## Community Lodgings and Me By: Nelsa Tiemtore Gvale 6

At the beginning of 6<sup>th</sup> grade I started going to Community Lodgings after school to do my homework. As a new middle school student I was missing supplies and was trying to adjust to my new environment. I had different homework and different amounts of homework. With the help of the caring staff at Community Lodgings I was able to get the school supplies I needed and I received help with my homework. After I was done with every homework assignment I'd give it to one of the staff members to check it. As result for the first two months of middle school I received A's on all my math tests and my math homework. This was a great start for my first year in middle school. Now I'm more than half way through the school year and I'm still rocking math. At the moment my overall grade for all my classes are an A and I don't think I'd be there without the staff at Community Lodgings. I've done so well in class that, my math teacher has even recommended me for Advanced Math Concepts next year. Even though I do well in school, I still get bad grades sometimes. The staff at Community Lodgings helps me study and encourages me to do my best on the test retakes and to shoot for the stars.

I'm also in the Girl's Mentoring Group at Community Lodgings. I love the mentoring group because of the fun, yet educational activities that we do. For Halloween we had a bake sale at Del Ray's Farmer's Market and that was the first bake sale I had ever participated in before. I enjoyed decorating the cupcakes and helping organize everything for the event. My favorite part about it was meeting people on the sidewalk, telling them about Community Lodgings, and selling our sweets to them. It helped me become a better business woman and have fun too. I also love when there are special visitors at the girl's mentoring group. One professor from George Mason University once visited us to talk to us about college. I was glad to be able learn more about college before I get there, so I can prepare myself for college. We also had a visitor who talked to us about sex and labor trafficking. I had never heard about it before and I was glad to be aware of its dangers and how to stay away from it.

I love the fact that at Community Lodgings we get dinner after school and access to computers, WiFi and printers. The food I eat at Community Lodgings is always healthy and filling and there are always extras for us to eat more or take it home. When I come back from play practice after school I'm always hungry. It always such a relief to go to Community Lodgings and have a tasty meal to fill me up. I love using the WiFi at Community Lodgings! It's very fast and helps me load things efficiently on my computer. I also love the fact that there are printers at Community Lodgings. Most of my teachers prefer when other students and I type and print our written assignments since it's easier to read. I'm glad I can print documents out at Community Lodgings. For National History Day I had to print out everything I put on my exhibit board and I couldn't print it out at school because of a blizzard. Luckily, I was able to come to Community Lodgings to print it. If I hadn't gone I don't know if I would have finished my project in time.

Community Lodgings is important to my family and I because they help us in many ways. They help me with homework, giving me dinner, access to computers, printers and WiFi and getting school supplies. They help my mom by letting her come to Community Lodgings to print out documents. They helped my whole family last Christmas by having a holiday shop where I used fake money to buy Christmas presents for my family. I love Community Lodgings very much and look forward to the future experiences I have with them.