

Generations INCORPORATED



Bringing Experience Corps to Boston



Dear Friends

It was 9:30 on a sunny morning in Roxbury and Thelma Woodson, a 67-year old retired bookkeeper and Experience Corps member, was about to meet with Jamal at school for his mentoring session. She was beginning to wonder if her time with Jamal was making any difference. After four weeks, the eight-year-old still seemed hesitant and unenthused during their meetings.

At the beginning of the session, Thelma explained to Jamal that she was expecting an important phone call and that she would have to answer if her phone rang. This was rare –Thelma always turned off her phone when she was with Jamal. Twenty minutes into the session, the phone rang, and Thelma excused herself from the table.

After a minute, she felt a tap on her shoulder. “Can I speak to that person?” Jamal asked. Surprised, Thelma handed him the phone. “Excuse me, but if you need to speak with Ms. Thelma, please call her on YOUR time. This is MY time.” Jamal said.

That was all Thelma needed to quell her doubts. She smiled, secure in the knowledge that her time was well spent.



photograph by Lena Shauer

Clearly, the time Jamal was spending with Thelma meant more to him than she realized. We measure the academic outcomes for our students, but it is much more difficult to measure the impact of the relationships between the older adults and the children. We have many stories like this that inspire our work.

In 2007, 315 Experience Corps members like Thelma and 26 AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps*VISTA members worked with 2,290 students on a weekly basis. Together they volunteered 95,000 hours of service in Dorchester, South Boston and Roxbury. We achieved or surpassed every program and organizational goal, and we did so in the midst of a rigorous evaluation by Washington University.

Our work will expand in 2008. There are thousands more children who need help “moving the needle” to proficiency. In September, the J.F. Kennedy School in Jackson Square will join our network. We will grow our Experience Corps Program to 350 members in order to serve more children. We will continue our family outreach activities to help parents understand the confusing world of student assessment data. We will continue to find new ways for older adults to serve, and will launch the Leadership and Learning Institute to support those who seek meaningful civic engagement.

As always, we are on the move. We would like to thank all of our donors, volunteers, friends, and supporters for your confidence in Generations Incorporated. We can assure you that your investment in time, goods, and money will reap dramatic rewards.

Sincerely,

Mary Gunn
Executive Director

John A. McCullough
President

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Roxbury Boys & Girls Club
Orchard Gardens Pilot School
David A. Ellis School
William Blackstone Elementary School
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church After-School
Joseph J. Hurley Elementary School

Reading Coaches Program

178 Experience Corps Members
532 Students

Experience Corps members provided one-on-one literacy instruction, twice per week in 45-minute sessions. Every session includes a fun activity that introduced the book and prepared the child for the difficult vocabulary words within it, open-ended questions to guide conversation and comprehension, and creative writing activities.

The individual attention leads to enormous reading improvement. Students who participated for the majority of the year improved by an average of 2.3 reading levels. That is more than double the improvement that students normally achieve without any special intervention.

“The program fosters important relationships between children and older adults, a result that has great value as an essential element to the growth of each student.”

Mildred Ruiz-Allen, Principal,
William Blackstone
Elementary School



Lunchtime/After-School Mentor Program

88 Experience Corps Members
141 Students

Fourth and fifth grade students meet with Experience Corps members to build deep relationships while eating, chatting, reading together, and playing fun literacy activities based on the ideas and interests of the student.

When possible, teachers work with mentors to identify the student’s needs and goals to work towards.

Classroom Literacy Program

72 Experience Corps Members
69 Classrooms (1,518 Students)

Under the direction of the teacher, our volunteers worked one-on-one or with small groups of students, twice per week during the English Language Arts instruction period. Depending on the grade level, Experience Corps members helped students learn letters and write their names, read with children, discussed their ideas about the books, and helped with phonetics.

At the end of the year, more than 85% of teachers agreed that:

- » Volunteers helped students who need extra help with literacy skills
- » Volunteers were effective with children with short attention spans and problem behavior
- » Most of the children improved their reading skills

Nearly 85% said that they would recommend the program to other teachers.

