Massachusetts Conference on Service & Volunteering: Unleash the power of service.

Awards Luncheon

Monday, June 1, 2015
11:30am-1:00pm

Sheraton Framingham Hotel & Conference Center
Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2015 Statewide Conference on Service and Volunteering and our 2015 Massachusetts Service and Volunteerism Awards. Individuals, organizations, and corporations across Massachusetts demonstrate the power of service and volunteerism every day. Today we have the opportunity to recognize three amazing individuals, students and faculty from an inspiring alternative high school, a corporate nonprofit partnership, a college and its community partner, as well as a nonprofit organization, all of whom have embraced the power of service and volunteerism to meet critical needs in Massachusetts. We want to thank our Service and Volunteerism Award Judges who were given the very difficult task of selecting only one award winner in each category from a pool of extraordinary individuals, nonprofits, institutions of higher education, and businesses that represent the best in service and volunteerism in Massachusetts.

Thank you for joining us for today’s conference and awards ceremony. We look forward to partnering with you throughout the year to engage and support the thousands of volunteers and corps members that make a difference in the lives of so many people in Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

Emily Haber,
Chief Executive Officer

Lawrence Bailis,
Board Chair
2015 Massachusetts Service & Volunteerism Awards Program

Lunch and Networking

State of the Sector in Massachusetts & Awards Introduction
Emily Haber, CEO, Massachusetts Service Alliance

Awards Presentation

Getting Things Done in Massachusetts
Awardee: Chickie Abdallah
Presenter: Lillian Hartman, Director,
Norfolk County RSVP Volunteer Program

Higher Education Community Partnership Innovator
Awardee: Bunker Hill Community College and Boston Housing Authority’s Volunteer Interpreters Program
Presenter: Barbara Canyes, MSA Board Member / Executive Director, Massachusetts Campus Compact

Outstanding Service-Learning Partnership
Awardee: E3 Academy—Students, Faculty and Community Partners
Presenter: Kristen McKinnon, MSA Board Member / Community Service-Learning Specialist, MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Outstanding Corporate-Nonprofit Partnership
Awardee: Project Citizenship and Goodwin Procter
Presenter: Kimberly Y. Jones, MSA Board Member / Athena Legal Strategies Group

Outstanding Nonprofit Volunteer Program
Awardee: Care Dimensions
Presenter: Lawrence Bailis, MSA Board Chair / Associate Professor, Brandeis University

Lifetime Achievement
Awardee: Marie-Claude & Brian Thompson, EV (Earthen Vessels, Inc.)
Presenter: Mal Coles, Boston Regional Agency Director, Corporation for National and Community Service
Chickie Abdallah's life of service has profoundly impacted the city of Quincy and its residents. Chickie is a veteran who spent her civilian life deeply involved with youth, poverty, and environmental issues affecting her neighbors. She embodies selflessness without pomp, and is recognized by people from all walks of life as a friend. Her can-do attitude and commitment to local needs inspire service.

In 2006, Chickie discovered Interfaith Social Services (ISS) and adopted it wholly. Interfaith helps over 7,500 South Shore families with food and additional services. She answered phones at the front desk, checked in clients coming into the pantry, sat one-on-one with clients, and worked in their thrift shop. She logged over 500 hours per year with RSVP and inspired her neighbors to take up national service, registering many to join.

Chickie is a veteran of the Navy WAVES division and the ocean continues to be central to her life. In 2007 she combined her passion for the ocean and Interfaith with Quincy’s public beaches by cofounding the John Hancock Polar Plunge fundraiser. This event brings attention to beaches and to the needs of vulnerable families. It also inspires daring outdoor-lovers to participate in service. By its fourth year, over 200 people attended and the Plunge raised nearly $8,000. Not everyone can run into the ocean in January so Chickie set levels ranging from toe-dunking to full plunge. Per tradition, 70-year-old Chickie waded into the cold Wollaston Beach water every year. The City Council declared January 22, 2011 as “Chickie Abdallah Toe-Dunk Day.”

Chickie never let physical difficulties prevent her from helping. ISS ED, Rick Doane says, “Every health problem she had she would be back volunteering as soon as she was out of the hospital. She was an example of putting others before herself.” Chickie’s mobility is now limited, but her legacy continues. Her granddaughter interned with Interfaith and was inspired to study social work.
Bunker Hill Community College forms vibrant partnerships with community organizations, empowering students to make meaningful contributions to their local and global communities. Supporting these efforts, the Office of Community Engagement strives to develop reciprocal relationships in order to provide multiple pathways for students to engage as active and responsible members of their communities.

