



SERVICE - LEARNING

At Boston University School of Medicine



WHAT IS SERVICE-LEARNING?

- *Service-learning is defined as a structured learning experiences that combines community services with preparation and reflection. Students engaged in service-learning provide community service in response to community-identified concerns and learn about the context in which service is provided, the connection between their service and their academic coursework, and their roles as citizens and professionals.*

- *From Seifer SD. "Service-learning: Community-campus partnerships for health professions education." Academic Medicine, 73(3):273-277 (1998)*

Boston University School of Medicine **Service-learning Opportunities**

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Why is it Important?

Service-learning at BUSM offers medical students a unique learning experience by exposing you to community-based medicine and social advocacy. They encourage the development of professionalism, ethics, and humanitarian values.

OUTREACH VAN PROJECT

Our Mission: To fulfill the unmet needs of the medically underserved populations in the Greater Boston area, particularly with regard to health care and access to services, by providing a constant and dependable resource, and thus establishing a sense of trust, with our clients, while also offering an opportunity for students to learn skills in community outreach.

The Outreach Van Project (OVP) at Boston University School of Medicine was founded in January 1997 by several students at BUSM and the School of Public Health under the guidance of an advisory board and aid from several BU affiliated community agencies.

OVP goals:

- 1. To provide basic necessities, including dry food, clothing, toiletries, and a warm meal weekly to our East Boston clientele.*
- 2. To make concerted efforts to connect the underserved to primary care and other community services such as shelters and detox programs by providing physician referrals.*
- 3. To present students the opportunity to work closely with the underserved.*

OVP provides reliable and consistent care to the underserved, predominately Hispanic community of East Boston, where 20% of the population and 25% of the children live below the poverty line. Roughly half of our clients are Central American immigrants, including largely women and children, who speak solely Spanish and are not aware of the supportive services available to them. Many of our other clients suffer from addiction issues and mental illness, and we aim to encourage them to seek treatment, as well as provide information on obtaining housing. We are currently the only outreach agency serving the underserved community in East Boston.

The needs of our clientele are addressed by medical students accompanied by a licensed physician. We also integrate basic medical screening, including blood pressure and glucose checks, as well as administer flu shots, in order to further provide services to our clients.

OUTREACH VAN PROJECT (OVP)

<http://blogs.bu.edu/outreach/>



a free healthcare organization

THE SHAREWOOD PROJECT

The Sharewood Project is a free health clinic run by Tufts medical students and physicians. Sharewood offers free care to the medically underserved population in the greater Boston. Also the clinic serves as a getaway for individuals without health insurance to find affordable insurance solutions and community physicians to serve their long-term health needs.

Volunteer physicians, medical students, and other health professions students staff the clinic.

All services are provided free of charge and include:

- ✓ primary care medicine
- ✓ confidential HIV, sexual health, and STD testing and counseling
- ✓ Case management services, including MassHealth (Medicaid) enrollment
- ✓ Free laboratory testing
- ✓ Annual flu shots
- ✓ Comprehensive eye exams and Dental Screenings
- ✓ Dental screenings

The clinic operates year-round on Tuesday nights from 6:30 – 9:00 pm at the First Church in Malden. Student volunteers are expected to arrive at 5:45 pm for set-up and stay until the last patient leaves to help breakdown the clinic.

The name "Sharewood" is based on the Robin Hood/Sherwood Forest idea of giving to the poor. The reason "Sherwood" was changed to "Sharewood" because the Sharewood Project is not about robbery and simple handouts. It is a mutual give and take where those receiving health services provide a learning opportunity for the student volunteers; the experience is shared rather than given.

For more information, please visit www.sharewood.info or email questions to sharewood@tufts.edu.

Project TRUST

(Teaching, Referral, Understanding, Support, and Testing)



" We will understand you, support you, counsel you, test you, and teach you...We will never judge you."

Project TRUST is a part of the Center for HIV/Aids Care and Research at Boston Medical Center and offers free and confidential rapid HIV and Hepatitis C testing and counseling services. The staff speaks over ten languages and is experienced in providing counseling and risk reduction services.

