

# GOOD Neighbors, GREAT Partners



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Office of

Government and  
Community Relations

GOOD  
Neighbors,  
GREAT  
Partners

From the President



Drexel University's connection to the vibrant, historical neighborhoods around our campus is built from the ground up. It rests on a foundation of personal relationships between the people who work and study at Drexel and the neighbors who call West Powelton, Powelton Village and Mantua home. Similar relationships extend across University City and the Greater Philadelphia region.

I am proud of the strength, respect and creativity embodied in those working friendships. And I am pleased once again to present this report celebrating the many partners who share Drexel's vision for a better Philadelphia.

It has been my privilege to help build an infrastructure that supports Drexel's enormous grassroots energy for civic engagement, and to seek opportunities to amplify our impact. Our collective successes are highlighted throughout these pages. Our momentum is underpinned by the ongoing efforts of the Office of Government and Community Relations, which produced this report.

Everyone at Drexel remains steadfast in these goals: to be the most civically engaged university in the nation, and to be an anchor institution for the great city of Philadelphia.

Sincerely,

*J.A. Fry*  
John A. Fry

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THE PILLARS OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AT DREXEL



**Dornsife Center for Neighborhood Partnerships**

This unique urban extension center places Drexel's resources and expertise within easy reach of local residents, helping them improve their lives and sustain a stronger neighborhood. The Dornsife Center's programming is developed collaboratively by neighbors in Powelton Village and Mantua, civic and nonprofit leaders and Drexel faculty, professional staff and students.



**Lindy Center for Civic Engagement**

The Lindy Center promotes the ideals of social responsibility and public service by facilitating community-based experiential learning for students, faculty and professional staff. Through collaborations with the community, the Center improves the public good on the local, national and global levels while enriching the scholarship and character of Drexel through enhanced education.



**University City High School**

In partnership with Wexford Science & Technology, Drexel is working to transform the former University City High School and Drew School property in Powelton Village into residential, retail, office space and a potential K-8 school — bringing life to an otherwise abandoned block. The development exemplifies the University's commitment to serve as an engine for economic development in West Philadelphia and its desire to improve public education in the surrounding neighborhoods.



**Promise Zone**

Drexel is the education lead for the West Philadelphia Promise Zone, one of five such nationally designated zones in which the federal government is partnering with local leaders to increase economic activity, improve education and safety, leverage private investment, enhance public health and address other community priorities. The designation will be transformative for the neighborhood, and Drexel partnered with the City of Philadelphia and others to spearhead the application process and secure millions in grant funding.

# OPPORTUNITY



Lindy Scholars

*Educational and employment opportunities go hand-in-hand with increased neighborhood stability and quality of life. Drexel is committed to expanding opportunity for our neighbors in West Philadelphia and throughout the city.*

## Education

### Supporting Learning in Schools

In the **Lindy Scholars Program**, Drexel's Lindy Center for Civic Engagement and the School of Education provide math and literacy programs for students in partner elementary schools in West Philadelphia. ✂ Through **Science In Motion**, a partnership funded by Pennsylvania to level the playing field among school districts, Drexel provides equipment and materials for chemistry and earth science teachers in Philadelphia. ✂ For 26 years, Drexel's Information Resources and Technology group has hosted promising Philadelphia high school sophomores for the **Philadelphia Futures Sponsor-a-Scholar** technology and enrichment program. ✂ Drexel's **ExCITE Center** (Expressive and Creative Interactive Technologies, a hub for research that joins STEM with arts and design) hosts visits from more than 500 young people annually through school classes and clubs, Scout troops and more, as well as partnerships with community education groups like TechGirlz and industry leaders like Microsoft. ✂ Drexel students in advanced Spanish classes teach the language to children at the West Philadelphia Public Library in collaboration with the **Friends of the Free Library**. ✂ LeBow College of Business professional staff and faculty served as reviewers for Gateway Projects, a culminating project for all 10th-grade students at West Philadelphia's Workshop School, which is part of the **School District of Philadelphia's Innovative Schools Network**.

Samuel Powel Elementary School  
and Drexel Public Safety

### Improving School Environments

Drexel Police works with teachers and staff at **Powel Elementary School** on safety programs based on specific school concerns such as guns in the neighborhood. ✂ LeBow College of Business alumni and students held the first annual LeBow Volunteer Day at Philadelphia's **Paul Robeson High School for Human Services**, where they painted the auditorium and a large hallway of the high school. ✂ The Dornsife School of Public Health and Westphal College of Media Arts & Design are helping to develop a "STEAM schoolyard," which adds "A for arts" to the traditional STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering, mathematics), at **Morton McMichael School** in Mantua to provide a safe and sustainable place to play while helping students make connections between daily activities and the natural environment.



## LEARNING ALONGSIDE THE COMMUNITY: “Side-By-Side” Courses

Immersion in the life and experiences of the city stimulates mutual respect, exchange and engagement — all essential features of democratic commitment and civic learning.

Since 2011, Drexel has offered Side-By-Side Community-Based Learning formats in which students interact with and learn alongside people in the community in local institutions and nonprofits. The focus of these courses is to stimulate conversation. In one course, for example, students take a class inside Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility where they study writing with the inmates, or “inside-students.” Students keep a weekly journal and write several short pieces of memoir, including an exchange of stories they write about one another. Throughout the course, much of the

dialogue between the two groups is about “stage of life” autobiography, about grabbing hold of pieces of their lives as they’ve lived them so far.