Imbued with the spirit of service, the Office of Community Engagement in 2012 forged a partnership with the Boston Housing Authority (BHA), the largest public housing authority in New England. The partnership has provided BHCC’s English Language Learner students volunteer opportunities as interpreters for BHA residents through BHA’s Volunteer Interpreters Program (VIP). As volunteers, students have sharpened their language and interpretation skills, remained connected to their home communities and cultures, and gained a deeper understanding of the challenges facing BHA tenants. In turn, the partnership has allowed BHA to expand its services and programs.

To date, 105 BHCC students have provided translation and interpretation services on 297 occasions, rendering more than 500 hours of volunteer service to BHA tenants. Students volunteer during eligibility housing interviews, administrative appeals, walk-ins, and residents’ meetings. This spring, VIP ran a pilot project at the Frederick Douglass and Hampton House Developments in Roxbury, where Chinese-speaking students provided a range of services for Chinese BHA tenants: helping tenants read their benefit letters, translating presentations on healthy eating, assisting tenants in making doctors’ appointments, and teaching elderly residents computer skills. As the partnership between BHCC and VIP grows and deepens, it also continues to be mutually transformational: BHCC students evolve into genuinely committed, caring citizens and civic leaders, at the same time that VIP is able to increase accessibility to affordable housing for more residents in the Commonwealth.
Outstanding Service-Learning Partnership

E3 Academy: Students, Faculty and Community Partners

Nominator: Anne French, Service-Learning Coordinator at North Adams Public Schools

Students at E3 Academy break down barriers and get important things done in their community while learning and demonstrating academic knowledge and skills. E3 (Effort, Essential Skills and Employability), an alternative program of Drury High School, serves students who are under-credited and at risk of not completing high school. The three faculty members developed a competency-based curriculum to provide students with real world experiences as preparation for life, college and career. As a core instructional method, students engage in service-learning throughout the school year.

Student projects include redesigning the flood chutes of the Hoosic River to foster river health, recreation, and economic development; after hauling trash, pulling invasive and overgrown vegetation and building a walking trail, E3 students host annual community clean ups of the Willow Dell Trail in partnership with students from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts; identifying needs connected to city pride and local economy, students developed the tag line of “Find It, Love It: North Adams” and designed a logo for the city and a line of t-shirts and sweatshirts called NAMApparel in order to promote pride and tourism; in order to foster a sense of community, E3 students designed, constructed, and installed a raised bed garden in the courtyard of the former mill building that houses their school and other businesses; and as they near the end of the school year, E3 students are developing an exhibit called “Voices of Youth” with the goal of increasing understanding between people of different ages and backgrounds.
Outstanding Corporate-Nonprofit Partnership

Project Citizenship and Goodwin Procter
Nominator: Matthew Jose, Program Manager at Project Citizenship

Project Citizenship (formerly Greater Boston Citizenship Initiative) has been engaged in citizenship work since 2011. Since its inception, almost 7,000 immigrants have been assisted with their citizenship applications. In 2014, Project Citizenship redirected its model to provide direct services with the highest quality possible. As a staff of four, Project Citizenship relies heavily on its growing volunteer base. The crown jewel of the volunteer base is Goodwin Procter.

Goodwin Procter, one of the largest law firms in Boston, became the pro bono sponsor of Citizenship Day in Boston in 2014. This was the beginning of a growing Corporate Partnership. Since then over 250 citizenship applications have been submitted to the Department of Homeland Security. This translates to 250 new voters in Massachusetts in the last year. In addition, 135 of the 250 applications needed fee waivers in order to get approved. Goodwin Procter’s support of Project Citizenship allows free services to reach the communities with the biggest need.

The relationship between Project Citizenship and Goodwin Procter has inspired other law firms in Boston to reach out to Project Citizenship to increase their pro bono efforts. Project Citizenship has a list of 134 active attorney volunteers who participate in group processing workshops and take pro bono citizenship cases – 82 of whom are attorneys from Goodwin Procter. Goodwin’s donated hours of service can be conservatively estimated at around 500 hours in the last 8 months. Project Citizenship relies on volunteers in a unique way. Goodwin has been a model of limited representation and their ability to give quality pro bono work is a testament to their commitment and ability to take their training and execute service at a very high level.
Outstanding Nonprofit Volunteer Program

Care Dimensions

For the over 4,500 patients that Care Dimensions serves annually their volunteers represent the heart of their hospice and palliative care services. Founded in 1978 as Hospice of the North Shore, they evolved from a small, all-volunteer agency to the largest hospice in Massachusetts. Perhaps, due to their volunteer roots, they have developed an outstanding nonprofit volunteer program; one that maximizes the unique talents of their volunteers and that recognizes volunteers as integral to the work they do in the 90 communities they serve. In 2014, their volunteers contributed a total of 25,983 hours to support their organization’s mission to enrich quality of life for those affected by life-limiting illness, death and loss.

