COMMUNITY SERVICE and CIVIC ENGAGEMENT at Wheelock College
MISSION
To improve the lives of children and families.

VISION
As a private college with a public mission, Wheelock College strives to be the premier institution educating people to create a safe, caring, and just world for children and families. As we have since 1888, we contribute to the vitality of families, communities, and societies by:

· Educating students who are well prepared academically and as practitioners with real-world experience—ready to be leaders and advocates, confident in their abilities, and sought after in a wide range of careers;

· Advocating for programs, policies, and laws that enhance the quality of life for children and families.

QUICK FACTS
· 222,000 hours of service is provided by Wheelock’s 1,300 students annually to the global community.

· 280 community partnerships in Boston-area schools, social service agencies and hospitals.

· More than 85 percent of all undergraduates annually engage in one or more community partnerships.

· 100% of all social work graduate students complete at least 1,200 hours in community settings during their academic programs.

· 100% of the 26 clubs on campus participate in or initiate community service programs.

· More than 570 undergraduate students have volunteered 171,000 hours of service to 1,126 children in Wheelock’s Jumpstart program.

· 75 students provided 1,600 community-service hours during international service-learning trips in 2013-2014.
We are honored to have received the 2014 Presidential Award in Education on the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll as it is a testament to our founder, Lucy Wheelock’s legacy and an inspiration for the future. I thank our fabulous students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends, and community partners for their tremendous support of the college and unwavering commitment and contributions to service and civic engagement.

When Lucy Wheelock founded Wheelock College more than 127 years ago, her aspirations for our society were the same that our dedicated faculty, staff, students, and alumni strive for today: to improve the lives of children and families. What Miss Wheelock began as a commitment to Boston’s low-income immigrant families—to launch the kindergarten movement and early childhood education nationally—is now an institutional legacy that has inspired local and global action, especially in the arena of community service and civic engagement. Service to others has been a cornerstone of what Wheelock stands for from our very beginning to this very moment.

At Wheelock College, we are committed to working in partnership with others to create a safe, caring, and just world for children and families. Service and civic engagement is an integral part of our institution as we live our mission. Service is woven into Wheelock’s institutional and educational fabric and is strongly supported by faculty, administration, trustees, and students. Historic contributions have included foundational work for Head Start in the 1960s and 35 years of leadership through the Wheelock Family Theatre to make theater accessible to underserved populations. This commitment to service remains steadfast today.

“The one thing that makes life worth living is to serve a cause.”
—Lucy Wheelock, My Life Story, p. 50.

Jackie Jenkins-Scott
Wheelock College President
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Wheelock College faculty, staff, alumni and students engage in respectful, action oriented partnerships with members of the community to develop collaborative relationships that improve the lives of children and families. The College offers dynamic opportunities for partners to learn about resources available and to work with students, faculty, staff and alums. Together, they leverage existing assets in order to identify effective ways to meet community needs, develop the professional skills of their staff members and enrich the quality of life through mutually agreed upon programs and services.

Here is a partial list of some of the community partners in the Boston area with which Wheelock College students, faculty and/or staff work.

APAC Fidelis After School Program
Asperger’s Association of New England
Beacon Hill Nursery School
Boston Area Rape Crisis Center
Boston Children’s Hospital Child Care Center
Boston Children’s Museum
Boston Children’s School
Boston City Hall Child Care
Boston Medical Center
Boston Public Schools
Boys & Girls Club of Middlesex County
Bright Horizon Family Center @ Landmark Center
Castle Square
Children’s Hospital Boston
Citizen Schools
City Year
Clinton Path Preschool
Community Servings, Inc.
Corner Co-op Nursery School
Crispus Attucks Children’s Center
Driscoll Extended Day Program
Echo Falls Preschool
Elliot Hospital (Manchester, NH)
Ellis Memorial & Eldridge House, Inc.
Ellis Memorial Early Education & Care Program
Franklin Square Children’s Center
Gateway Arts
Government Center Child Care Corporation
Greenwood Shalom After School Program
Heath School Extended Day
Hebrew Rehab Center
Hebrew Senior Life Center Communities of Brookline
Hollow Reed School
Horizons for Homeless Children
Jackson Mann Community School & Council Inc.
Les Petits Nursery School