Since the creation of the “side-by-side” program, the University has held more than 15 courses with community partners from local anti-poverty organizations, urban farms, minority entrepreneur and small business support services, senior living facilities, and Drexel’s Dornsife Center for Neighborhood Partnerships. Courses have been offered in a range of disciplines, including sociology, business, nursing, culinary arts and behavioral health. Between spring 2011 and fall 2015, approximately 150 Drexel students and 150 community students completed side-by-side courses.



Action for Early Learning



## PUTTING THE PROMISE INTO ACTION: Action for Early Learning

Quality childcare and early education can lead to opportunities for multiple generations. That’s why Drexel is heading Action for Early Learning (AFEL), a collaboration between service professionals and the community to build an education support system in the federal Promise Zone in West Philadelphia.

Under AFEL, social service and education agencies and other community stakeholders are promoting the importance of early childhood education while strengthening the capacity of childcare centers. AFEL also supports literacy instruction so that children are better prepared for kindergarten and can read by third grade.

There are approximately 500 families with 1,100 children under age 5 in AFEL’s target area. Since its launch in 2014, AFEL has interacted with more than 800 family members. These include a cohort of 12

family ambassadors who provide peer-to-peer mentoring on early childhood education, as well as a 50-member Family Advisory Group. AFEL also established an Alliance of Childcare Providers including 19 childcare centers serving 700 children in the Promise Zone. More than 50 directors and teachers from those centers receive professional development and support through AFEL. And through a partnership with Drexel’s A.J. Drexel Autism Institute, 37 childcare teachers have been trained to implement an autism spectrum disorder screening tool.

AFEL sponsored a back-to-school barbecue at the Miles Mack Recreation Center in Mantua and distributed 100 backpacks with school supplies donated by the Mantua Civic Association and Drexel’s Lindy Center for Civic Engagement. The AFEL Community Outreach Team has also distributed more than 500 children’s books at community events.



## Outreach Across the City

Sport management adjunct instructor Jennifer Valore provided curriculum for and management of the **Philly Girls in Motion** Lacrosse and Leadership summer camp for ages 8 to 14 at South Philadelphia’s Edward O’Malley Athletic Association, focusing on leadership skills and character development through the sport of lacrosse. ✂ Drexel Human Resources conducted a book drive in which each child attending the annual Inspire a Child to Dream Day at Drexel was asked to bring a children’s book to be donated to the **St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children** “Reach Out and Read” program. ✂ Medical students worked with **Women Against Abuse** to provide tutoring and homework help and lead a summer camp for children living in shelters. ✂ The Chemistry Department operates a tent each year during the **Philadelphia Science Festival** carnival, helping the public experience science through hands-on demonstrations.

**WORKING FOR THEIR FUTURE:  
WorkReady**

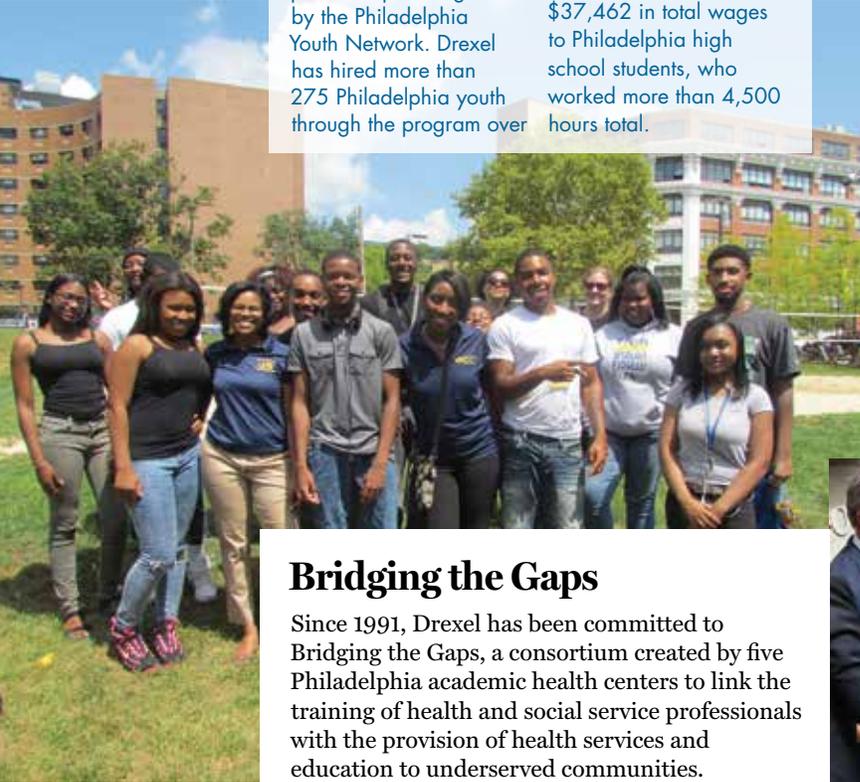
Teen employment has been found to lead to higher incomes in adulthood, yet studies suggest that jobs for teens have decreased by a third since 2001. Philadelphia is fighting this trend through a program called WorkReady, and Drexel is proud to be an active partner.

The University has been a leader for more than a decade in implementing WorkReady, which is run as a cross-sector partnership managed by the Philadelphia Youth Network. Drexel has hired more than 275 Philadelphia youth through the program over

the years. WorkReady improves the economic outcomes of the region's youth by helping thousands of young people enhance their career preparation and master new skills.

Nearly 30 academic and administrative offices at Drexel participated in WorkReady in the most recent summer for which statistics are available, and 74 percent of the interns hired came from West Philadelphia. Overall, Drexel paid \$37,462 in total wages to Philadelphia high school students, who worked more than 4,500 hours total.

