

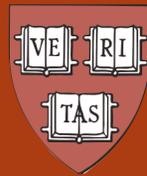
*“Service is a core aspect  
of all we do at Harvard”*

- Harvard University President Drew Faust

HARVARD • COMMUNITY

# connections

2009

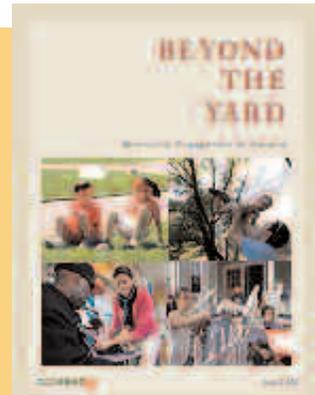


www.community.harvard.edu

## Harvard Community Service Touches Thousands

This issue of Connections celebrates the role of community engagement at Harvard. As a neighbor and integral part of the local landscape, Harvard shares a keen interest in working to help address the challenges that face our host communities. In these pages, you will read about just a few of the hundreds of Harvard programs that help strengthen education and achievement, increase affordable housing, improve health and the environment, increase economic opportunity, and enhance civic life and culture.

There is so much underway that brings Harvard and the community together as partners and only a fraction of the university's local service programs can be described here. Please visit [www.communityservice.harvard.edu](http://www.communityservice.harvard.edu) to explore the hundreds of programs that bring children and families in the community together with Harvard students, staff and faculty every year.



**web  
exclusive**

Check out the new service report, *Beyond the Yard*, on our website.

[www.community.harvard.edu](http://www.community.harvard.edu)

## Service at Harvard

372 years and still going strong

Harvard has been training young people to serve their communities and their fellow citizens for nearly 400 years. The religious and political refugees who founded Boston and Cambridge and the rest of Massachusetts knew higher education was essential for their future ministers, doctors, teachers, lawyers, artists, engineers, and scientists. When the Massachusetts legislature in 1636 empowered

local educators to start a college, no one imagined how dramatically that partnership would help to build our community, our state, our nation, and the world.

Though much has changed in four centuries, Harvard's commitment to public service is stronger than ever. Harvard has continued to educate doctors, teachers, ministers, and other professionals, including President Barack Obama, who has dedicated his life to public service.

In recent decades, service has increasingly been worked into the curriculum and strongly encouraged as an extracurricular activity. Today, many Harvard students begin learning by helping others almost from the first moment they arrive. The First-Year Community Service pro-

gram, for example, organizes groups to work at soup kitchens and the student-run University Lutheran homeless shelter.

The oldest and most extensive public service organization is the century-old Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA), which offers broad opportunities in public service and social action through student-run program committees involving more than 1,800 students and serving close to 10,000 people in Cambridge and Boston. Their work continues year-round, since some students spend their summers running enrichment programs for children in Mission Main and Academy Homes. These programs have been held up as national models by human service and governmental agencies.

More than two-thirds of all undergraduates participate in public service during their time at Harvard. And they are encouraged to continue public service after graduation through an active counseling program centered in the Office of Career Services.

Graduate students do their part, too. Medical students provide free medical care at homeless shelters. Dental students provide free dental care. Harvard Law School is the largest non-governmental provider of free legal services to the entire Boston community through its Wilmer Hale clinic.

No wonder that undergraduate and graduate students contribute more than 900,000 hours of service each year, providing significant assistance to the community.

Harvard employees also help, donating more dollars to charity, through the annual Community Gifts through Harvard campaign, than any other educational institution in Greater Boston.

And these are just a few of the hundreds of ways that Harvard serves its community – read more in these pages, or visit online:

<http://www.communityservice.harvard.edu/>



Harvard Business School students paint a picket fence at the Wellmet Project in Cambridge, MA, as part of a volunteer community service day. Begun in 1960 by students at Harvard University, the Wellmet Project is a transitional group housing program for people with mental disabilities.

Staff Photo: Jon Chase/Harvard University News Office

Harvard has a long-standing tradition of community engagement and public service. Students, Faculty, and staff contribute to the quality of life in the University's host cities through more than 350 programs addressing education, affordable housing, economic opportunity, civic life and culture, and health and the environment.

# HARVARD

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Photo courtesy of Harvard University News Office

On the first day of afterschool tutoring, a PBHA Boston Refugee Youth Enrichment tutor introduces herself.

