

BOSTON COLLEGE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER NEWSLETTER



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NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER STAFF

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Volunteers are Working Hard in Allston-Brighton!

By Halloween, **300 Boston College students** will have rolled up their sleeves and dove into service projects organized by 13 organizations in our community. This is in just one month's time!

On Saturday, **October 22, 50 students** from the Boston College Appalachia Volunteers spent their day either at **Ringer Park** in Allston, helping with a fall clean-up organized by the Allston-Brighton Community Development Corporation or at the West End Boys & Girls Club assisting with the **Brian Honan Community Festival**.

250 more BC students flooded the community with more goodwill from Saturday, October 29th through Monday, October 31st. Many volunteers were sprucing up the properties of **St. Columbkille's School, the Faneuil Gardens and Fidelis Way Housing Developments, the Covenant House, the Brighton & Faneuil Branch Libraries.** Many more volunteered at **Oak Square YMCA's** annual road race and Halloween parties at the **Honan Allston Library.** And the last event the BC students helped out with and had great fun with – the annual **Trick or Treat Event** sponsored by **Brighton Main Streets and Brighton Board of Trade** on Halloween.



Harvest Season Community Events

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| Saturday, November 12 TBA | Boston College Football v. North Carolina State @ BC |
| Monday, November 14 5:00pm | Allston Brighton/Boston College Community Fund Grant Applications due at the Neighborhood Center |
| Monday, November 14 | Waitlist Conference @ Honan Allston Branch Library |
| Friday, November 18 7:00pm | Boston College Basketball v. Dartmouth @ BC |
| Sunday, November 20 2:00pm | Boston College Basketball v. Shawnee State @ BC |
| Tuesday, November 22 7:00pm | Boston College Basketball v. Buffalo @ BC |
| Thursday, November 25 | Happy Thanksgiving!  |

"Thanks to partners like the Boston College Neighborhood Center, the Honan Fellows were able to provide a day of fun activities, food, resources and entertainment in the spirit of Councilor Honan, to nearly 50 children and their families. The BC volunteers went above and beyond the call of duty, cooking out in the rain, scooping endless dishes of ice cream, playing a four-square marathon, hawking raffle tickets, and painting many happy little faces. We couldn't have done it without them and appreciate your support! Ann Walsh, Program Manager at the West End House

ESOL Classes at the Center

Many of you know the Neighborhood Center offers English conversation classes for non-native English speakers. This semester we are hosting **six classes at the Center** and **five additional classes** at the following community agencies: **Covenant House, Commonwealth Housing Development and the Oak Square YMCA.**

Currently our classes are filled. We will be starting new ones at the end of January/early February. If you want to be on our mailing list for English classes, please sign up on our website.



In response to the many immigrants awaiting ESOL classes in the Allston-Brighton community, the Allston-Brighton Adult Education Coalition received a grant from the BC community to host a number of **'Waitlist Conferences'** in our neighborhood. On **November 14**, the Coalition will sponsor its fourth conference. The purpose of the conference is to ensure people they have not been forgotten and to provide them with literacy resources including an Oxford Picture Dictionary. For more information, please contact our office.

Applications for the Allston-Brighton/Boston College Community Fund are available!

You can access the application online at our website or come by the office for a copy. Please note: **Applications are due by Monday, November 14 at 5:00pm at the Neighborhood Center.**

Grants up to \$2,500 are distributed each fall and spring to community organizations involved in educational or beautification projects. Organizations are eligible to one award per year. The next cycle for the \$25,000 grant will be spring 2007.

For information, please come visit our office at 425 Washington Street Brighton Center.
Our Hours are: Monday-Friday 12noon-5:00pm

Or contact us at 617-552-0445 or visit our Web site: www.bc.edu/neighborhood, or e-mail us at: bnc@bc.edu

Boston College, Children and Families

Boston College has many partnerships with Allston-Brighton, but two partnerships that work to provide school-aged children and their families with increased opportunities are **Boston Connects and Boston Catholic Schools CONNECT.** These two initiatives bring together schools, community agencies and Boston College together to build comprehensive services to improve academic achievement and to support the children and families of Allston-Brighton and Mission Hill. If you would like to find out more about either of these initiatives, please contact Dr. Mary Walsh at Boston College's Lynch School of Education at 617-552-8973 or at mary.walsh@bc.edu or Laraine Wilson at Boston Connects at 617-635-6666 or Julie Sayles at Boston Catholic Schools CONNECT at 617-254-3110.

Community Classes

Thinking about buying a new home? The Allston-Brighton Community Development Corporation is sponsoring **home buying classes** in November. Contact the CDC at 617-787-3874 ext 35.

If you are interested in becoming an American citizen or know someone who is, a **citizenship preparation class** is being offered at The Literacy Connection. Please contact Sr. Pat Andrews at 617-746-2100.

Since 2001, Massachusetts has had the lowest **Food Stamp participation** in the U.S. The Allston-Brighton Healthy Boston Coalition in collaboration with Greater Boston Legal Services is hosting a training and community meeting on **Tuesday, November 15 from 1:30-3:30 at the Honan-Allston Branch Library.** Come learn how to determine eligibility for your clients, neighbors and patients. Questions or to RSVP call 617-782-3886.

Boston College is sponsoring a **free Kaplan SAT preparation course** for residents of Allston and Brighton at St. Columbkille School. Currently the course is full and there is a waitlist. For questions or more information, please call 617-552-4787.

We have created this newsletter as a means to keep our community updated on the Neighborhood Center's efforts in the Allston Brighton community. Please call us with any questions or comments.