WorkReady at Drexel



**Bridging the Gaps**

Since 1991, Drexel has been committed to Bridging the Gaps, a consortium created by five Philadelphia academic health centers to link the training of health and social service professionals with the provision of health services and education to underserved communities.

Through Bridging the Gaps, medical students provide a variety of educational support to Philadelphians, working with partners like **Covenant House, East Park Revitalization Alliance, Goodlands Camp of Centro Nueva Creacion, Legacy Youth Tennis and Education, Philadelphia Futures, Sojourner House** and **Attic Youth Center**.

**A NEW ERA FOR  
NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS:  
Science Leadership Academy  
Middle School**

Strong public schools are one of the keys to sustaining West Philadelphia's momentum, and Drexel is using innovative partnerships to help support great schools in the neighborhood. The University has joined forces with the School District of Philadelphia, Inquiry Schools and the Philadelphia School Partnership to launch a new public middle school based on Inquiry's Science Leadership Academy model.

Science Leadership Academy Middle School (SLA-MS) opened to local fifth-grade students for the 2016-17 school year at the Dornsife Center. The school will ultimately offer grades 5 through 8 for students from the catchment area of Powel Elementary School. Drexel's goal is to eventually locate SLA-MS and an expanded Powel School, serving

grades pre-K through 4, in Drexel-owned space on the former University City High School site.

The nonprofit Inquiry Schools creates and supports project-based modern schools across the country including two successful Science Leadership Academy locations in Philadelphia. Drexel's School of Education faculty are also working with SLA-MS teachers and administrators to develop a curriculum incorporating technology and inquiry-driven learning practices that are proven to be effective in urban classrooms.

The costs to open SLA-MS and expand Powel were supported by a \$1.8 million grant from the Philadelphia School Partnership, building on an incubation grant awarded in 2012 for planning a new middle school for Powel.



Science Leadership Academy Middle School Opening

Side-By-Side Community-Based Learning



# Jobs and Business

## Career Skills for Youth

Through a partnership with **Triskeles Green Pathways for Youth** and the **West Philadelphia Community Center**, the Dornsife Center for Neighborhood Partnerships hosts neighborhood youth for career-oriented afterschool training in food and nutrition, urban agriculture and environmental literacy. ✂ The Department of Culinary Arts and Food Science works with the **People's Emergency Center** to provide culinary and ServSafe training for young adults in West Philadelphia. ✂ The Department of Finance in LeBow College of Business partners with the Foundation for Adolescent Credit Education to educate teenagers and young adults on the basics of credit education, credit solicitation tactics and managing debt and staying fiscally responsible for a lifetime. ✂ College of Medicine students provide health career information and training to young people alongside partners including **YouthBuild**, the **North Light Community Center** and Health Start at Philadelphia's **Mercy Vocational High School**.

## Opportunity through Adult Education

The Dornsife Center and **Community College of Philadelphia** partner to bring **Goodwill Industries'** Helms Academy to West Philadelphia, offering adults the opportunity to complete a high school diploma while earning college credits. ✂ Adults with young children can attend GED classes offered at the Dornsife Center by the **Center for Literacy** and receive free books as well as college, career and family guidance.

## Buying Local and Diverse

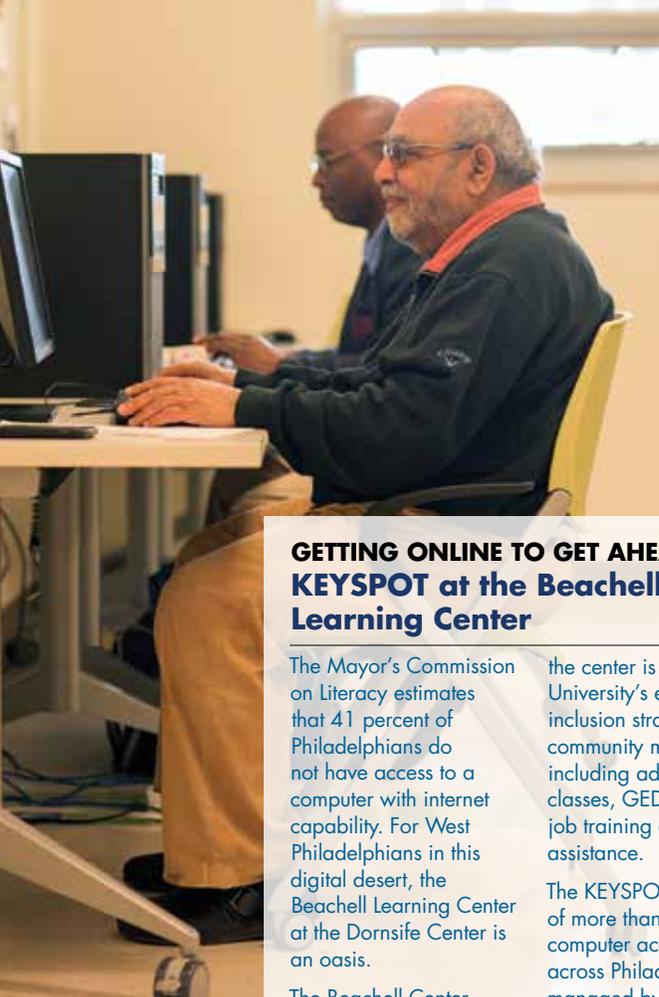
In partnership with the **Philadelphia Common Market**, a mission-driven distributor for 75 local farmers in Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley, Drexel Campus Dining incorporates local foods into dishes served across campus. ✂ Drexel Campus Dining's partnership with the **Enterprise Center** of West Philadelphia, a nonprofit supporting local minority entrepreneurs, includes purchasing at least \$75,000 through local vendors annually; mentoring vendors on menu development, event planning and marketing; and supporting the **Common Truck**, a first-of-its-kind program to develop local food truck entrepreneurs. ✂ In March 2015, a **#LoveLocal** event where local entrepreneur partners and farmers could showcase sustainable offerings to student customers was held in collaboration with Campus Dining and the Enterprise Center in Drexel's Handschumacher Dining Center.