INCOME/EXPENSE REPORT

Unaudited | Year Ending June 30, 2006

INCOME

Government	\$464,259
Foundations	\$740,954
Individuals	\$95,730
School Fees	\$21,200
Corporate Sponsorships	\$23,000
In-Kind Contributions	\$658,332
Miscellaneous	\$2,875
Total Revenues	\$2,006,350

EXPENSES

Staff Salaries	\$487,672
AmeriCorps Stipends	\$207,816
Experience Corps Stipends	\$191,855
In-Kind Volunteer Time	\$634,714
Benefits & Taxes	\$115,846
Program Expenses	\$63,115
Facilities Expenses	\$111,651
Office Administration Expenses	\$47,623
Subgrantee Funds	\$69,213
Other Expenses (including In-Kind)	\$49,206
Total Expenses	\$1,978,711
Increase in Net Assets	\$27,638



photograph by Julianna Sider

“Classroom Literacy volunteers not only double the adult attention and help that our students receive, but they also provide crucial support to our teachers.”

C. Sura O’Mard Gentle, Principal
Ralph Waldo Emerson School

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Community Service & Family Outreach Program

2,735 children and 460 family members participated in 48 community service and family outreach activities. Below is a sampling of a few of these activities.

» During Black History Month at the Blue Hill Boys & Girls Club, students chose a black hero to report about and parents attended to hear the presentations and to meet with their child's academic mentor.

» Volunteers organized a family involvement evening to "Celebrate Reading," with our three South End/Lower Roxbury sites: the Blackstone and Hurley Schools and Saint Stephen's After School Program. Over fifty parents and family members turned out to learn about our program and the importance of reading with children. 125 students received a package of books to start their own home libraries.

The Kindergraten-2 (K2) Project

Born out of a desire for the Classroom Literacy program to reach BPS's youngest students, we just completed a year of research, planning, and experimentation for The K2 Project (K2 is a kindergarten classroom of five-year olds). Several early childhood professionals in BPS and higher education helped to guide the creation of a replicable model that would meet the needs of students, teachers, and volunteers. Young children can easily understand the concept of a good friend—someone they know, like, and trust. In our context, these "friends" will be trained older adults who make a major commitment of time to contribute to the social, emotional, and academic development of young children.

Seven volunteers served in a pilot project in kindergarten classrooms at the Lee Academy in Dorchester where they learned more about the inner workings of a successful kindergarten classroom. A combination of 20 volunteers, staff, and BPS teachers attended a Human Growth and Childhood Development course at Wheelock College.

In 2008, the program will be launched into 20 K2 classrooms in Boston. Volunteers will serve side-by-side with teachers and students to encourage healthy play, oral language development, and social skills.

The Math and Literacy Project

The Project completed a successful second year in collaboration with Boston Partners in Education. Ninety volunteers met one-on-one with 4th and 5th grade students who were struggling to master reading or mathematics. Through partnership, an additional 99 children were served through our Math Initiative.

AmeriCorps & AmeriCorps*VISTA Members

Bunmi Adeeko

Lelitia Allen

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“The training provided by Generations Incorporated is very solid. They seamlessly reinforce our teachers’ instructions.”
(May 2007)

Ms. Kimberly Curtis, Principle
Joseph Lee School



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“Children’s lives are enriched by the countless hours these [volunteers] spend reading with children and working with them in their classrooms. It is evident that both tutors and children benefit.”

Ann Deveney, Senior Program Director
English Language Arts K-5, Boston Public Schools

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“Generations Incorporated uses a unique model which achieves real results for children. I wanted to support a cutting edge program and make a real difference in the lives of students.”

Joe Tower

Lee Munder Capital Group



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We thank our 2007 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.

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The Usen Family
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By The Numbers

315 Experience Corps Members
26 AmeriCorps and VISTA Members
2,290 Students Served Weekly
2,735 Additional Students Served Through One-time Service
95,000 Hours of Service
19 Sites
3 Neighborhoods

2007 Honorary Committee

The first Honorary Committee members were celebrated at the Donor Celebration in March. Pictured below from left to right: Tom Martinson, Peri Smilow, Tom Barrette, Melora and Andrew Balson.



Siamese Sam Sponsorships

Siamese Sam and the Things He Will Eat is a book written by Board Member, Rich Trombetta and illustrated by students at the Orchard Gardens Pilot School. Sponsorships provide a copy of the book to each child, and all proceeds go to our programs. Thank you to the following sponsors:

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

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