

BOSTON COLLEGE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER NEWSLETTER



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Summer 2004

NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER STAFF

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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.

Trying to stay cool this summer?

Boston College's Flynn Recreation Complex Pool is open and free for Allston Brighton residents all summer long (last day is August 20)! Spend the day swimming, having lunch on the patio and enjoying the sun. Each summer 1200 Allston Brighton residents have access to BC's recreation facilities. If you haven't taken advantage of this opportunity, there's still plenty of time. The pool is open Monday through Friday at 6:30am and closes at 8:30pm. (Exception: On Wednesdays, the pool opens at 10:30am.) Participants must sign-up in advance through BC's Office of Government and Community Affairs. Call 617-552-4787 for details.

Summer Opportunities

The Neighborhood Center has information on summer programs in the community for those who are seeking opportunities for children and families. Everything from Irish Dancing and Hip Hop to speakers, exhibits at local branch libraries to local walking clubs!

Upcoming Community Events!

Wednesday, July 21 4:00pm	AB/BC Community Fund Grant Reception @ Greenhouse Cafe
Thursday, July 22 5:00pm	Garden Party @ Brighton Branch Library

9000 Hours of Service to Allston Brighton

Over 250 BC students donated over **1000 hours** of volunteer service this academic year in service projects alone. Undergraduate students from BC's Appalachia Volunteers to Law & MBA graduate students participated in service projects that ranged from planting flowers in Brighton Center and Allston Village; painting a new community room at Fanueil Gardens Housing Development; fall clean-ups at Our Lady of Presentation, St. Columbkille's and St. Anthony's schools; grounds clean-up at the Brighton Branch Library & Commonwealth Housing Development; volunteered for the Oak Square YMCA's annual road race and the Irish Immigration Center's fall carnival.



Tutoring/Mentoring Programs

This past academic year **3200 hours of tutoring** was shared by 80 local children with their BC student volunteer. **4000 hours** of tutoring were donated to children at the Winship and Hamilton Elementary Schools thorough our **ReadBoston** program. **800 hours** of **English classes** for immigrants were offered at the Neighborhood Center and at other sites in the Allston Brighton neighborhood. **150 hours** were donated by BC student athletes who visited 12 elementary schools in Allston Brighton to mentor children as a part of our **Help Educate through Athletic Responsibility (H.E.A.R.) Program**. And as an offshoot to the HEAR program, this past spring, 35 student athletes from Boston College visited patients at Children's Hospital in Boston, bringing cheer and sharing stories.

Food for Families

3000 bags of food are donated to 250 families and the elderly at the Commonwealth Housing Development each year. Boston College sponsors the program through the Greater Boston Food Bank. Our student athletes volunteer two hours a month to unpack groceries and create shopping bags full of food to distribute. If you are interested in joining us for this program, it runs the second Wednesday of every month from 3-5pm at the Commonwealth Housing Development Community Room. Call us for details.

Other Highlights:

In partnership with the Leadership to Improve Neighborhood Communication and Services Program (LINCS) through the Allston Brighton Healthy Boston Coalition, the Neighborhood Center hosted an "**Open House**" last summer to help immigrants become aware of and access neighborhood services.

This past fall the Neighborhood Center sponsored its **9th annual Health Awareness Project**. Many health and human service agencies such as St. Elizabeth's Medical Center, Joseph M. Smith Community Health Center, the Veronica B. Smith Multi-Service Senior Center, Franciscan Children's Hospital and the Oak Square YMCA coordinate free or low-cost workshops, screenings and health-fairs for the neighborhood.

The **Men's Breakfast Club** at the Veronica Smith Multi-service Senior Center, for whom Moe Maloney recruits speakers, celebrated their 2nd annual "Breakfast at Conte" this past June.

Allston/Brighton-Boston College Community Fund

In the past two cycles of the community fund, **25 neighborhood organizations** received a total of over **\$48,000** from Boston College. Grants up to **\$2,500** are distributed each fall and spring to community organizations involved in educational or beautification projects. The grant reception will be held on **Wednesday, July 21 at 4:00pm** at the **Greenhouse Café** at 425 Washington Street in Brighton Center (right behind the Neighborhood Center). The **Mayor of Boston, the Honorable Thomas M. Menino** and the **President of Boston College, William P. Leahy, SJ** will be presenting the awards to the recipients. Following the ceremony, delicious refreshments made at the Green House Café will follow. All are welcome to attend. The next cycle will be in October, please contact us to be on our mailing list or for more information.

\$25,000 BC Community Grant

In addition to the \$2,500 grants, Boston College offers a **\$25,000** grant every two years for community beautification projects. The recipient in 2003 was the **Brighton Branch of the Boston Public Library**. The landscaping project is near completion and in celebration of the award, Paula Posnick of the Brighton Branch will be hosting a **Garden Party on July 22nd at 5:00pm** on the library grounds. All are welcome! The next grant cycle will be in Spring 2005.