Lutheran General Hospital
Mass. Eye and Ear Infirmary
MGH Institute of Health Professions
Newton-Wellesley Hospital
Nurture Inc.
Our Space Our Place, Inc.
Parker Hill Fenway Head Start
Project Bread
Project Hope Children’s Center
Rainbow Preschool
Rec Place After School, Inc.
Red Oak After School Program (BCNC)
Rogerson Egleston Adult Day Health Program
Ronald McDonald House
Rosie’s Place
Salvation Army Kroc Community Center ASP
Shriners’ Hospital
South End Head Start
Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital
St. Columbkille Partnership School
Temple Israel Boston
The Apple Orchard School
The Children’s Quarters
Partners Childcare Services
The Dimmock Center
The Salvation Army Children’s Learning Center
The Spark Center
The Women’s Lunch Place
Tiny World Preschool
Thom Boston Metro Early Intervention
Tufts Medical Center
Twelfth Baptist Church Afterschool Program
Underwood After School Program
Wesley Child Care Center
Windsor House Adult Day Health Programs
Yawkey Konbit Kreyol Center
LIVING WHEELOCK’S MISSION

Many students choose Wheelock College because of its mission. More than 85 percent of all undergraduates annually engage in 280 community partnerships in Boston-area schools, social service agencies and hospitals through course work, co-curricular clubs and residence activities, practica, and fieldwork. Alumni testimonials and career choices confirm that service and civic engagement remain a priority throughout their lives.

Service learning and exposure to a variety of cultures are an integral part of a Wheelock education, beginning right from students’ first year on campus. The College strives to offer opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to participate in a variety of meaningful and impactful service learning programs, ranging from working in urban Boston classrooms through the Jumpstart program to traveling within the United States and around the world to practice community building in the context of a different culture. Wheelock hosts trips to a variety of international and domestic locations during the school year to immerse students in local culture as they engage in community service projects.

WHEELOCK NAMED TOP INSTITUTION FOR EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE

Wheelock College is proud to be the recipient of the 2014 Presidential Award in Education on the 2014 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement. Additionally, Wheelock has been selected as one of only five finalists in the general community service category.

Launched in 2006, the Community Service Honor Roll highlights the role colleges and universities play in solving community challenges and as a result, encourage more students to pursue a lifelong path of civic engagement that achieves meaningful and measurable outcomes in the communities they serve. Honorees for the award were chosen based on a series of selection factors, including scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses. This is the fourth consecutive year that Wheelock has been recognized by the Corporation for National and Community Service for achievements in community service with a place on the Honor Roll.

I was overcome with pride that the 2014 Presidential Award in Education has been bestowed on Wheelock College. It is during Jackie Jenkins-Scott’s tenure as Wheelock’s president that the College has literally opened up to what it was always meant to be—an institution of higher education that supports learning and community service interchangeably. Countries around the world have benefited from Wheelock’s commitment to service and to improving the lives of children and families. Lucy Wheelock would indeed be proud.

—Lois Mirsky
WHEELOCK COLLEGE, MEMBER OF THE CORPORATION

DEFINITION OF SERVICE AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT:

Service and academic learning at Wheelock are inspired through a committed relationship and collaborative dialogue between communities and the college. There is a strong belief in sharing goals and joint problem-solving in order to arrive at mutually beneficial outcomes for the enhancement of learning experiences. All efforts are focused on improving the lives of children and families in local, national and international communities.
LEARNING AND IMPACTING THE COMMUNITY

Wheelock’s depth of service and commitment to learning begins on campus. It reaches into neighboring communities and lifts up those most in need. Its breadth extends across the nation and world to fulfill Wheelock’s goal of inspiring a world of good and educating students who will take action. Here is a sampling of projects that exemplify Wheelock’s mission in action.

