



GOOD NEIGHBORS

Report Shows Assumption College's Community Commitment

Assumption College has a powerful partnership with the community that benefits not only its students, but also local residents, schools and businesses.

"While Assumption is considered a small college, our contributions to Worcester cast a wide net," says President Francesco C. Cesareo in *Our Community Investment: Transforming Lives*, the college's new Community Benefits Report.

The report outlines Assumption's significant financial and social impact on Worcester and surrounding communities. During 2010 to 2011, the college:

- Spent \$8.4 million with local vendors
- Provided shuttle bus service, at a cost of \$10,000, for students to patronize local businesses
- Paid \$265,000 in water and sewer usage taxes and \$42,000 in city property taxes
- Employed nearly 500 local faculty and staff members
- Provided \$5.5 million in institutional aid that enabled Worcester County students to attend Assumption, including \$1.4 million for Worcester students

In addition, over the last 10 years Assumption has spent \$38 million on capital improvements. Its campus also is a city polling place and the location for a range of community activities – from athletic clinics to performances by the Worcester Children's Chorus. Worcester County residents are encouraged to attend cultural events on campus, often at no charge.

Nearly 200 youngsters take part every year in the Summer Olympics held at Assumption by Worcester's YouthNet program. Specialized continuing education and programming for local senior citizens is offered through the Worcester

Institute for Senior Education (WISE). Nearly 500 senior citizens enroll every year in noncredit courses in most major academic disciplines.

The city's Hanover Theater for the Performing Arts receives \$25,000 annually from Assumption, and the Lincoln Square Adopt-an-Island Project benefits from a \$2,750 payment every year.

In addition, Assumption works with public and Catholic schools and programs in the city and Greater Worcester to improve education in the classroom and after-school programs.

Local teachers benefit from professional workshops and tuition discounts. Student teachers work in elementary, middle and high schools, and faculty members provide support, consultations and a range of other services to help local teachers learn and grow. Their research also improves education in the community and beyond.

Community service also is part of the curriculum and part of the students' lives.

Last year, Assumption's 2,750 undergraduate, graduate and continuing education students spent an impressive 115,000 hours volunteering in and around Worcester. They reached out to numerous agencies, ranging from the annual food drive at the Worcester County Food Bank to the Special Olympics.

Paul Belsito, Assumption's executive assistant for government and community relations, and John J. Spillane, MANS&C legislative counsel, made a presentation on the college's Community Benefits Report at a recent AISNE meeting. Their presentation, as well as a link to the full text of the report, are available on the MANS&C website, www.mansac.org.