Adult Literacy

The need for adult literacy resources is a major concern in our community. As a result, many organizations in the neighborhood have collaborated to create the Allston Brighton Adult Education Coalition. The coalition is comprised of organizations and agencies who work with adult populations and may offer literacy classes for adults. This past year the Neighborhood Center partnered with other agencies in the Allston Brighton community including the Boston Public Library, the Jackson Mann Community Center, the Crittenton Hastings House, the Allston Brighton Healthy Boston Coalition and the Literacy Connection to create a training for literacy volunteers in the Allston Brighton neighborhood. The training was held on Saturdays in November and in May and produced a total of 40 volunteers. The coalition has also created a volunteer brochure and a brochure of available literacy programs in the community. Please stop by the Neighborhood Center or call us to get more info and/or pick up a brochure.

And the room is dedicated to... Boston College!

Just within the past couple of months, two housing developments in Brighton, with whom the Neighborhood Center consistently collaborates on various projects, dedicated portions of their community meeting spaces to Boston College. In April, Commonwealth Housing Development held a dedication ceremony inviting members of both the Boston College and housing development communities. In June, the Faneuil Gardens Housing Development held a grand opening of their community center in which the computer room is named the Boston College room. We are thrilled to be honored by two great organizations. Thank you!

Need a meeting space?

We have a conference room available for community use. If your organization needs meeting space for up to 10 people, please contact us. Annually, the Allston Brighton Little League hosts its registration at the Neighborhood Center. We are a central location and have parking!

How can we help you? If you have a request for your agency or organization that you think we may be able to help with, let us know! Whether you need students for a service project, a space to host a meeting, some sporting event tickets, access to BC's educational resources, we'll see what we can do.

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Come on up to BC!

Each year, Boston College donates tickets to men and women's sporting events to our neighbors. Whether its children at the elementary schools in Allston Brighton and Newton or to seniors at the Veronica B. Smith Multi-Service Senior Center, we encourage children and families to come and cheer on BC! Additionally, during the Men's and Women's Basketball season at Boston College, children from Our Lady of Presentation School, St. Anthony's School, St. Columbkille's School, Mt. Alvernia School, West End Boys & Girls Club, Commonwealth Tenants Association, Newton Youth Travel Team and Newton Boys & Girls Club participate in the half-time shows and meet BC's mascot...the Eagle!

Other visitors to Boston College this past fall included 750 deaf and hard of hearing students from across the state of Massachusetts and New England for the 2nd annual Deaf Field Day. The students, who are transported to the BC campus by bus, spend several hours in being entertained at Boston College's Flynn Recreation Complex, then are served lunch and are sent home happily exhausted from a day of fun.

Football stadium Astro Turf donated to Allston Brighton Little League

Boston College donated a portion of the Astro Turf from Alumni Stadium to the Allston Brighton Little League. The League used the Astroturf for its batting cage at McKinney Park in Brighton as well to cover the cement floors of the dugouts at McKinney and Smith Parks.

Have some extra time to Volunteer?

During the summer we seek volunteers from the community to continue our programs, as most of our Boston College student volunteers return home. If you have some extra time and would be able to volunteer 2 hours a week to tutor a child or help an immigrant learn English, please contact the Neighborhood Center at 617-552-0445 or by email at bcnc@bc.edu or visit our website at www.bc.edu/neighborhood.



Thanks to our partnering organizations...

Many thanks to the agencies and organizations in the Allston Brighton community with whom the Neighborhood Center collaborates. These established partnerships lead to the proactive and energetic community we live and work in.

Allston Brighton Adult Education Coalition
Allston Brighton Community Development Corporation
Allston Brighton Healthy Boston Coalition
Allston Village Main Streets
Boston Catholic Schools Connect
Boston College Carroll School of Management
Boston College O'Connell School of Nursing
Boston College Law School
Boston College Lynch School of Education
Boston Connects
Boston Public Schools – Cluster 5
Brighton Main Streets
Commonwealth Tenants Association
Covenant House
Crittenton Hastings House
Faneuil Gardens Tenants Association
Franciscan Children's Hospital
Jackson Mann Community Center
Joseph M. Smith Community Health Center
Oak Square YMCA
Our Lady of Presentation School
St. Anthony's School
St. Columbkille's School
St. Elizabeth's Medical Center
The Literacy Connection
Veronica B. Smith Multi-Service Senior Center
West End Boys & Girls Club

For information, please come visit our office at 425 Washington Street, Brighton Center.

**Our Hours are:
Monday-Friday 12noon -5:00pm**

Fridays during the summer we are open until 3:00pm

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

Have a fun and safe summer!



Boston College Neighborhood Center