## Education & Achievement

Harvard links people on campus and in the community to the knowledge and skills they need to navigate a rapidly changing world. Thousands of local children benefit from Harvard's educational outreach programs.

### Harvard students connect with new neighbors

Every fall around 1,600 freshmen arrive on Harvard's campus eager to begin their studies and explore ways to engage with their new community. The First-Year Urban Program sends freshmen to Boston and Cambridge to work on projects ranging from weeding and planting a community garden, to constructing a deck for an AIDS hospice and a playground for an alternative school/family center, to tutoring in an afterschool program for recent immigrant children.

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Staff Photo Kris Snibbe/Harvard University News Office

## Affordable Housing

Harvard has housed more of our students on campus, built new affordable units and funded the development of affordable housing.

The 196 Auburn St. building, built in 1840, has been renovated to include seven affordable apartments for low-income individuals.

### Changing lives by supporting affordable housing

Harvard's 20/20/2000 program is a \$20 million, 20-year revolving loan fund that helps local non-profit organizations create and renovate affordable housing with very low interest loans and has provided \$1 million in grants.

These funds have helped create 3,500 new or renovated housing units in Cambridge and Boston and enabled more than 500 local families to become new homeowners.

## Civic Life & Culture

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Families are drawn to Harvard's rich museum collections, the American Repertory Theater and student performances.

### Harvard Arts on stage each May

Harvard's annual Arts First festival turns all of Harvard Square into a stage.

More than 3,000 student performers entertain crowds big and small of local residents at 225 music, theater, dance, film, and visual arts events. Over the last 17 years Arts First has become one of the largest university-sponsored arts festivals in the country. And all but a handful of these performances are free.



Staff Photo Rose Lincoln/Harvard University News Office

Harvard Ballet Company dancers prepare for a performance at Harvard's Arts First Celebrations.

# D IN THE COMMUNITY

## Economic Opportunity

As the third-largest private employer in Massachusetts, Harvard has a dramatic impact. In addition to employing more than 16,500 people, Harvard offers opportunities for residents to get the skills they need in today's rapidly changing economy.

### Trying on a Harvard lab coat

In a unique program, Cambridge and Boston high school students receive one-on-one mentoring from Harvard Medical School scientists and physicians while working full time in laboratories during a unique summer program.

"Project Success goes beyond being a summer well-spent. It is an experience I will carry with me for a long time to come," said Alexandra Belcher, a Boston Latin graduate who graduated from Harvard College in 2008.



High school student Porsha Eden interned in a lab at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Eden (left) and Zeineb Gadhoun, PhD (right), discuss her internship experience.

Staff Photo Stephanie Mitchell/Harvard University News Office

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Staff Photo Stephanie Mitchell/Harvard University News Office

## Health & the Environment

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Students at Harvard Medical School, School of Dental Medicine, School of Public Health, and Harvard College learn by helping others, which translates in most cases into free medical, dental and health services for local families.

Volunteer Jan Reiss (right), checks the blood pressure of Louellia Benjamin (left).

### Clinic on wheels delivers free medical care

Residents of the Boston neighborhoods of Dorchester, Hyde Park, Mattapan and Roxbury have known the friendly faces of the Family Van since 1992.

Every week Harvard Medical School physi-

cians and students offer free health education, testing, and counseling. When the Family Van began, the focus was helping babies to be born healthy and grow up strong. The mission has broadened to helping patients manage – or prevent – serious illnesses.

Nearly 30 percent of those who visit have a chronic illness such as diabetes, hypertension,

or HIV - and don't know it. But once diagnosed, 85 percent of those referred to a doctor keep their appointments and get the medical help they need. Devika Buhshan, a first-year medical student, spends Friday afternoons with the van in Mattapan Square. "The experience has really helped me put faces and personal stories" to her lessons, she said.

For a comprehensive listing of Harvard's service programs, please visit our new guide to community service programs at [www.communityservice.harvard.edu](http://www.communityservice.harvard.edu)



# Harvard wants to be 'like any other neighbor'

## A Q & A with Christine Heenan

### What is your role as Vice President of Government, Community and Public Affairs?

I see my role as coordinating the external activities of the University with its partners in the community and government at all levels. An equally important part is overseeing communications from the University, and helping coordinate communications within the Harvard community. We have a great team that is committed to bringing information about the University's many offerings to the community. We want to share the amazing education and research that happens here with audiences both in our communities and around the world.