THE MATTAHUNT WHEELOCK PARTNERSHIP

Since 2010, Wheelock has led a bold and innovative effort for an institution of higher education with the Mattahunt Community Center, located in one of the most underserved areas of Boston—the Mattapan neighborhood. Wheelock College was introduced to the urgent needs in the Mattapan community by Former Mayor Thomas M. Menino and the City of Boston. The Mattahunt Community Center was closed in 2010 because of severe city budget constraints. With support and guidance from the Mattahunt Wheelock Community Advisory Board, the Center officially reopened in 2011 with refurbished facilities. The Mattahunt Wheelock Partnership, a public private partnership with the city of Boston, builds upon the community’s strengths, supplements gaps in services, and increases the capacity and sustainability of and technical support for the Community Center. Through partnerships with 36 different organizations, the Center offers opportunities for Wheelock students, faculty and staff to be involved in programs for children and adults. This partnership embraces a respectful, collaborative approach for supporting and building programs and services at a community center serving children, youth and families.

The Mattahunt Wheelock Partnership has served more than 700 students at the Mattahunt Elementary School and more than 200 families in the area. The Center has leveraged 36 program partners that offer a range of activities from youth development and sports-based and enrichment programming to adult ESOL classes and SAT prep. The Partnership benefits not only the residents of Mattapan, but also the Wheelock College faculty, staff, and students who participate, as they feel enriched and inspired by their roles in the collaboration. As a result of the impactful work in Mattapan, the College also collaborated with the Mattapan Community Health Center, Boston Medical Center, Mattahunt Elementary School, and Young Achievers Science and Math Pilot School to open the Mattapan Community Health Center’s (MCHC) Behavioral Health Unit, the first such program serving the Mattapan Community.

“I am thrilled that Wheelock College has been recognized by the President’s Higher Education Honor Roll as the top institution in the country for education related community service,” said Genteen Jean-Michel, Principal of the Mattahunt Elementary School. “We greatly value Wheelock’s expertise in early and elementary education and the strong collaboration with the Mattahunt Community Center to provide ongoing support to the school, such as mentoring new teachers, social work interns, and addressing technology needs.”

UBUNTU ARTS

Housed in the Juvenile Justice and Youth Advocacy Undergraduate program at Wheelock since 2006, Ubuntu Arts brings together youth groups, college students and adult mentors to collaborate on the conceptualization, creation, and exhibition of art-making projects that give voice to social and personal issues of concern to area youth. Ubuntu Arts creates opportunities for active engagement and collaboration that enhance the vitality of youth and communities. Because Ubuntu, “I am because you are,” is about moral kinship and social responsibility, including this concept in the collaborative art-making process serves to create a social space in which a sense of interconnectedness prevails.

ACADEMIC SERVICE LEARNING

Academic service learning and exposure to a variety of cultures is an integral part of a Wheelock education, beginning right from students’ first year on campus. Wheelock hosts learning trips to a variety of international and domestic locations to immerse students in local culture as they perform community service projects. An example of this special integration—practice, classroom, and community service—is the New Orleans Service-Learning Program. Initiated by Professor of Early Childhood Education, Barbara “Bobbi” Rosenquest, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Wheelock made a ten-year commitment to New Orleans through the service-learning program. As a result of an initial trip to New Orleans, Professor Rosenquest, with the help of her students, developed a course that culminates in the week of volunteer service in New Orleans. Professor Rosenquest leads groups of up to 30 students on service-learning trips to New Orleans every January and May. During the trips, students live at a volunteer camp and each morning work at sites to rebuild homes,
often side by side with families who have lost them. Students integrate their community experience with an academic component where they learn about social issues and corresponding public policies impacting families, how organizations respond to community need, and how to sustain a vibrant culture which values diversity.