Their team of 440 volunteers are regularly praised by their staff, patients and families for selflessly giving of themselves to provide comfort to patients and families at a very difficult time in their lives. To prepare their volunteers for this important service they offer 18 hours of in-person training and tailor experiences to meet their schedules and interests as well as training in six volunteer specializations.

They know that this type of volunteer experience, while rewarding, is also emotional work so they offer volunteer support groups on a regular basis and each of their staff volunteer coordinators routinely check-in with volunteers to see how a placement is going and what supports may be needed. They also recognize their volunteers through annual Volunteer Week receptions, spotlighting specific volunteers in their newsletters, thanking them through letters to the editor and press releases extolling their efforts. Their volunteers see themselves as ambassadors, not just for Care Dimensions, but for the hospice philosophy and quality end of life care.
Earthen Vessels, Inc. (EV) founders, Marie-Claude and Brian Thompson, have been committed to at-risk youth from Dorchester and Roxbury for more than three decades. Since 1980, these now-retired college educators have worked to close the gap between the resources of the academic world and the limited opportunities for Boston’s inner-city children by bringing the two communities together.

The Thompsons first founded EV Camp for Boston youth to experience rural Vermont, followed in 1985 by EV Afterschool, a multi-year 1-on-1 academic mentoring program. The Thompsons ran EV from their home for many years and co-directed the summer camp through 2013. Their personal phone line has been a life line for many, with calls coming in at all hours from kids, families, teachers, and volunteer tutors, seeking guidance, encouragement, and a kind word.

Their volunteers are emerging student leaders and urban educators who make a multi-year commitment to tutor/mentor a child or teen. Marie-Claude and Brian built a structure of student leaders to bring in more EVcorps volunteers to meet the need for tutors/mentors, which has expanded to Boston College and Tufts. The Thompsons recruited, trained, and inspired college volunteer mentors and enriched the lives of academically vulnerable kids (grades 4-12). They nurtured the volunteers and helped them grow their own commitment to serve others. Thanks to the Thompsons’ commitment, EVkids spend an average of three years with EV and improve their attitudes toward school, attendance, and grades. EVcorps volunteers average two years in service and many go on to careers in public service. 100% of EVkid seniors have graduated and matriculated in college over the last seven years.

Marie-Claude and Brian remain very involved as EV board members and continue to host an annual dinner to celebrate graduating EVcorps college volunteers. Neither has ever taken a salary for their more than 30 years of EV service. Their son, Eric, who grew up as an EV Camp counselor, is now EV’s Executive Director, helping to strengthen and grow his parents’ legacy of service. Brian and Marie-Claude’s extraordinary commitment and dedication to serving their community continues to be truly transformational – for EVkids, EVcorps volunteers, EVfamilies, teachers, and staff.
2015 Nominees

**Getting Things Done in Massachusetts**
Chickie Abdallah
Allison Roso
Kelsey Hopkins
Miriam Manning
Carl and Arnetta Bay
Emily Wood
Jayde Campbell
Jessica Whitehead
Katie Rozenas
Kelli Munroe
Malcolm Douglas
Stephanie Herron Rice
Susan Malouin

**Higher Education Community Partnership Innovator**
Bunker Hill Community College/Boston Housing Authority’s Volunteer Interpreters Program
UMass Dartmouth/ Leduc Center for Civic Engagement
Bunker Hill Community College/Citizen Schools
Harvard Catholic Center/ EV (Earthen Vessels, Inc.)
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts/Northern Berkshire Community Coalition
UMass Boston/ The Marble Collection
UMass Boston’s College of Public and Community Service/ Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester’s Walter Denney Youth Center
Working for Worcester
UMass Lowell/ The Lowell Association for the Blind
Boston College/ Big Brothers Big Sisters of Massachusetts Bay

Clark University/ Worcester Public Schools
Wellesley College/ Science Club for Girls
Elms College/ Junior Achievement
Framingham State University/ United Way of Tri-County
Boston College (PULSE)/ Project Bread
Northeastern University’s Center for Community Service/ Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston
Mount Wachusett Community College/Boys and Girls Club of Fitchburg and Leominster
Lesley University/ Tutoring Plus of Cambridge
Suffolk University’s CNJ 477 Course/ The Boston Debate League
Hampshire College/ Hampshire Youth Connect
UMass Boston College of Nursing & Health Sciences/ Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.

