



A Holy Cross student volunteer helps paint a local elementary school

Good Neighbors

Holy Cross has a Continuing Commitment to its Community

Ever since its founding in 1843, the College of the Holy Cross – the oldest Catholic college in New England – and the city of Worcester have enjoyed a strong partnership.

“We know that the needs are great, and we continue to support community development in Worcester and to help meet the needs of its citizens,” the Rev. Michael C. McFarland, Holy Cross president, said in the college’s Community Impact Statement. “I am proud of what the college is accomplishing with and for its hometown.”

From an economic standpoint, Holy Cross annually injects millions of dollars into the Worcester-area economy in salaries, spending by students, faculty, staff and campus visitors, and in the goods and services the college purchases from local businesses.

Holy Cross has a direct economic impact of approximately \$60 million a year, and an indirect impact on its hometown of an additional \$45 million, according to college officials. In addition, in the 2005-2006 academic year the college provided \$1.24 million in financial aid to help Worcester students attend Holy Cross.

Perhaps the most visible and talked-about partnership is Hanover Insurance Park at Fitton Field, the summer home of the Worcester Tornadoes professional baseball team. Holy Cross collaborated with the city to bring the team to Worcester in 2005 and provides the park rent-free to the team. The team and its loyal fans have generated important economic benefits for the city.

In other strategic partnerships, Holy Cross’ investment of \$25,000 secured grants to increase the capacity of the South Worcester Neighborhood Improvement Corporation (SWNIC) to address housing, economic development and quality-of-life

issues. The college also guaranteed two loans totaling \$1.4 million to SWNIC, enabling it to build 12 condominiums – now home to families who otherwise could not have afforded to live there.

Holy Cross has invested in development plans for Cookson Park, an overgrown, underutilized 19-acre parcel of land in the College Hill neighborhood. In addition, the college is working on plans for a mixed-use development on its four-acre site at Southbridge and College streets, which Holy Cross sees as a strategic part of the vision to enhance the Southbridge Street corridor as a gateway to Worcester and generate tax revenues.

The college also benefits the city in many other ways. Its Grounds Department regularly maintains several city-owned parcels of land, landscapes the War Memorial and several other areas, and plows a number of local streets in wintertime. It also donated three acres to the city to build a new fire station.

In addition, a Holy Cross computer lab is used in tutoring local students for the MCAS tests and its campus libraries are open to the public for research. Holy Cross has programs to prepare Worcester students for college, runs diversity seminars for public school teachers and donates used scientific and computer equipment to local schools. Used furniture also is given to area shelters and social service agencies.

Holy Cross students, faculty members and staff are active as community volunteers. They help in fundraising for local social service organizations and are involved in a wide range of other activities, from renovating a local Boys and Girls Club to selling shamrocks to benefit Muscular Dystrophy research.

For more information on Holy Cross’ community impact in Worcester, visit www.holycross.edu, go to the A-Z site index and click on *Community Service Report: Holy Cross in the Community*.