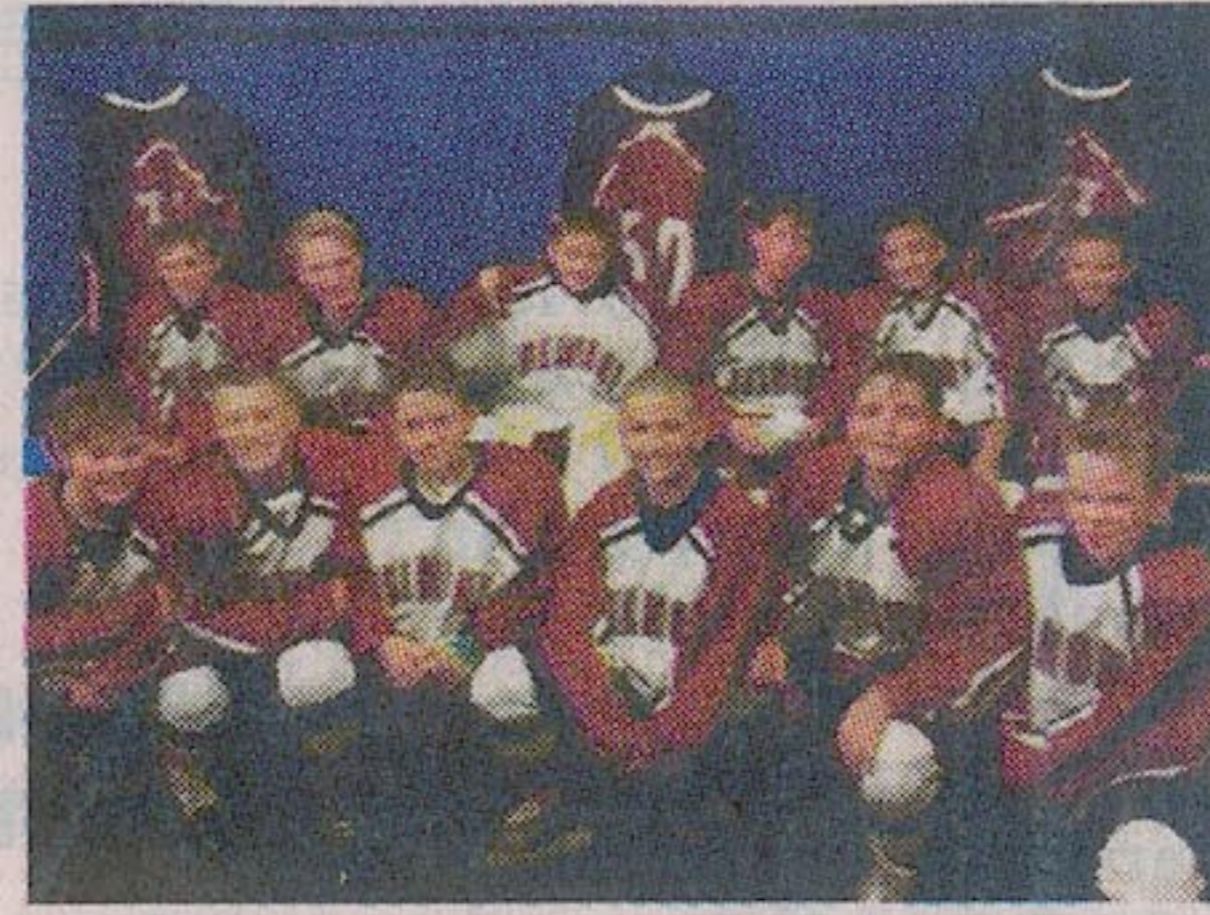




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BELMONT CITIZEN-HERALD

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YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Free neighborhood job board now available to Belmont

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In the year since it first launched in Lexington, HelpAroundTown.com, a free neighborhood job board, has facilitated hundreds of local small jobs, generating hundreds of dollars in earnings for high school students and college students – the age group with the highest unemployment rate.

In 2010, Reem Yared, mother of two Lexington high school students, became concerned when she realized how difficult it was for high school and college students to find the summer jobs they rely on

to save for college.

Yared did her research and learned in Oct. 2009 teen unemployment increased to 27% and is still at 25% today – the highest levels since WWII.

"According to Paul Harrington, director of the Center for Labor Markets and Policy at Drexel University, older workers displace youth because employers think older workers will not have issues with 'dependability and reliability,'" said Yared.

Yared said she was worried that young people who could not get work experience or save for college would start their adult lives with a double

handicap.

Yared knew how to build online marketplaces for consultants and experts. She thought about all the possible jobs people would hire for, if they just knew where to find help for small projects.

"People complain that kids don't come knocking on doors anymore, offering their services," said Yared. "But, we as parents have been telling our children not to talk to strangers since they were little. They're not going to suddenly go knocking on people's doors when they turn 14."

Yared decided to create an online community

job board, where anyone needing help can post a job, and those looking for work apply for it. Free, open and community-based, HelpAroundTown.com has filled hundreds of jobs and has a thousand regular users, from Lexington, Belmont and neighboring communities.

HelpAroundTown.com is designed as an on-ramp to the labor force, with user profiles, ratings and recommendations for work done. The site protects users' privacy, involves parents of teens in the process, and enables people who want to promote their services to do so on the bulletin board.

"Senior citizens love the convenience of getting help with the yard, with snow removal, or clearing basements," said Yared. "Parents love finding a violin teacher for their kid, a high school homework helper for Mandarin, or a sitter. Neighbors find pet sitters and a pair of helping hands. Businesses find part-time help. Non-profits promote their events, offer Community Service opportunities and recruit volunteers. High school students and college students home for the summer have earned hundreds of dollars on HelpAroundTown.com jobs. We've introduced neighbors to each other and have connected communities."

To register or for more information, visit HelpAroundTown.com.

About HelpAroundTown.com

HelpAroundTown.com is a free, community job board that connects people in need of help around the house, yard, non-profit or business, with neighbors seeking opportunities to work or volunteer.

The site connects neighbors to facilitate job creation at the local community level.

In its first year, HelpAroundTown.com facilitated hundreds of local jobs, enabling high school and college students, contractors, homeowners and retirees to each earn hundreds of dollars in extra income.

Users do not just earn income or community service hours but ratings and recommendations, displayed in their free profile, to help them get their next job.