**Outstanding Service-Learning Partnership**
E3 Academy— Students, Faculty and Community Partners
Community Call
Lowell High School (21st CCLC Program)
Auburn Middle School (Sarah Connell)
Marshfield High School Key Club Shaughnessy Elementary School (21st CCLC Summer Program)
2015 Nominees (Continued)

**Outstanding Corporate-Nonprofit Partnership**
- Goodwin Procter/Project Citizenship
- Edward Nunez of Freedom Credit Union
- Holland & Knight/YWCA Boston
- MassMutual/Junior Achievement of Western Massachusetts
- New Balance/West End House Boys & Girls Club
- PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)/Tenacity
- Capital One 360/ABCD Box 4 Special Services Canteen Association, Inc.

**Outstanding Nonprofit Volunteer Program**
- Care Dimensions
- Boston’s Wounded Vet Run
- MOMENTS House
- SOAR 55
- Access to Justice Fellows Program
- AmeriCorps Alums Boston Emmaus
- Let’s Get Ready
- Needham Community Council
- On Common Ground
- Bristol County DA’s Office
- Zoo New England
- Massachusetts Legal Assistance for Self-Sufficiency AmeriCorps Program
- City of Boston Elderly Commission

**Lifetime Achievement**
- Marie-Claude & Brian Thompson
- Chickie Abdallah
- Darlene Johnson-Morris
- Elizabeth Payne
- Gail O’Malley
- Robert Mersereau
- Stephen London
- David Barber
- David Foynes
- Dr. Frank Caro
- Karen Kline
- Karla Romero
- Mark Saperstein
- Maureen Peterson
- Peter Gentile
- Richard Rohnert
- Gina Wironen
- Dr. Michael Kocet
- Gloria Rice-Stuart
- Helen Garretson
- Kathleen Marx
- Robert F. Smith
Award Judges

Chris Bentson
America SCORES Boston, AmeriCorps Alums: Boston Chapter

Carly Bruder
CNCS

Will Chrysanthos
AmeriCorps Alum

John Harney
New England Board of Higher Education

Morgan Helfman
President of the 2016 Senior Class Northeastern University

Danielle Holly
Common Impact

Shelly Jean-Baptiste
MACC AmeriCorps VISTA, UMass Boston

Kristen McKinnon
MA Department of Elementary & Secondary Education

Amanda Moser
Scott/Ross Center for Community Service Simmons College

LaTonia Naylor
United Way of Pioneer Valley

Sharon Niles-Spencer
Deloitte LLP

Michael Omenazu
Commongood Careers, AmeriCorps Alum

Bryan Rotach
City Year

Courtney Russell
CNCS

Hilary Sullivan
Northeastern University, AmeriCorps Alum

Todd Wallingford
Hudson Public Schools

Naomi Weiner
Social Worker

Massachusetts Service Alliance

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Emily Haber
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Suzana Kantardzic
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Rachel Lieberman
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Rachel Lochner
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Lindsay Rooney
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Elizabeth Way
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Sharon Niles-Spencer
Deloitte LLP

Emily Haber, CEO
Massachusetts Service Alliance

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Gretchen Arntz
Emmaus, Inc.

David Roach
MA Board of Elementary &
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Barbara Canyes
Massachusetts Campus Compact

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Commission of Affairs of the Elderly/
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Helene Horan Winn
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Notes
Thank You to Our Sponsors for Supporting Service and Volunteerism!
The Massachusetts Service Alliance, established in 1991, is a private, nonprofit organization that serves as the state commission on community service and volunteerism. Its mission is to catalyze the innovation and growth of service and volunteerism by creating partnerships that maximize resources, expertise, capacity, and impact.

In support of our mission, Massachusetts Service Alliance invests public and private funds in institutions and organizations; convenes and mobilizes individuals, nonprofits, corporations and government entities to link strategies related to service and volunteerism; builds capacity of programs and agencies through training and technical assistance; and advocates for the development and promotion of public policies and private initiatives that incorporate service and volunteerism as effective strategies to address community needs.