## Supporting Businesses

Kline School of Law students provide **pro bono legal services** through the Dornsife Center to individuals and small businesses in the Powelton Village and Mantua communities. ✂ The Dornsife Center and the **Enterprise Center** teamed up to host the annual "Shop Small, Buy Local Saturday" event, where 30 local vendors and shops display their products for sale to the community, and over the course of a month the entrepreneurs also attended free small-business workshops.



Community Lawyering Clinic at the Dornsife Center



### GETTING ONLINE TO GET AHEAD: KEYSPOT at the Beachell Learning Center

The Mayor's Commission on Literacy estimates that 41 percent of Philadelphians do not have access to a computer with internet capability. For West Philadelphians in this digital desert, the Beachell Learning Center at the Dornsife Center is an oasis.

The Beachell Center offers free computer use, training and internet access to all visitors as part of the city's KEYSPOt network. Made possible by Drexel trustee and alumnus Jeff Beachell and the Beachell family,

the center is home to the University's economic inclusion strategy for community members including adult literacy classes, GED preparation, job training and technical assistance.

The KEYSPOt Network of more than 50 computer access sites across Philadelphia is managed by The Mayor's Commission on Literacy, and Drexel is proud to be one of three key partners along with the city's Office of Innovation and Technology and Philadelphia Parks and Recreation.

## Creating Jobs

Drexel Campus Dining's **West Philly Proud** initiative was launched in partnership with the **University City District** to recruit more employees who reside in the neighborhoods around campus, and in two years the proportion of team members from West Philadelphia increased from 29.5 percent to 34.1 percent.

✦ Drexel's **19104 First** program led by **Bittenbender Construction** is pursuing goals for staffing Drexel building projects with neighborhood residents and members of underrepresented groups who are in the mechanical trade and building unions; with \$15 million of work underway, 39 percent of contracts went to minority- or woman-owned firms, 57 percent of labor hours were worked by city residents and 8.5 percent by residents of the 19104 ZIP code.

## Helping Employment Seekers

Drexel is a partner in **Digital On-Ramps**, a network of agencies and employers that connects learners and job seekers in Philadelphia with relevant workforce development programs, resources and employment opportunities through appropriate technologies. ✦ **HR Open Hours** was created by Drexel's Human Resources office to provide career resources to the residents of the neighborhoods around Drexel, helping them prepare for entry or reentry into the workforce through career counseling, résumé help, job search guidance, professional development and more.

## Encouraging Leadership

The Lindy Center partners with **Young Involved Philadelphia** on YIP's long-running Board Prep Program, a seven-session "crash course" on effective nonprofit board directorship tailored to young professionals and taught at the Dornsife Center by experienced nonprofit leaders and experts in their fields. ✦ The Drexel **Leading for Change Fellowship**, part of the LeBow College of Business Institute for Strategic Leadership, is a year-long skills and leadership program for emerging public service executives in Philadelphia.

Leading for Change Fellowship Program



# HEALTH



*All Philadelphians deserve excellent health care and tools to ensure their optimal well-being. Drexel's clinical, research and educational programs help close the gaps that many people face in taking charge of their own health.*

Wissahickon Charter School Students Visit Queen Lane Campus

## Clinical Services

Mantua Resident and Family Ambassador for Drexel's West Philadelphia Early Childhood Education Initiative Dwayne Walker



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## Health Outreach Project

Drexel medical students provide critically needed care to underserved Philadelphians through free clinics run by the College of Medicine's Health Outreach Project (HOP). HOP works with the **Salvation Army** to serve women and children staying in the **Eliza Shirley House** shelter as well as residents of an inpatient substance abuse clinic. The Streetside Clinic at **Prevention Point Philadelphia** helps at-risk drug users and sex workers. HOP offers weekly clinics for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who participate in **Arc of Philadelphia** programs, and to homeless men and women with chronic illnesses and disabilities at **St. Raymond's House**. Drexel students provide immunizations and health screenings to children in the **True Gospel Tabernacle Childhood Education Program**, offer health fairs for refugees through the **Nationalities Service Center** and help with the **C a Difference** hepatitis C testing program.

We're Here Because We Care Kick-Off Meeting



## LISTENING TO THE COMMUNITY'S HEALTH NEEDS: 'We're Here Because We Care' and the Community Wellness HUB

In September 2016, Drexel began leading a multi-year initiative under the leadership of Loretta Sweet Jemmott, RN, PhD, vice president for health and health equity and professor in the College of Nursing and Health Professions, to identify health concerns within the Promise Zone disadvantaged neighborhoods in West Philadelphia.

Those efforts are already informing evidenced-based sustainable initiatives customized to meet the community's health needs. To date, the "We're Here Because We Care: Building Healthy Communities Together" initiative has uncovered the seven top health concerns in Mantua and Powelton Village, provided volunteer opportunities for 62 Drexel students, and conducted community conversation sessions with roughly 600 residents, leaders and stakeholders.

