

Brooks School Makes Major Economic and Social Contributions Locally



Brooks School has a proud history of economic and social contributions to North Andover and the surrounding communities that dates back to its founding.

The school's first headmaster, Frank Davis Ashburn, held a seat on the local School Committee for decades and helped shape curriculum and policy. He also spearheaded a number of initiatives that benefited the school and the town.

Today, Brooks School continues to provide major economic and social contributions to North Andover and the surrounding towns:

- In 2008 the school made purchases of more than \$350,000 from North Andover businesses and more than \$2.3 million from area vendors and contractors.
- Students, visiting parents, alumni and employees annually spend more than \$100,000 in North Andover.

The school also pays for many town services it receives:

- In 2008, it paid \$24,000 for trash hauling fees and \$140,000 for water and sewer.
- The school and its campus residents paid \$7,500 in local excise tax to North Andover in 2008.

In addition to its faculty and staff members living on campus, the school employs 110 residents of North Andover and neighboring communities. Its employees paid Massachusetts \$396,000 in state income tax in 2008, a portion of which is paid back to North Andover by the state.

Brooks School also is a major contributor to civic and community organizations:

- In 2008 the school donated a \$12,000 construction bond back to North Andover, which the town will use to fund this year's July 4th celebration.
- In 2006 the school made a gift of cash equivalent to the cost of two cruisers to North Andover Police Department.
- Gift certificates toward two-week summer camp sessions are regularly donated to raffles to benefit local churches and other community groups.
- Two hours of ice time each Sunday evening in the Brooks Rink are provided free of charge to North Andover Parks and Recreation in skating season.
- In the past four years, the summer camp swim-a-thon has raised \$36,300 for charity, including the Red Cross of the Merrimack Valley Disaster Relief.
- Fitness room equipment was donated to the Lawrence Housing Community Club in the winter of 2006.
- Cash donations are made annually to the North Andover Fire Department and Lawrence General Hospital.

This year, while 12 Brooks School faculty children attend local public schools, 37 North Andover students attend Brooks. This results in a net saving of \$194,000 to the town.

Brooks School provides need-based scholarships worth \$2.27 million to 21 percent of its student body, including many from North Andover and other towns in the area.

Intangible Benefits

In addition to the financial benefits, Brooks provides important intangible benefits to the community that make it a more attractive place to live and have a positive impact on housing values.

The school preserves extensive open space and wetlands, and protects almost a half-mile of shoreline on Lake Cochichewick, the town's reservoir, from development. The Brooks summer camp program provides fun for hundreds of area youngsters, and the swim and tennis club is available to local residents during the summer.

Use of Facilities

Brooks School also lends its facilities to a long list of sports teams for free or extremely reduced rates, including the local high school varsity basketball team, Boosters Basketball, the North Andover Little League, and a wide range of soccer, squash, basketball, rowing and lacrosse programs.

The Robert Lehman Art Center welcomes the general public and invites groups from nearby nursing homes to visit its many exhibits throughout the year.

A variety of community and civic organizations also benefit from the community spirit of the Brooks faculty and staff. One staff member is a volunteer and founding member of the Clean River Project, which is working on the cleanup of the Merrimack River. A faculty member founded a town youth lacrosse program.

Faculty & Students

Other faculty and staff members serve as wrestling and lacrosse coaches, Girl Scout and Cub Scout leaders, Red Cross instructors and basketball referees for community groups. One faculty member coaches a creative problem-solving team at a local public school; another runs a soup van for Lazarus House.

Brooks students also understand the importance of community service.

Student groups regularly raise money for Lazarus House Ministries, Esperanza Academy, the MSPCA, the Northeast Animal Shelter and the Lawrence Girls' and Boys' Club.

Brooks students conducted a food drive for a North Andover food pantry and donated \$300 to the pantry this fall. They also helped establish a computer literacy program for senior citizens that now meets weekly on the Brooks campus for tutoring by students.

Brooks students visit nursing homes, sing for local groups, volunteer at a therapeutic riding program for children and adults with disabilities and raise money for a variety of charities.

Every week Brooks students visit several programs in Lawrence, including the Boys and Girls Clubs, Bellesini Academy Charter School and Esperanza Academy, where they assist with homework, teach basic academic skills, provide constructive support and serve as role models for the children.