During the months of September and October, the Boston College Neighborhood Center has been a hub of activity! We’ve been busy at our storefront office in Brighton Center starting up our service programs for the fall semester. Here’s a glimpse of what we’ve been up to:

Our Tutoring Program Staff, Catherine Sullivan and Annie McNamara have already coordinated over seventy-five children with Boston College students for one on one tutoring once per week on the Boston College campus and its only October! Our ESOL Coordinator, Chris Montecillo has organized about forty Boston College students to teach English to ELL (English Language Learner) adults or children who live, work or attend school in the Allston Brighton community. Classes are held at the Neighborhood Center or at the following sites in the neighborhood: in Covenant House, Commonwealth Housing Development, Joseph Smith Community Health Center, St. Columbkille Partnership School & Trinity Catholic High School.

Our Read Boston Coordinator, Katie Carrick, recruits BC students who have Federal Work Study eligibility to work with children at four local schools, Jackson Mann K-8 School, Edison K-8 School, Winship School and St. Columbkille Partnership School. Through this program Boston College students are able to help children in the classroom setting. We currently have approximately 60 BC students working through the Read Boston program.

Our three co-directors for the BC Chapter of the Strong Women, Strong Girls Program, Alexis D’Angelo, Caitlin Fentzlaff & Kelly Cannon have recruited and coordinated twenty Boston College undergraduate women as mentors for the BC Chapter of the national program, Strong Women, Strong Girls. The BC SWSG mentors meet weekly with 72 third, fourth & fifth graders at the Edison, Gardner, St. Columbkille Partnership & Winship Schools and the Jackson Mann Community Center and the West End Boys & Girls Club. Weekly lessons include: Cultural Sensitivity, Lifelong Learning, Critical Thinking, Goal Setting and much more.

On October 16th, the BC SWSG hosted 30 girls at Boston College for the annual BC SWSG Field Trip! The theme this year was Unique Talents and Abilities. Girls and mentors met with the BC Women’s Soccer Team, painted pumpkins, decorated cookies, were entertained and sang songs with the BC women’s a cappella group, The Sharps and had pizza, all on the Boston College campus!

We are very fortunate to have our wonderful volunteers! We couldn’t do what we do without you!

Each semester, hundreds of BC students volunteer in the Allston Brighton community. On Saturday, October 8th students could be seen cleaning up Ringer Park. On Friday, October 29th volunteers were tending to trick or treaters in Brighton Center and on Saturday, October 30th, they were helping out at the Oak Square Y’s annual Road Race. On Saturday, November 6th many more volunteers could be seen at the following organizations: St. Columbkille Partnership School, Brighton Main Streets, Commonwealth Housing Development, Faneuil Gardens Housing Development, Faneuil Library, Covenant House, West End Boys & Girls Club, Veronica Smith Senior Center and the Oak Square Y. Additionally on November 6th, in honor of Veterans Day, Boston College volunteers were cleaning Veteran Memorials around Allston Brighton. Two Boston College students were photographed as they cleaned, see photo to the left! An article was written in the Allston Brighton TAB.
**BCNC CALENDAR**

### November

- **Saturday, 11/6**: Service Day in Allston & Brighton
- **Thursday, 11/8**: H.E.A.R Program at Jackson Mann K-8 School
- **Monday, 11/8**: BC Athletes visit Franciscan Children's Hospital
- **Wednesday, 11/17**: H.E.A.R Program at Mary Lyon School
- **Tuesday, 11/16**: Food for Families at Commonwealth Housing Development
- **Friday, 11/19**: AB/BC Community Applications Due by 5pm
- **Thursday, 11/25-Friday, 11/26**: Boston College Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

### December

- **Friday, 12/3**: H.E.A.R Program at Gardner Pilot Academy
- **Thursday, 12/9**: BC Athletes visit Franciscan Hospital
- **Thursday, 12/9**: 6th Annual Fair Trade Holiday Sale at Boston College
- **Monday, 12/13**: H.E.A.R Program at Winship K-8 School
- **Monday, 12/13**: BC Athletes visit Franciscan Hospital—Annual Holiday Cookie Decorating
- **Tuesday, 12/21**: Food for Families at Commonwealth Housing Development
- **Friday, 12/24-Thursday, 12/31**: Boston College Closed for Holiday Break

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**BOSTON COLLEGE ATHLETES IN THE ALLSTON & BRIGHTON COMMUNITIES**

Each semester Boston College student athletes show their community spirit by participating in several programs through the BC Neighborhood Center. Through the Help Educate through Athletic Responsibility (H.E.A.R.) Mentoring Program, athletes visit a different elementary school each month. On September 23rd, the athletes met with students at St. Columbkille’s Partnership School, and on October 8th, the students at the Edison K-8 School interacted with the athletes. Mt. Alvernia Elementary School welcomed the athletes on October 27th and the Horace Mann School for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing welcomed the athletes on November 2nd. The rest of the Allston Brighton public schools will participate during the spring semester.

This is the third year that the H.E.A.R Program has included the Russell and Winthrop Schools in Dorchester in the H.E.A.R program. The Russell and Winthrop Schools are Boston College’s partnering schools through the Step Up Urban Outreach Initiative. On October 29, members of the BC Women’s Basketball Team visited the Russell School and were greeted by a very enthusiastic school community! The Winthrop School visit will occur during the spring semester. Get ready Winthrop School!

Also on a monthly basis student athletes help bag and deliver food for hundreds of residents at Commonwealth Housing Development through our Food for Families Program. Additionally, the athletes visit children at the Franciscan Children’s Hospital.

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**Sixth Annual Fair Trade Holiday Sale at Boston College**

**Thursday, December 9th, 9:00 am—5:30 pm**

Corcoran Commons

Co-Sponsored by: BC Neighborhood Center, BC Volunteer & Service Learning Center & Boston College Dining Services

One of the Boston College Neighborhood Center’s Justice & Sustainability Initiatives is the annual Fair Trade Holiday Sale. The event is a collaborative effort among concerned administrators and faculty at Boston College who seek to spread awareness of and access to fairly traded goods and crafts on our campus. Maria DiChiappari, Director of the Boston College Neighborhood Center and Kate Daly, Assistant Director of the Boston College Volunteer & Service Learning Center created this event in 2005 with only one vendor. Six years later, the event hosts 15 vendors who sell fairly-traded coffee, chocolate, jewelry, textiles and many other goods from all over the world. The Holiday Sale is promoted campus-wide as an alternative to commercial holiday shopping. All profits benefit two school scholarship funds for children in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

The Boston College Neighborhood Center staff wish you a happy Thanksgiving and a safe and joyous holiday season!