Drexel is now in the process of building on the insights from that initiative

to create a Community Wellness HUB, which is a place-based, community-driven, health promotion partnership between Drexel and the Mantua and Powelton Village neighborhood residents. The HUB — or Heal, Unite, Bridge — looks to *heal* the community through preventative care, *unite* the community around better health, and *bridge* the community to health services and programming, while tackling the social determinants that underlie health disparities. The HUB offers free health and wellness programming and disease prevention education, screening, counseling services and referrals, as well as clinical treatment services to the uninsured.

By connecting Drexel's expertise and practices to the health needs of the community, the Community Wellness HUB will provide sustainable comprehensive community-engaged health programs that connect theory to practice.

## LOCAL ROOTS, NATIONAL IMPACT: Sheller 11th Street Family Health Services

A Drexel program that has become a national model is helping more people than ever before, right in the Philadelphia neighborhood it serves. The newly expanded Stephen and Sandra Sheller 11th Street Family Health Services Center nearly doubles the size of one of the most comprehensive nurse-managed health centers in the country.

Vulnerable families in four North Philadelphia public housing developments have relied for 20 years on the health and wellness care offered by Sheller 11th Street Family Health Services. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Agency for Healthcare Research

and Quality and the American Academy of Nursing have all recognized Sheller 11th Street for its pioneering focus on nurse-led programs. Now the expanded center has allowed the College of Nursing and Health Professions to increase both the number of patients served and the breadth of services offered. The expansion also supports enhanced health professions education initiatives for the next generation of caregivers.

The expansion was funded in part by a \$2.5 million gift from the Sheller Family Foundation and \$2.34 million in New Market Tax Credits.



Stephen and Sandra Sheller 11th Street Family Health Services Center

## The Clinic in Chinatown

A long-running weekly free health clinic at the **Holy Redeemer Chinese Catholic Church** in Philadelphia's Chinatown neighborhood provides medical interpretation and patient advocacy as well as treatment to uninsured immigrants. Medical students commit to staff the clinic throughout the academic year, and many continue to volunteer through the summer.

Community Wellness HUB



# Outreach

## Change for the Long Term

The College of Medicine's Healing Hurt People program — a trauma-informed, hospital-based intervention to help young victims of violence find healing and learn to break the cycle of violence — has expanded to additional Philadelphia trauma centers with support from the **Department of Justice**.

## Coming Together for Health

Drexel is a year-round supporter of the blood collection efforts of the **American Red Cross**, from the University-wide blood drive hosted by Drexel Emergency Medical Services, to “local” efforts like the drive run by the LeBow College of Business Office of Engagement to Drexel student athletes' participation in the annual **Colonial Athletic Conference Blood Challenge**. ✂ Drexel Police officers (wearing pink uniforms) have provided crosswalk safety for more than 1,500 walkers at the annual **Susan G. Komen 3-Day Walk**.

## Partnerships that Change Lives

The Dornsife Center for Neighborhood Partnership's first Community Health Day offered West Philadelphia neighbors free screenings, help with health insurance enrollment and access to health and financial education, in partnership with **Enroll America**, **People's Emergency Center**, the **West Philadelphia Community Center**, **Clarifi** and Drexel's College of Medicine. ✂ The **Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs** at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children receives assistance from the College of Medicine for health clinics, community fairs and the annual Reach Out and Read holiday book drive.

## SERVICE AND EDUCATION GO HAND-IN-HAND: College of Medicine Community Experience Program

A medical school's mission should be to educate physicians who understand not just diagnosis and treatment, but also patients and their communities. The Office of Community Experience helps make that connection for College of Medicine students through a comprehensive set of programs that integrate community service and reflective learning into the medical curriculum.

The Community Experience program includes both foundational and elective courses on community-responsive medicine. These are supported by ongoing student-

run projects to help underserved populations, as well as numerous volunteer opportunities.

The range of services provided through the Office — from clinical care to smoking cessation to fighting hunger and many more — is exceeded only by the breadth of organizations that students serve. To name just a small sample, these include CPR Anytime, Philadelphia FIGHT, the Starfinder Foundation, Boys & Girls Clubs, SquashSmarts, Philly Girls in Motion, the Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of the Elderly and the SHARE Food Program.



# Research

## Evaluating What Works

Experts in the Dornsife School of Public Health are frequently called upon to study the effectiveness of population health programs such as the **Philadelphia Mental Health First Aid** initiative, under which the city's **Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services** wants to train 100,000 Philadelphians who work with vulnerable youth to be sensitive to behavioral health needs. ✂ Faculty members are working with the Department of Public Health and the **Philadelphia Housing Authority** to evaluate the policy development and implementation of smoke-free regulations for public housing facilities. ✂ Faculty members assessed a **Get Healthy Philly** media campaign aimed at reducing salt consumption among those at risk for hypertension and stroke. ✂ A Dornsife School of Public Health study spearheaded Pennsylvania's evaluation of its program to prevent adolescent substance abuse funded by the federal **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration**. ✂ Drexel experts have helped research the health effects of the **Home Preservation Initiative**, a collaborative effort to help West Philadelphians accomplish high-quality, cost-effective home repairs.



## STEPPING UP FOR LOCAL FAMILIES: A.J. Drexel Autism Institute

Autism, the fastest-growing developmental disability in America, poses a national public health challenge. But it is also a distinctly personal issue for millions of families, including many thousands in the Philadelphia region. Those families have inspired the multidimensional work of the A.J. Drexel Autism Institute.