The project also conducts educational presentations at treatment centers, halfway houses, rehab centers, schools, and shelters.

Testing is available Monday through Friday from 9:00am – 4:00pm. Project TRUST offers 3 different HIV tests (Rapid Test, Serum Test, OMT), testing for Hepatitis B & C, and STD testing for diseases such as Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis.

Project TRUST also has a satellite site, Project Umbrella at the Dimock Detox in Roxbury.

The project is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Project TRUST
721 Massachusetts Avenue
Boston, MA 02118
617.414.4495
www.bmc.org/hiv-aids

SERVICE - LEARNING

Boston Coalition for Adult Immunization (BCAI)

The Boston Coalition for Adult Immunization (BCAI) delivers free influenza vaccines to underserved (or potentially underserved) populations in and around Boston. This program critically depends on the work of students! B.U. medical students volunteer in conjunction with Tufts and Harvard medical students.

Through the years, the program has proven to be a unique and valuable service to the community in protecting at-risk individuals from unnecessary deaths and emergency room visits and/or hospitalizations caused by influenza and their attendant cost. The program has also afforded the opportunity to provide hundreds of students annually with real world, community health experience early in their professional training.

This organization offers students the opportunity to:

- *Learn to give vaccinations and apply these clinical skills;*
- *Visit neighborhood clinics, nursing homes, homeless shelters, and other patient settings in the Boston area;*
- *Play a direct role in an invaluable public health initiative; and*
- *Learn about public health issues and perform community service.*

In order to administer vaccines, students must attend a training session.



Questions? Contact us!

2011bcai@gmail.edu

www.bumc.bu.edu/bcai

CCHERS Program

History of the CCHERS Program

The Center for Community Health Education Research and Service (CCHERS) was founded in 1991 through a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Its goal was to increase access to and improve the quality of health care for Boston's multi-cultural and multi-lingual communities by developing partnerships between academia and Boston's neighborhood health centers.

This partnership offered the unique opportunity to pool resources, coordinate care, and advance the training and education of health care professionals and students interested in community-based care.

By encouraging cooperative educational initiatives, CCHERS helped develop community-based health care programs, initiate research and support public policy reforms designed to improve responsiveness to urban health and wellness needs. At the conclusion of the grant, Boston University School of Medicine took over support for the medical student education program that still thrives at a number of neighborhood health centers proximal to BUSM.

Community Based Health Professions Education

CCHERS sought to educate a broad array of health professions students for careers in primary care in community-based settings. It placed nursing, medical, and other students in "academic community health centers" and integrated community service with health professions education and community-derived and directed research.

The Program continues to be a great way for BU medical students to learn about community health care as students do a portion of their clinical work throughout the first three years of medical school at the health center. The continuity of teaching (typically one physician is the main instructor for the group of four CCHERS students for the year), and comfort of the environment (students have said it feels like "coming" to return regularly to their health center) as well as the rich diversity of experience make the CCHERS placements great places to learn.



PAIRS Program

Boston University Alzheimer's Disease Center

The PAIRS Program provides first year BUSM students with the unique opportunity to learn first-hand about Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders by matching the student with a patient with early Alzheimer's for the academic year. Students learn about the social and support issues associated with living with a neurodegenerative disease through this "buddy" program and informally build a relationship with an individual affected by Alzheimer's.

This elective begins in October with a orientation session focused on educating the students about Alzheimer's and dementia. Students are then partnered with a "buddy", an early Alzheimer's patient in the community and commit to spend four hours per month with their buddy (October – May). From November to May, the PAIRS Program students attend monthly lunch seminars with program faculty, staff, and other students, where they discuss their experiences interacting with their buddies.

PAIRS Program provides excellent exposure to neurology, geriatrics, neuropsychiatry, and neuropsychology. Student participants are invited to seminars and didactics sponsored by the BU Alzheimer's disease Center (BU ADC). Upon successful completion of the program, students will receive a letter of commendation for their medical school file from the Director of the BU ADC.

