



Massachusetts Promise Fellowship Newsletter

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MPF helps create Yawkey Club and Northeastern Partnership

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Liz (top left) with Northeastern Volunteers and Yawkey Club Executive Director, Andrea Swain (bottom right)

It's been an exciting year for the Massachusetts Promise Fellowship and Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston (BGCB). In the fall of 2009, the Yawkey Club of Roxbury and Northeastern University (NU), both located in the historic Stonybrook neighborhood, initiated a strategic partnership to increase their impact on community. The initiative was overseen by a Massachusetts Promise Fellow who was a liaison between the two organizations. After witnessing the effects of the partnership in its first year, Josh Kraft, Nicholas President and CEO of BGCB, comments that "this relationship serves as the model for how Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston will approach all of our university partnerships."

The Yawkey Club, one of 10 clubs within the BGCB network, is an after-school program located in Roxbury that serves over 1,000 youth annually between the ages of 6-18. In the first year of partnership, the Club expanded its capacity through an increase in volunteers, programs, and professional development opportunities. Specifically, 162 NU student volunteers dedicated 6,918 hours of service to over 300

Yawkey Club members. Approximately 52 Club members benefited from a one-on-one relationship with a NU student through mentoring, tutoring, or group play. Other students provided support through work study positions, while volunteering at one of the Club's annual events, by serving meals in the Patriots Kid's Cafe, or as consultants to help improve the Club's orientation program.

Andrea Swain, the Executive Director of the Yawkey Club, is pleased with the outcomes of the partnership, saying, "The NU partnership is a valuable asset to the Club at the program and administrative level. Our members benefited from exposure to college students, mentoring opportunities, and small classroom instruction."

As the school year approaches, the Yawkey Club is gearing up to welcome new and returning Northeastern volunteers. A new Massachusetts Promise Fellow has been selected, and she will continue to strengthen the relationship between the organizations. Furthermore, Jean Comeau, Director of Operations at BGCB, notes that the impact of this partnership will extend to other communities as well. "Our partnership with Northeastern has not only allowed us to expand the capacity of our Yawkey Club but has expanded the capacity of all of our sites," Comeau said. "We have been able to apply what we've learned at the Yawkey Club throughout the entire organization."