The institute's work has three distinct thrusts: discovering risk factors whose mitigation might reduce the incidence and impact of autism spectrum disorders; improving early detection and intervention; and understanding how to promote the best life course outcomes for people on the autism spectrum.

In Pennsylvania, the Autism Institute's early detection program is leading a pilot study on screening in childcare centers, particularly for underserved

children, funded by the Commonwealth Universal Research Enhancement Program. Drexel is also the primary partner in eastern Pennsylvania for the ASERT (Autism Services, Education, Resources and Training) Collaborative, a state initiative to bring together resources locally, regionally and statewide.

Locally, the Autism Institute plays a key role in the Philadelphia Autism Project, the first citywide effort to examine service and support for those living with autism spectrum disorder in Philadelphia. Drexel is also providing consulting services to Philadelphia International Airport's Autism Access Program. And the institute created Mobile REACH, one of the first mobile units focused on providing information on autism throughout the region, with generous support from the Lurie Family Foundation and the Philadelphia Eagles.

## Helping Populations

Dornsife School of Public Health faculty made recommendations to the **Independence Blue Cross Foundation** on their Blue Safety Net Program, which helps fund community health services providing free care in Philadelphia. ✂ **Prevention Point Philadelphia** turned to the Dornsife School of Public Health for help with a white paper about how to reduce fatal drug overdoses among Philadelphians, which led to a citywide task force on opioid education.

✂ In partnership with the **Camden Area Health Education Center**, Dornsife School of Public Health faculty undertook a study of the effectiveness of needle exchange services in Camden, New Jersey, to reduce sexually transmitted infections among drug users. ✂ The Dornsife School of Public Health worked with the **Asian Health Collaborative of Greater Philadelphia** to extend the efforts of the American Cancer Society's Asian Advisory Committee on health disparities to areas beyond cancer.

# QUALITY OF



Dornsife Center Side-by-Side Class

*Philadelphia and its neighborhoods are a formative influence on Drexel's unique character. The University is committed to partnering with neighbors to make those communities even better places to live.*

Philadelphia Academies Inc. at the Dornsife Center



# LIFE



Easter Egg Hunt at Dornsife Center



Learning from the Ground Up  
Development in Guatemala

## Student Service

### Scholars in the Community

Social justice-oriented students come together in the **Drexel Community Scholars** program to help build connections between Drexel and 20-plus local partners. With the support of the Lindy Center for Civic Engagement, scholars participate in training and development opportunities, recruit local volunteers, facilitate reflections and build capacity with community partners. The scholars join in critical conversations on social issues through themed coalitions (education, hunger and housing, community development) and challenge each other to take action while building meaningful relationships with community members.

### Civic Engagement and Academics

All first-year Drexel students learn to critically examine university-community relationships, power structures and the concept of privilege through **CIVC 101: Introduction to Civic Engagement**, a discussion-based course that teaches key concepts of civic engagement through case studies and service opportunities supporting more than 25 partner organizations.

✦ As part of UNIV 101, Drexel's course that prepares new students for success and impact in university life, the entering class of fall 2015 developed and executed fundraising plans to support **Bringing Home Hope**, a nonprofit that helps Philadelphia families dealing with cancer to meet financial challenges.

# Community at the Dornsife Center for Neighborhood Partnerships

## Help for a Better Life

Through the **Community Law Clinic** run by Kline School of Law faculty and students, the Dornsife Center opens its doors to residents interested in discussing housing issues, criminal expungement, estate planning, mediation and other issues affecting employment, education and housing. ✂ The Dornsife Center hosts workshops by the **Philadelphia Sheriff's Office** to help neighbors protect their homes from foreclosure, as well as learn how to purchase property at a sheriff's sale. ✂ In partnership with the **Campaign for Working Families**, the Dornsife Center serves as a volunteer income tax preparation assistance site that helps more than 300 families each year. ✂ **Drexel Techserv**, a student organization focused on bridging the digital divide in Philadelphia, holds a Community Genius Bar once a month at the Dornsife Center to provide free technical diagnoses, help and advice to community members. ✂ The Dornsife Center partners with the **Pennsylvania SPCA** to bring free pet health and wellness information workshops as well as low-cost pet vaccination clinics to the community around campus. ✂ **Our Closet** is a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization that comes to the Dornsife Center once a month to host a pop-up clothing shop where people in need can find free clothing ranging from professional business attire to winter outerwear to casual clothes for the whole family.

## Building Bonds

The **Senior Discussion Group** was launched to engage seniors in Mantua and Powelton Village with Dornsife Center programming, and has cultivated a group of senior leaders working toward a unified community that values its constituents and improves their lives. ✂ The **Drexel Black Graduate Student Union** and the Dornsife Center collaborated on an event series called The Remix: A New Spin on Community Issues, addressing topics such as gentrification, race and intergenerational ideologies. ✂ The Dornsife Center was the site of planning for the Freedom Now Rally March, hosted by the **HUB Coalition** and supported by the **Mantua Civic Association** and **People's Emergency Center** along with Drexel, to commemorate the 1965 Freedom Now March led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. ✂ The Dornsife Center hosts the monthly **Faith Collaborative** featuring religious leaders in the Mantua, Powelton Village, Belmont and Millcreek neighborhoods.