For more information:

Contact Nicole Cantwell

nicole27@bu.edu

617-414-1193

www.bu.edu/alzresearch





FaMeS - Family Medicine Student Track

The FaMeS Program provides support and early clinical experience to students at BUSM who are interested in primary care. Students have the chance to participate in many extracurricular experiences that promote learning and community service.

FaMeS students have the advantage of intergrating several different curricular requirements so that they can have the ongoing support of Family Medicine faculty. This program is a great way to get consistent, early exposure to primary care to help students choose what field of medicine they may like to go into.

<http://www.bu.edu/familymed/famest/>



Curricular Elements

Year 1 & Year 2

Placement with family medicine faculty member for Integrated Problems and Introduction to Clinical Medicine courses

Year 3

Preferred placement in health centers with family medicine faculty for the required 3rd year clerkship in family medicine.

Year 4

Priority placement in family medicine sub-internship, senior electives, and the Narrative Medicine elective.

All 4 years

Priority enrollment in *The Healer's Art*

Extracurricular Elements

(sample)

- ❖ Physical diagnosis and procedure evening workshops
- ❖ Social events with family medicine residents and faculty
- ❖ Attendance at regional and national Family Medicine conferences
- ❖ Opportunities for clinical shadowing
- ❖ Evening workshop on clerkship planning and applying to residency
- ❖ Summer Externship

CommonWell

Transdisciplinary, Service-Learning Program

We are a group of pre-professional students from the Boston University Schools of Medicine, Education, Law, Management, and Public Health who have the desire to train in the integrated way in which we would like to practice our respective professions.

Our mission is to promote wellness, health care systems transformation, and social justice through a *transdisciplinary service-learning* partnership between graduate students at Boston University and the Dorchester, Massachusetts community.

Through a semester-long series of service opportunities and learning modules, the CommonWell program is designed to expose participants to a variety of human services available to low-resource Boston communities and to frame these services in a larger context of history, culture and social justice.

Responsibilities

- Contribute to regular service experiences and learning modules for an average total of 15 hours per month for one semester
- Participate in the mandatory 2-day orientation training

Qualifications

- Must be a graduate or pre-professional student at Boston University
- Commitment to the CommonWell mission
- Demonstrated commitment to community service
- Prior experience working within low-income communities is preferred.

Contact info@common-well.org to learn more or to apply for the Spring 2012 Semester.

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THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BED

at Veterans Affairs Boston Healthcare System

Program Directors: Michael E. Charness, M.D., Chief of Staff
Cecilia McVey, MSN, MHA, CAN, Associate Director for Nursing/Patient Care Services
[email: medstudenthealthtech@va.gov](mailto:medstudenthealthtech@va.gov)

Program is designed to give students a paid opportunity to participate directly and intensively in the care of veteran patients during the summer after their first year of medical school. Accepted students are hired for the summer as health technicians at the VA Boston Healthcare System. Students undergo four days of intensive orientation and training to learn skills and responsibilities of a health tech on a nursing unit. They are assigned to a nurse mentor on the unit of their choice at the West Roxbury Campus

- Medical
- Surgical
- spinal cord injury,
- medical intensive care,
- coronary care
- surgical intensive care
- progressive care
- emergency

During their two-month service, medical student-health techs engage in direct patient care, and learn a multitude of skills:

- patient assessment
- determination of vital signs
- patient hygiene & feeding
- repositioning and wound care
- placement and monitoring of catheters, IV lines and feeding tubes
- suctioning and respiratory care and care of tracheostomies
- blood drawing
- recording of EKGs

Students attend weekly lectures about a wide array of practical topics such as how to talk to dying patients, physician-nurse collaboration, and patient safety. Upon completion of this program, students will increase their comfort level in direct patient care, learn valuable skills that are not taught directly in medical school, and gain an increased appreciation of the important role that nurses play as part of a multidisciplinary healthcare team.

