

# Lauren M. Kessen

## Education Endowment Fund for Stars

*Providing long-term support for youth living in CommonBond's housing*



CommonBond's Advantage Services for youth are focused on reducing the barriers to academic achievement. Programs focus on school readiness, school success, community engagement and post-secondary planning. The Lauren M. Kessen Education Endowment Fund for Stars supports efforts to make these youth shining stars.

As a teacher, Lauren Kessen believed that learning is not confined to a prepackaged notion of what education should look like, but an adventure that leads learning to unexpected places. Lauren expected excellence from her students and consistently guided them to embody principles that crossed over from her classroom to their lives. Her teaching emphasized not only mastery of the standards, but allowed students to connect their knowledge to their immediate world.

Lauren believed that students were stars. She was an adept and innovative instructor as well as a learner. She demonstrated excellence because she did what others have complained would never happen—she left no child behind. She focused on solutions rather than complaints, did not see limitations, and set expectations for students at an uncompromisingly high standard and expected excellence each day from every student.

This fund was established by Lauren's family and friends in her memory to create a legacy to her work with children. It will provide long term support for youth living in CommonBond's housing that might be left behind if not for the support of others.