Performing Arts at the Dornsife Center



pARTicipate Community Art Festival

## Cultural Sharing

Museum Monday brings together the **Barnes Foundation**, the **Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University**, the **National Liberty Museum** and the **Penn Museum** to offer hands-on, family-oriented workshops at the Dornsife Center and also provide free admission to their venues for West Philadelphia neighbors. ✂ The **pARTicipate Community Art Festival** was the Dornsife Center's first family- and child-oriented community arts festival, organized by Westphal College of Media Arts & Design students in a special topics Museum Studies course. ✂ The **Writers Room at the Dornsife Center** published its first anthology book in 2015 containing writing from members of the Mantua, Powelton Village and Drexel communities who come together to share experiences and write their stories. ✂ Drexel Urban Growers, in collaboration with the **Triskeles Foundation**, maintains the flourishing Dornsife Center Community Garden, where Drexel students and community members grow, learn and harvest together. ✂ The **Dornsife Center Community Book Club** was suggested by the Dornsife Senior Discussion Group and encourages residents of Mantua and Powelton Village to read books together that spark discussion of change and consistency in their neighborhoods. ✂ **Astronomy Night** is a monthly program led by the Department of Physics where community members of all ages can learn about astronomy and awaken their curiosity about the universe. ✂ The Dornsife Center hosts frequent community movie screenings, ranging from a series in partnership with the University's Campus Activities Board to documentary screenings with discussion facilitated by Drexel faculty. ✂ In collaboration with the **Westphal College of Media Arts & Design**, the Dornsife Center has become a performing arts center where youth and adults in the community can pursue artistic growth through dance classes, music instrument lessons and music production classes.

## DINNER IS SERVED, TOGETHER: Dornsife Community Meals

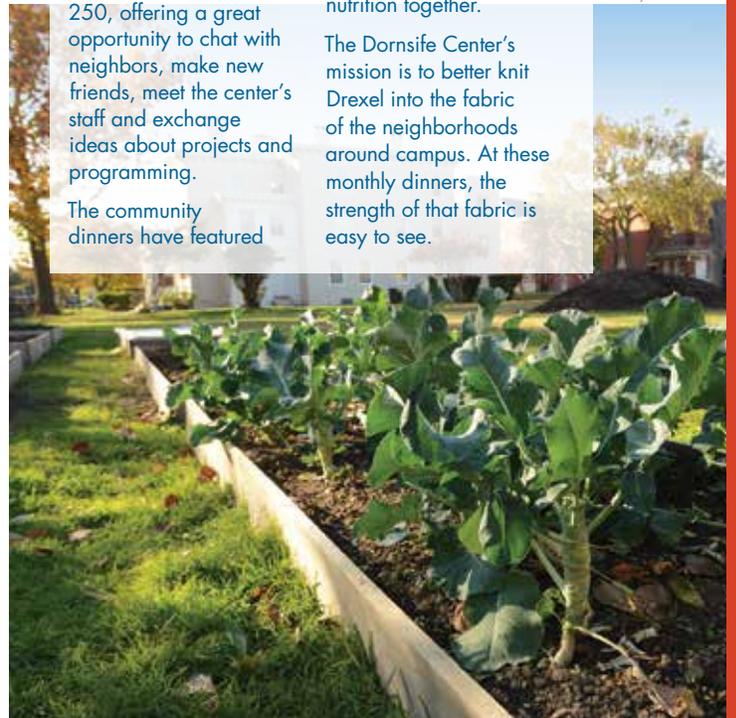
If a community can be defined by breaking bread together, then an impressive community indeed has bonded at the Dornsife Center. On the first Tuesday of each month, the center hosts a free open dinner that brings together neighbors from Mantua and Powelton Village and students, faculty and professional staff from Drexel. These casual evenings have grown from about 60 attendees when the program launched in 2014 to as many as 250, offering a great opportunity to chat with neighbors, make new friends, meet the center's staff and exchange ideas about projects and programming.

The community dinners have featured

entertainment from the neighborhood, the Drexel campus and Philadelphia institutions like the Curtis Institute of Music. They have shined a spotlight on West Philadelphia and Drexel artists and participants in the Dornsife Center's Writers Room program. And guests have dined on fare prepared by Drexel culinary students, by neighborhood chefs and by participants in side-by-side classes in which students and neighbors explore recipes and nutrition together.

The Dornsife Center's mission is to better knit Drexel into the fabric of the neighborhoods around campus. At these monthly dinners, the strength of that fabric is easy to see.

Dornsife Center  
Community Garden



Astronomy Night



Perelman Plaza

# Neighborhood Amenities

## Clean Streets

With a \$5 million gift from the Raymond and Ruth Perelman Education Foundation, Drexel created **Perelman Plaza** along 32nd Street between Chestnut and Market streets, to be a new hub for students, neighbors and visitors with 60 percent more green space, a 90 percent reduction in impervious surfaces, new management systems for nearly 700,000 gallons of rain water each year and a 50 percent increase in the number of trees. ✂ The Dornsife Center hosted planning and design activities for the **Mantua Beautification Committee's** 34th & Brandywine Street Park project, bringing together local artists, Drexel design students and University faculty. ✂ Academic Properties Inc., Drexel's real estate subsidiary, partners with the **University City District**, Drexel Police and the Office of Government and Community Relations to coordinate off-campus trash removal and cleanup during student move-out, keeping more than 120 tons of trash off the streets and cleaning up problem sites identified by the community.

