

Generations  
INCORPORATED



*Bringing Experience Corps to Greater Boston*

# 2008 annual report



## Getting Things Done in Boston

Dear Friends,

Our award-winning work has once again resulted in significant improvements in the literacy skills of 2,668 Boston children. We needed a small army to do this. In 2008, 354 Experience Corps members and 31 full time AmeriCorps State and VISTA members volunteered to serve our organization.

As a result, the average child received over 30 hours of academic mentoring, which increased their literacy skills 2.2 reading levels, more than twice the increase of children who did not participate. We hope you will take a few moments to read about our programs in the following pages, and the impressive results we achieved.



*Breyanna Callell catches some time to read a good book!*

Service is at the heart of our mission. By engaging people of all ages as volunteers to strengthen our community, we have been able to dramatically impact children's literacy while building strong, lasting intergenerational relationships. We expect and get results. Collectively our volunteers donated 115,719 hours of service. Their volunteer time, valued at the in-kind rate of \$20/hour, represents a \$2,314,380 gift to Boston.

In return, our volunteers receive excellent training, on-site support, recognition, leadership opportunities, and feedback about their impact. But more than anything else, our volunteers develop meaningful relationships with the children they serve, and it's very hard to put a price on that.

We are getting things done in Boston and surrounding communities. We are very excited about our expansion into Revere in the fall. There is much more work to do. None of it would be possible without the support from our incredible volunteers, donors, friends, partners, and our staff and Board of Directors.

We look forward to your continued support and thank you for your confidence in us.

Mary Gunn  
*Executive Director*

John McCullough  
*President*

## A Year In Review: Programs

### Reading Coaches Program

173 Experience Corps Members  
637 Students

Experience Corps members met with 637 children to provide twice-weekly one-on-one reading sessions which focus on reading comprehension and vocabulary.

This individual attention leads to enormous reading improvement. Students who participated for the majority of the year improved by an average of 2.2 reading levels. That's more than double the improvement students normally achieve without any special intervention.

### Lunchtime/After-School Mentor Program

80 Experience Corps Members  
148 Students

In our mentoring programs fourth and fifth grade students met with their Experience Corps mentor once per week either during lunch or after school. The pairs built deep relationships while participating in the following student-centered activities: ice-breakers, word games, long-term writing projects, seasonal activities, and arts and crafts activities. Teachers and after school administrators worked with mentors to identify the needs and goals of each student. By being a trusted mentor and an active listener, each member encouraged their student to develop good social and academic skills, responsible values, and a positive identity.

### Classroom Literacy Program

83 Experience Corps Members  
80 Classrooms (1,760 Students)

Our members served in classrooms during the 90-minute Language Arts instruction period to help small groups of students perform assigned coursework. In Kindergarten, members served three days per week, two hours per day, helping young children to gain pre-literacy and oral communication skills. In grades 1-5, members engaged small groups of students in literacy activities and group discussions. This small group approach to instruction effectively doubled the amount of adult attention each child received this year.

In 2008, we piloted the Kindergarten Program. As our youngest students embarked on a lifetime of learning our members engaged them in healthy play and oral language development. We're happy to report that of the 80 classrooms we served this year, 23 were Kindergarten classrooms. Teachers and volunteers alike are thrilled with the program's success and look forward to its expansion in the coming years.

### INCOME/EXPENSE REPORT

Unaudited | Year Ending June 30, 2008

#### INCOME

Government	\$664,853
Foundations/Corporate Giving	\$826,471
Individuals	\$79,601
Site/Sub-Grantee Fees	\$38,665
In-Kind Contributions	\$750,000
Miscellaneous	\$2,612
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,362,202</b>

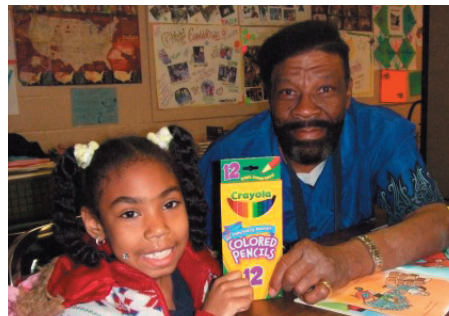
#### EXPENSES

Staff Salaries	\$548,337
AmeriCorps / VISTA Stipends	\$390,044
Experience Corps Stipends	\$223,369
Consultants	\$11,578
Benefits & Taxes	\$138,269
Program Expenses	\$47,155
Facilities Expenses	\$101,105
Office Administration Expenses	\$37,890
In-Kind Expenses	\$750,000
Other Expenses	\$93,718
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,341,465</b>

**Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets** \$20,737

*"I never imagined what an impact I could have on a child's life by volunteering just a few hours a week. I also had no idea what an impact it would have on me."*

Wendell Williams  
Experience Corps Member, 2008



A huge thank you to our outgoing board president John A. McCullough who served in that role for nearly 10 years.

Welcome, Sam Levine our new president, who has served on the board for 5 years.

### Board of Directors

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Experience Corps Member

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### Honorary Committee

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Peri Smilow

## Other Initiatives

### Family Outreach

Over 1,870 children and over 420 family members participated in 48 community service and family outreach activities. Below is a brief description of a sampling of these activities.

- In the spring, we hosted *Ready to Read!*, a read-a-thon at the Nathan Hale school and over 100 students participated. Over the course of three weeks Grades K-2 read 1,690 books and Grades 3-5 read 41,400 minutes. The read-a-thon culminated with a family event to recognize student achievement and to award prizes to top readers and fund raisers.

- At the Mission Hill school the community came together to create a portable mural. The mural expresses the value of literacy and mentoring in a creative and artistic way. During the spring months the mural traveled to various community events showcasing the efforts of the school and the project. The mural now lives in the library at the school as an inspiration to students, volunteers, and teachers.

### The Math and Literacy Project

In collaboration with Boston Partners in Education, we served an additional 123 students in math. Experience Corps members were paired with 4th and 5th grade students struggling to master mathematics. The pairs met one-on-one for at least 40 minutes per week during the school year. These relationships last at least 12 months, including summer contact to deepen the relationship.

### Corporate and Non-Profit Volunteers

This year 484 individuals and corporate employees volunteered their time to help us to create the curriculum materials used in our programs. Together these individuals donated over 1,000 hours of service. Corporate and non-profit volunteers came from Boston Cares, Building Impact, Dana Farber, Deutsche Bank, Fidelity, MA SERV, MC Communications, Squash Busters, Urban League, and U.S. Bank. Thanks to each and every one of you!



### AmeriCorps State and \*VISTA Members

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## Experience Corps Members

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 Sheldon Appel  
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 Mary Austin  
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 Marilyn Barbour  
 Ruth Barboza  
 Fay Barnes  
 Theolinda Battle  
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 Felicity Hoyt  
 Michel Idiokitas  
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 Margaret Jackson  
 Ronda Jackson  
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 Emily Lovering  
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 Catherine Lydon  
 Jessie Martin  
 Helen Mason  
 Johnnie Mae Maxwell  
 Ruth McCollum  
 Joyce McDonald  
 Mary McDonald  
*»passed away Nov. 2007*  
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 Pearl McMillan  
 Agatha McNair  
 Helen McNamee  
 Lynne Menichetti  
 Marilyn Miles  
 Lana Miller  
 Akemi Minami  
 Agnes Mitchell  
 Mary Ann Monteiro  
*»passed away Sep. 2007*  
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 Viola Morse  
 Ruth Moss  
 Alberta Motley  
 Lula Nation  
 Leslie Helen Nelken  
 Lionel Nelson  
 Nancie Norwood  
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 Mary O'Donnell  
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 --  
*Family Outreach Specialists:*  
 Margarita Poles  
 Paula Silbert  
 Mae Tucker  
 --  
*Friends of the Children:*  
 Noelia Cabrera  
 Willie Vandoren



## 2008 Site Partners

### *Dorchester*

Blue Hill Avenue Boys and Girls Club  
 John Marshall Elementary School  
 Thomas J. Kenny Elementary School  
 Lee Academy  
 Joseph Lee Elementary School

### *Jamaica Plain*

J. F. Kennedy Elementary School

### *Roxbury/South End*

Nathan Hale Elementary School

Ralph Waldo Emerson Elementary School  
 Yawkey Boys and Girls Club of Roxbury  
 David A. Ellis School  
 William Blackstone Elementary School  
 St. Stephen's Episcopal Church After-School  
 Joseph J. Hurley Elementary School  
 Mission Hill School  
 Orchard Gardens Pilot School

