COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Wellesley College and Babson College provide support for the Wellesley Community Children’s Center (WCCC), a private non-profit organization located on land provided rent-free by the College. The WCCC serves 90 children, 48 of whom are Wellesley residents. Thirty-seven children have a parent employed by Wellesley College.

The Wellesley College Child Study Center, a preschool that also serves as a laboratory for students in the College’s Psychology Department, provides preschool educational opportunities for 37 children from the town of Wellesley. In addition, the Child Study Center provides extensive permanent collection, and numerous gallery talks and special lectures, is free and open to the public throughout the year. After being closed for repairs during the past year, the Davis will reopen in the fall of 2007, with an exciting new installation of its permanent collection and special exhibitions. Adjacent to the Davis Museum, the Collins Cafeteria serves light lunches and snacks to those visiting the museum and the campus.

Theater performances abound at Wellesley, which has two stage venues in Alumnae Hall: the Barstow Stage and the more intimate Ruth Nagel Jones Theatre. Productions are performed throughout the year by student organizations, in the Theatre Department, and the award-winning Wellesley Summer Theatre, a professional theatre company. All performances are open to the public.

Town residents are welcome to use the Margaret Clapp Library, a repository of public records with a collection of more than 625,000 books and periodicals. While the library is open to residents for use during the day, borrowing privileges are reserved for those auditing courses at the College.

Each year, Wellesley College provides the equivalent of 10 full-tuition scholarships to Wellesley residents who are admitted to the College and have a demonstrated financial need. Applications for the scholarships, which vary in size depending on the student’s financial need, are available at the offices of the Board of Selectmen. The College opens a select number of its classes each semester to auditors from the town and surrounding community. Auditing privileges are free to Wellesley senior citizens (age 60 and over) and are half-priced for other town residents. Approximately 200 town residents audit courses each year.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Wellesley College campus is used as a recreational resource by thousands of area residents and visitors each year. With their diverse and extensive collection of plants, the 15 greenhouses are open to the public, without charge, nearly every day of the year. The gardens and arboretum contain more than 500 species of woody plants, trees, and shrubs. The approximately 500 Wellesley residents who are members of the Nehoiden Golf Club at Wellesley College enjoy playing on the nation’s oldest nine-hole golf course.

Five years ago, the College completed an environmental clean-up, at a cost of $50 million, of more than 30 acres of land that had been contaminated by its previous owner and which had been inaccessible for decades. The College also cleaned up a portion of the site that is owned by the Town of Wellesley Golf Club at Wellesley College.

The College also partners with the Town of Wellesley’s athletic department to support single-day use and emergency needs for facility and fields use.

CULTURAL AND SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Wellesley College hosts more than 250 cultural and educational events each year, the vast majority of which are free and open to the public. Recent lectures have included human rights leader Julian Bond, public health activist Paul Farmer, and author Jamaica Kincaid.

Wellesley’s Music Department sponsors more than 60 concerts and performances each year, including the very popular Christmas Vespers concert in Houghton Memorial Chapel. The Davis Museum & Cultural Center, with an array of special exhibits, an extensive permanent collection, and numerous gallery talks and special lectures, is free and open to the public throughout the year. After being closed for repairs during the past year, the Davis will reopen in the fall of 2007, with an exciting new installation of its permanent collection and special exhibitions. Adjacent to the Davis Museum, the Collins Cafeteria serves light lunches and snacks to those visiting the museum and the campus.

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SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Wellesley College’s commitment to service and civic engagement is embodied in our mission. The College’s motto, Non Ministrari sed Ministrare (Not to be served, but to serve), is well known – and lived by – by students, faculty, and staff alike.

Through the College’s annual charitable giving campaign, Wellesley faculty and employees make regular donations, often through payroll deduction, to four community service organizations: Community Works, Oxfam America, Rosie’s Place, and the United Way of Massachusetts Bay. In 2007, contributions totaled nearly $106,000, the annual campaign’s largest total to date.