B U D S PROGRAM

The BUDS (Boston University Down Syndrome) Program is a pilot service learning elective that pairs medical students with teens or young adults with Down Syndrome. The pair will meet each month to participate in activities in the community to include possibilities such as a baseball game, Christmas shopping, a meal, a museum visit, or exercise. This program will allow medical students to learn about a developmental disability directly from an individual with Down Syndrome and their family members. The program is designed to create a better understanding of the diagnosis of Down Syndrome and prepare future clinicians to provide compassionate care to individuals with developmental disabilities.

The goals of the BUDS Program are:

- ◆ To allow individuals with Down Syndrome and their family members to share their knowledge and experiences with Down Syndrome with future physicians.
- ◆ To provide individuals with Down Syndrome the opportunity to participate in their community with a non-family member.
- ◆ To provide awareness to medical students about the daily life of an individual with developmental disabilities such as Down Syndrome, as well as to provide insight into the lives of family members of an individual with Down Syndrome.
- ◆ To improve student communication skills both with individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members.
- ◆ To prepare students, as future clinicians, to provide compassionate care for individuals with Down Syndrome and informed guidance for expectant mothers looking for counsel regarding prenatal testing.



Questions? Contact Erin Krizman at ekrizman@bu.edu

Community Health Project (CHP)

The BUSM Community Health Project (CHP) serves to network students interested in volunteering their time and services to Community Health Centers (CHCs) and the populations they serve, as well as raise medical student awareness of the care delivered in the CHC setting. CHP has relationships with many CHCs in the Boston area in an effort to unite students interested in service learning with clinics interested in receiving student volunteers. The goal of CHP is to foster a rich service learning experience through outreach services, in the hope that both students and CHCs benefit from the interaction. Students are able to utilize skills learned in the medical school curriculum to assist the underserved, while also honing their understanding of primary/community care and the role it plays in improving health outcomes. CHCs benefit from motivated volunteers helping to start new projects or augmenting existing programs.

CHP Services:***1. Database of Volunteer Needs***

- Network of CHCs interested in utilizing BUSM students in volunteer projects.
- Database of the volunteer needs at each individual CHC.

2. Organization of Medical Students

- Organize student volunteers with unique skills in order to meet the needs of each CHC.
- The CHP encourages and aids students in development of their own individualized volunteer projects.
- Both volunteer and paid opportunities at CHCs are promoted and advertised by the CHP at the medical campus.

3. Web-based Forum

- Provides CHCs with students interested in volunteering their services.
- Provides students with up-to-date postings of volunteer needs at each center.

Participating CHCs include:

- South Boston Community Health Center
- Fenway Community Health Center
- Martha Eliot Health Center
- Upham's Corner Health Center
- Codman Square Community Health Center
- The SPARK Center

For more information:

Email: ajack1@bu.edu

Website: www.chpboston.com

Summer Externship in Family Medicine

This mentorship program pairs a Boston University medical student between her/his first and second year of study with a family physician in a community setting. The student spends approximately thirty hours per week for four weeks immersed in the practice setting. The student may choose a family practice anywhere in the U.S. with a Board Certified Family Physician. In order for students to stay connected to BU faculty and their peers over the course of this experience, they are asked to participate in an interactive on-line teaching program. A stipend of \$1000 is offered for this program that is sponsored by the BU AHEC (Area Health Education Center) and the Department of Family Medicine at BUSM.

GOALS:

- Appreciate that Family Medicine is a satisfying and rewarding career
- Experience unique aspects of problem solving and decision making in Family Medicine
- Improve skills of patient interviewing through observation and direct experience
- Improve skills of physical examination through observation and direct experience
- Learn about screening tools used in a community setting
- Experience patient management in an outpatient setting
- Experience the role of community service in a practice setting
- Become proficient at utilizing the Department of Family Medicine's web-site for communicating with other students and faculty involved in the externship
- Have a unique and fun early clinical experience

SERVICE - LEARNING



SNAAC



The Student Nutrition Awareness and Action Council (SNAAC) was founded in 2009 to improve medical student understanding of nutrition and obesity medicine.

Through a variety of educational and extracurricular projects, SNAAC's goal is to provide medical students with the awareness that nutrition impacts health status. SNAAC also aims to give students the tools needed to take action and assess and counsel all patients at nutritional risk.