### *South Boston*

South Boston Boys and Girls Club  
 Michael J. Perkins Elementary School

# Donors & Donations - Year Ending June 30, 2008

## Institutional Donors

AARP  
A.C. Ratshesky Foundation  
Atlantic Philanthropies  
(via Experience Corps)  
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Paul and Edith Babson Foundation  
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Irving and Edyth S. Usen Family  
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Frederick E. Weber Foundation

We're proud to announce  
the launch of our  
programs in the Revere  
Public Schools starting  
September 2008! For  
more information visit  
[www.generationsinc.org](http://www.generationsinc.org)

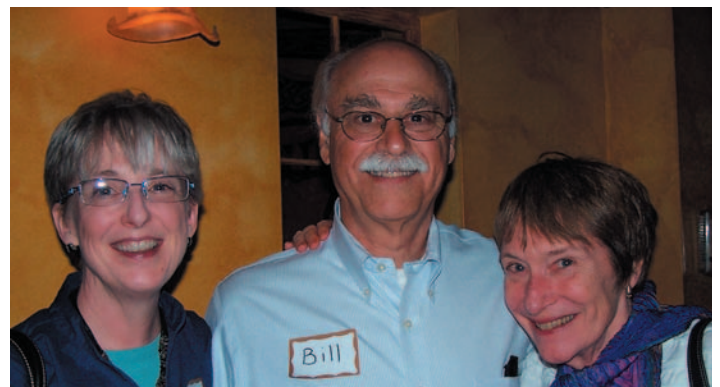
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Candlewick Press  
Cappy's Pizza  
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Champion Pizza  
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Penguin Pizza  
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Rino's Pizza  
Rite Aid  
Stash's Grill  
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Stop & Shop – Brookline  
Stop & Shop – Roxbury  
Subway  
Super Stop & Shop  
Trader Joe's

## In Memory Of

Frances, Robert, and John Gunn

## In Honor of

Deborah Berkman  
Helen Garretson

## Generations Incorporated Staff

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**Julieann Sitler**  
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**Paul Thomsson**  
Program Manager



*Kem Nobles Jr. stands with the grand prize bike he won for raising the most money for Ready to Read! the Nathan Hale Read-a-thon (bike donated by JRA Cycles).*



From left to right, BACK: Annette Norsman, NRTA; Deb Banda, AARP MA; Charlie Desmond, AARP MA; Mary Gunn, Generations Incorporated; Lee Hammond, AARP; Tom Nelson, AARP. FRONT: Sasha Young, Charshara Harris.

## Honors received this year:

- Designated non-profit highlighted at Life@50+: AARP's National Event and Expo
- Designated most impactful \*VISTA program in Commonwealth
- Received MetLife Award of Achievement for Older Volunteer Program Management

## Our Programs Get Results

In 2006, an evaluation on the effectiveness of Reading Coaches was conducted by independent researchers at Washington University in St. Louis and Mathematica Policy Research. Upon completion, WU returned the following results:

“The Boston [Experience Corps] program is effective... Students made more improvement than control students on the passage comprehension measure and on the teacher rating of reading skills ... Teachers consider the program to be very beneficial to students... Also, tutors perceive that their work with students leads to positive change not only in reading but self-confidence and behavior.”

## By The Numbers

- 354 Experience Corps Members
- 31 AmeriCorps and VISTA Members
- 2,668 Students Served Weekly
- 1870 Additional Students Served Through One-time Service
- 115,719 Hours of Service
- 17 Sites
- 4 Neighborhoods

## 2008 Leadership Circle

We thank our 2008 Leadership Circle Members who advise our strategies and shape our vision, and whose gifts of \$5,000 or more help us to continue to realize our mission.

- Andrew & Melora Balson
- Victoria B. & David D. Croll
- Tom & Polly Martinson
- John & Judy McCullough
- Tim Smith & Elizabeth Blodgett-Smith
- The Usen Family

Generations  
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25 Kingston Street, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02111

uniting older adults and youth in partnership  
to strengthen individuals and communities

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