Crossroads Junior Leaders Focus on Community Service

Community service is a huge part of who we are at Crossroads. We teach our young people that it is their responsibility as engaged citizens to give back to their communities. Our C5 Leaders perform at least 250 hours of community service throughout the five years they spend in the program. As many of our Junior Leaders (youth grades 3-7 who participate in school-year programming) will go on to become C5 Leaders, we support their transition to more active civic engagement by teaching the importance of community service. Recently, Junior Leaders spent time at the Hale House in Boston. They played bingo and Family Feud with the residents. They learned that one of the greatest gifts they can give is that of their time. They look forward to returning!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar. 25 – 3rd Annual Emerging Leaders Cornhole Tournament of Champions
May 6 – Duxbury Tag Sale
April 30 – Class of 2017 Crossroads C5 Leaders Graduation
May 2 – 9th Annual Crossroads Urban Campfire
June 10 – Cape Cod Canal Cruise Fundraiser

Learn more at crossroadsMA.org

THANK YOU

Thanks to generous supporters like you, 2016 was an amazing year for Crossroads. Through various events, corporate and foundation grants and individual/personal gifts, we were able to raise more than $2.2 million in support of our mission of empowering youth to unlock their potential and positively impact the world.

Thank you so much not only for believing in our mission, but in our amazing young people as well! Thanks to you, they had an incredible year filled with exploration, planning for their future and giving back to their community. As a valued member of the Crossroads Family, we appreciate that you’ve gone above and beyond to help us envision and achieve a Crossroads that serves our youth and provides proof that when you change a life, you change everything. We hope that you are proud of all that we were able to achieve in 2016, thanks to your support.

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Celebrating the 2016 C5 Leader Class

Serving students in grades 8-12, the nomination-only Crossroads C5 Leaders Program is a five-year summer and school-year program that helps teen Leaders define their leadership style and expand their academic, career and civic horizons.

While it is bittersweet to watch our young people move on, we are proud of each and every one of them, and know their futures are bright. It was an honor to have Massachusetts First Lady Lauren Baker deliver their commencement address in May 2016, showing them that the inspirational work they do does not go unnoticed. As a class, this group performed over 4,300 hours of community service in 2016 alone, and Mrs. Baker awarded 17 graduates with the President’s Volunteer Service Award which recognizes United States citizens who have performed over 100 hours of service in a 12-month period.

“The graduates of the Crossroads C5 Leaders program have been persistent and inspiring in taking on the challenges facing them,” said Mrs. Baker. “In spite of some significant obstacles, these young people have put tremendous effort into focusing on their education while being committed to giving back to their communities and representing the best of the Commonwealth.”

Each has spent a portion of their senior year focused on their Medallion projects, a personal community service project designed and implemented by them to impact the community. In addition, over April Vacation 35 of these teens embarked on a week-long community service road trip to Baltimore that they planned alongside Crossroads staff. It was the largest group ever to attend the yearly trip.

We are so thankful to Mrs. Baker for her work with not just our young people, but the young people of Massachusetts. We are thrilled to share that she will be the Guest of Honor at the 9th Annual Crossroads Urban Campfire (May 2, 2017), and will be receiving the Crossroads Change Everything Award for her dedication to youth.
I look up to Demitri. He’s being a role model even when he’s not leading events. He puts a lot of emphasis on respect for each other.

Mass Mentoring assesses programmatic needs and organizational capacity, as well as provides customized strategies that empower youth, families and communities across Massachusetts. They work with over 250 organizations, supporting 33,000 young people. Recently, in partnership with University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute, they conducted a study exploring the effects of formal and informal mentoring on under-resourced young people. Crossroads was honored to be part of the study.

Specifically, they looked at the relationships Leadership Development Coordinator Demitri Curry has built. Two young people spoke about their relationships with Demitri, and learned that his mentorship has helped foster and promote other relationships in these teens’ lives, including peer relationships, relationships with younger youth, relationships with the C5 Leaders program and relationships with their communities.

Overall, the study concluded that “high-quality developmental relationships across a variety of settings... are critical as many young people continue to face a high number of risk factors and adverse childhood experiences.”

POST-SECONDARY PLANS

With our College Success Coordinator’s meetings underway, our teens are creating big plans for themselves. We know that each and every one of them are capable of changing the world, and it is thanks to your support that we can help them do just that. Below is a list of colleges and programs that our young people have been accepted to:

- Assumption College
- Becker College
- Boston College
- Brown University
- Bridgewater State University
- Bucknell University
- Colby Sawyer College
- College of Mount Saint Vincent
- Curry College
- Dean College
- Eckerd College
- Fisher College
- Fitchburg State University
- Florida A&M University
- Framingham State University
- Franklin Pierce University
- Georgia State University
- Hamilton College
- Hampton University
- Johnson and Wales University
- Lesley University
- Loyola University
- Lynchburg College
- Marymount College
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
- Newbury College
- Northeastern University
- Pine Manor College
- Quincy College
- Quinnipiac University
- Salem State University
- Southern New Hampshire University
- St. John’s University
- Stonehill College
- Temple University
- Tulane University
- UMass Amherst
- UMass Boston
- UMASS Dartmouth
- UMASS Lowell
- University of Hartford
- Year Up