In addition to college-sponsored activities, some of which are highlighted below, hundreds of Wellesley students, faculty, and employees volunteer energy and time on an individual basis in their communities.

At the start of the fall semester, more than 300 alumni, students, staff, and faculty contributed approximately 1,400 hours to 10 different service organizations in the Greater Boston area through Wellesley’s annual “A Day to Make a Difference” initiative. Established in 1997, Wellesley Words on Wheels (WWOW) helps kindergartners in the Framingham Public Schools whose early literacy skills are below grade level. More than 60 student volunteers visit their kindergarten “reading buddies” each week for one-on-one reading sessions and other activities to develop literacy skills. WWOW meets virtually all of Framingham’s teacher requests for tutors, with volunteers working in seven of the nine elementary schools in the district.

Several of Wellesley’s student organizations, such as WWOW, the Chinatown After School Program, Circle K, and Mission Hill After School Program, are devoted to community service. Many other student groups and residence halls incorporate service into their regular activities. Below is a sampling of the many service projects undertaken by Wellesley College students and national organizations during the past year:

- The Asian Student Union held “Destination Asia at Wellesley College,” a cultural day for children in the Greater Boston area who were adopted from Asia. Activities included dance performances, music, arts and crafts, and games.
- Members of Bridge the Gap, a student organization, were mentors and tutors to more than two dozen Wellesley High School students who participate in the METCO program. Mentors met monthly with students and provided support and encouragement through regular telephone and e-mail contact.
- In November, students held a hunger banquet to raise campus awareness of the issues of hunger and homelessness and organized a food drive to assist local community food banks.
- In response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, students and staff have been involved in ongoing hurricane relief and rebuilding efforts in Louisiana and Mississippi. Sixty-three students and staff members helped with relief effort in the Gulf Coast, working with local

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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Subscribe to WellesleyWeek for news and events during the academic year. Call 781-283-2373 for more information.

Additional copies of this report are available from the Office for Public Affairs

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Each year, Wellesley College makes direct and indirect contributions to the town of Wellesley, ranging from payment of property taxes to purchases at local businesses made by students and employees. Wellesley College paid $603,541 in property taxes, making it the town’s fourth largest taxpayer. The College also paid $14,275 in fees for various permit inspections and licenses from the town.

The College works in close partnership with many municipal departments, most notably on the issue of public safety. In the past decade, the College has contributed $267,900 to the Wellesley Fire Department toward the purchase of new vehicles, a new radio system, and the renovation of the Weston Road fire station.

Wellesley College spends approximately $11 million annually on products and services from a wide variety of Wellesley businesses. Two hundred forty-seven Wellesley College employees, whose salaries total more than $18.4 million, live in the Town of Wellesley. The College’s other 62 full- and part-time faculty and employees and nearly 2,300 students contribute to the town’s revenues by patronizing local businesses.

As I prepare to leave after 14 years as president of this remarkable institution, I carry many memories of pleasant interactions and encounters with neighbors and visitors – meeting hundreds of people in concerts, lecture halls, classrooms, and museum galleries, enjoying meals at local restaurants, relishing the beauty of the campus with friends and family. My husband and I are deeply grateful to have had this opportunity and to have been a part of this vibrant community.

Diana Chapman Walsh
President, Wellesley College

I am pleased to present this summary of Wellesley College’s involvement with the town of Wellesley and surrounding communities. For more than 130 years, we have been committed to active participation and collaboration with our neighbors.

Wellesley College places a high priority on being a good neighbor -- through direct partnership with community organizations, financial relationships with local businesses, significant improvements to environmental sustainability, and our beautiful – and open – campus, and through the hundreds of intellectual and cultural events we host each year, the great majority of which are free and open to the public.

Our students, faculty, and employees are active contributors to Wellesley and other neighboring communities -- as residents, homeowners, patrons of local businesses, members of community organizations, and volunteers in schools, service organizations, and houses of worship.

As a partner and neighbor, we have a clear sense of the significance of what we do. In that respect, we feel very fortunate and very excited about the future.