### What is your background? How did you arrive at Harvard?

My background is varied. I studied journalism in college, but also had a great interest in politics. I have worked on political campaigns, in the Clinton administration, and for an international business strategy firm. I went to Washington to serve on the Domestic Policy Council staff. My role at the White House gravitated to one that was part policy, part communications, and really my work since has been at that nexus between policy, politics, and communications. Upon leaving DC, I took a post in government and community relations at Brown University, where I was also a communications advisor and speechwriter. I left Brown full time to raise my two sons and run my own business, until coming to Harvard in 2008.

### What are your thoughts on the relationship between a university and its home communities?

I grew up in the shadow of Brown University, where I later worked and taught. I also lived in Allston while I was a college student in Boston, so I've had the opportunity to experience the town/gown relationship from both sides. I really believe that Harvard University, or really any university, should view itself in a community context as a neighbor and apply the same values and principles that you'd apply to any other neighbor: be helpful, be mindful of your role as a member of a community, and recognize the rights and responsibilities that those who surround you also have.

I've been impressed with how seriously Harvard takes this responsibility. I think the ongoing conversations with the All-

ston community are a real example of that. I've also had the opportunity in my first months here to participate in a Cambridge event celebrating the opening of new graduate housing. Harvard met its pledge to house 50 percent of its graduate students, and also included the new construction of affordable units for the community. That's the kind of thing that makes me very proud to work at a place like this. Universities are watched very closely to see whether they keep their promises, and it is clear that Harvard feels strongly about its community commitments.

### What are your goals for community partnership and engagement?

One of the things I'm excited about with our new service directory (<http://www.communityservice.harvard.edu/>) is really looking thematically at the different ways in which community members can engage with and be supported by Harvard.

And as I look at those areas of our work – affordable housing, jobs and economic opportunity, educational achievement, health and the environment, and civic life and culture – I think making Harvard as transparent a partner and as accessible a partner to our community as possible is an area where we've done a lot of work but we should strive to do more. I think this service directory is a great leap forward in that respect.

### What is the best way for a member of the community to access Harvard and its resources?

I would say there are three things a community member should do to start.

First: Take advantage of the burgeoning number of online resources that can help you navigate Harvard, be it Harvard.edu, be it calendar offerings, or our great new service directory.

Second: Turn to our very responsive, experienced team here in government and community relations.

Mary Power, Chief of Community Relations and Executive Director of Community Initiatives  
mary\_power@harvard.edu



Staff Photo Jon Chase/Harvard University News Office

**Vice President of Government, Community, and Public Affairs Christine Heenan, left, speaks at elderly Cambridge residents at the annual Senior Picnic in the Yard joined by President Drew Faust.**

Last fall Harvard University welcomed Christine Heenan as the new Vice President for Government, Community and Public Affairs. In her role as vice president, Ms. Heenan oversees public outreach on behalf of the University. With that in mind, one of her main priorities will be to look at the ways that the Harvard community engages with its many host communities; from students volunteering in schools to faculty giving public lectures, and addressing ways to strengthen and bolster those relationships.

Kevin McCluskey, Senior Director of Community Relations, Boston  
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Tom Lucey, Director of Community Relations, Cambridge  
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And third: Come to campus, pick up a copy of the Gazette, go to a lecture, see a play, cheer on the football team. There is no better way to access Harvard than by actually coming to campus and experiencing this place first-hand.

## Online events & Information

Your links to many University resources open to the public

[www.community.harvard.edu](http://www.community.harvard.edu)

This is a portal to the University for the community that provides information about events, lectures, campus planning news, Harvard's many partnerships and more.

[www.communityservice.community.harvard.edu](http://www.communityservice.community.harvard.edu)

Harvard's new online community service directory features hundreds of programs dedicated to serving the community, as well as current events on campus and profiles of some of Harvard's leaders in public service.

<http://athome.harvard.edu>

Harvard@Home lets you experience some of the exciting teaching, cutting edge research, and noteworthy events that define and distinguish the University today - right from your home.

[www.arts.harvard.edu](http://www.arts.harvard.edu)

The arts abound at Harvard. Blending theory, practice, and passion across a diverse curricular and extracurricular landscape, see here how Harvard is home to a vibrant and dedicated community which celebrates, interrogates, and practices art.



Staff Photo Julie Russell/Harvard University Community Affairs

## Get in the loop

Email us to receive updates on events, exhibits, forums and more all happening on campus!  
**community.harvard.edu**