**JUMPSTART**

This partnership pairs college students with preschoolers in the Boston area to promote literacy, language, and social skills. Wheelock’s Jumpstart site has the largest percentage of student participation of any college or university in the Boston area and continues to be cited as a national model. Jumpstart students work each year with over 100 preschool children at Head Start and other early learning centers in the Boston area. First year corps members also participate in a service-learning class to help broaden their knowledge and reflect on their work in the classroom. Wheelock’s partnership with the Jumpstart program is part of Wheelock’s commitment to academic excellence, community service, and serving children and families.

**STUDENT POLICY FELLOWS PROGRAM**

Wheelock values students as advocates on many critical issues that affect children and families; yet the state legislature can seem confusing and the State House literally a maze. Knowing when and how policy is developed, what factors influence legislation, and key budget strategies gives Wheelock Student Policy Fellows the edge they need to establish themselves as advocates and active participants of the democratic process. Each spring, a highly selective group of students work side-by-side with legislative aides, Senators, and Representatives to research bills, attend hearings and policy meetings, and provide constituent services. The placements, combined with a bi-weekly seminar, give students a broad understanding of the social and political issues affecting their chosen careers, as well as many other issues they might not have considered.

Now in its 10th year, the Wheelock Student Policy Fellows program has served over 60 students. A life-changing experience, the program helps Wheelock students gain the skills they need to become leaders and advocates who will enact positive, systemic change.

**GLOBAL REACH**

Wheelock’s commitment to service learning has taken the College beyond local and national borders. During the 2013-2014 academic year, 75 students provided more than 1,600 community-service hours during international service-learning trips to South Africa, West Africa, Northern Ireland, Belize, Germany, Barbados, and Scandinavia, as well as a cross-cultural program in Puerto Rico. In preparation for international service learning, students participate in a series of vital courses exploring topics such as social justice, community, language and culture, mental health, and anti-bias education.

One of Wheelock’s most long-standing international service learning programs is a partnership with the organization The Early Year’s in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Led for the last ten years by Wheelock Early Childhood Education professor, Dr. Diane Levin ’69MS, students volunteer in childhood classrooms with exemplary anti-bias initiatives in place. In an area where there have been decades of sectarian fighting, students explore how they can teach children and help them to heal. The students bring personal teaching skills and knowledge of child development to this project. Colleagues at The Early Year’s report on the great value of this important initiative as they work towards cultural peace in Belfast and the ability to create peaceable environments in classrooms and communities.

"The [Jumpstart] program has a profound impact on the children's early reading skills. The families are so impressed by how quickly the children learn to recognize not only their name but most, if not all of the letters that are in it. As an early childhood educator, I believe one of the most important parts of development is reading. Whether it is listening to stories, reading them with an adult, or just looking through the pictures, it is crucial in 'jumpstarting' their love for reading and literacy skills that will last their entire life."

—Jen Demetros
DIRECTOR, FRANKLIN SQUARE HOUSE CHILDRREN’S CENTER

"Ubuntu Arts brings together youth groups, college students, and adult mentors to collaborate on art-making projects."

"The Media Initiative for Children in Northern Ireland: Helping communities heal."

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COMMUNITY IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2013-2014

At Wheelock, service learning makes our commitment to social justice come alive for students. It often transforms students from undergraduates into professionals willing to work toward a just society. It is a powerful way to connect academics to advocacy.

—Professor Barbara Rosenquest

30 Houses built or renovated in New Orleans through contributions from students, faculty and staff

180 Students Tutored/mentored

136 Students participated in service-learning

1,400 Books read to preschool and elementary aged children

4,000 community members served by library renovation in South Africa

700 students at the Mattahunt Elementary School and more than 200 families served by the Mattahunt Wheelock Partnership

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