Chef Carla Hall and Culinary Arts Students



## Safe Streets

Each month, community leaders and concerned citizens come to the Dornsife Center for the **Philadelphia 16th Police District** community meeting to discuss crime data, build a relationship with the district's captain and community affairs officer and hear from guest presenters on health, education, city government services and urban beautification. ✂ Drexel joins local police, **Philadelphia Juvenile Probation**, the **University City District**, the **District Attorney's Office**, the **Philadelphia Fire Department**, local hospital security services and the **Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board** on the University City Public Safety Advisory Committee, which meets monthly to share information on crime, discuss quality of life and safety issues and provide training to law enforcement. ✂ Drexel Public Safety personnel taught rape aggression and defense classes to teenagers at a summer camp held at **Intercultural Family Services Inc.**



## TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOOD: Drexel Housing Initiatives

Can a major university be a stabilizing force in a residential urban neighborhood? If Drexel is to fulfill its mission as an anchor institution in West Philadelphia, the answer must be yes, which is why the University continues to execute a housing strategy that supports overall quality of life in Mantua and Powelton Village.

Under Drexel's two-year residency program, all students live in residence halls or in University-affiliated housing on campus for their first two years of studies. This means less pressure on the real estate stock in neighborhoods near campus, which leads to a better housing market for families and long-time residents. Drexel was able to fully implement the program because of three major University-affiliated

residential projects completed in recent years in partnership with American Campus Communities. Those projects have also added much-needed retail options for neighbors and students alike. And the University continues to require off-campus landlords to meet strict standards in order to be included on a list of University-approved properties.

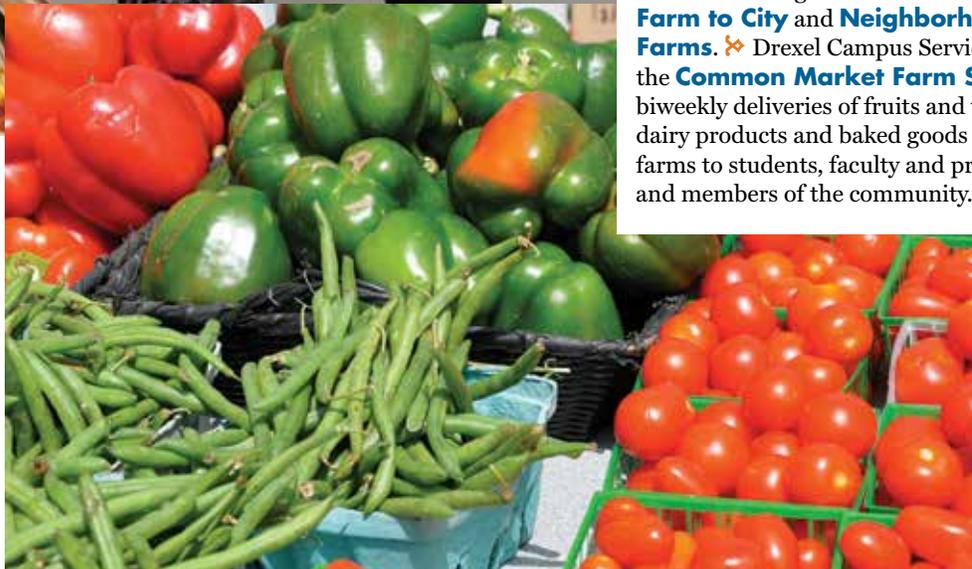
Drexel's Employee Home Purchase Assistance Program serves to connect employees and the University to the community and to support family-oriented neighborhoods. The program offers forgivable loans toward the purchase or rehabilitation of homes by University employees, provided that those employees live in the homes and contribute to neighborhood stability.



Drexel Employee Home Purchase Assistance Program

## Access to Healthy Food

The Drexel Farmers' Market, now operating at the Chestnut Square housing and retail complex, features offerings from local merchants like **Farm to City** and **Neighborhood Food Farms**. ✨ Drexel Campus Services partners with the **Common Market Farm Share** to offer biweekly deliveries of fruits and vegetables, eggs, dairy products and baked goods from local family farms to students, faculty and professional staff and members of the community.



Drexel Farmers' Market



Speak Up-Lace 'em Up

## Drexel Employee Service and Philanthropy

Drexel's annual Holiday Toy Drive, organized for the past 19 years by the **Office of Government and Community Relations**, provides 5,000 toys each year for distribution by 70 organizations including public housing developments, churches and ministries, homeless shelters, youth centers, social service agencies, health centers, town watches and counseling centers. ✂ The Dragon Drive, Drexel's annual employee charitable campaign supporting local organizations including the **AIDS Fund, Bread & Roses Community Fund, Women's Way** and the **United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey**, raised nearly \$170,000 in 2015. ✂ Employees from Drexel Business Services volunteer in the community through the DBS Cares program, now focused on a partnership with **Youth Service Inc.** to support projects aimed at strengthening families in West Philadelphia. ✂ **Drexel Police** sponsored the 11-year-old son of a Philadelphia police officer killed in the line of duty to attend a Drexel basketball camp, and also provided Easter baskets for the boy and his 1-year-old brother. ✂ Drexel Police officers are among the leaders of **Speak Up-Lace 'em Up**, a Philadelphia program in which police officers and community members gather to discuss police and youth relations. ✂ Members of Drexel Police volunteered their time to paint and decorate pumpkins with children suffering from multiple sclerosis at **Children's Hospital of Philadelphia**.

## City-wide Impact

### Encouraging New Voices

The Book Circle at Drexel's **Marks Intercultural Center** provides a place for facilitated dialogue about cultural, intercultural and identity issues, themed around books provided free to participants by the Office of Equality and Diversity. ✂ Dornsife School of Public Health students and faculty have worked with Philadelphia community members on the **AIDS Oral History Project**.

### Feeding Those in Need

The Drexel Food Lab assisted **My Brother's House**, run by the nonprofit **Bethesda Project**, in a project to help chronically homeless men develop healthy and appealing recipes using canned food products. ✂ The Food Lab also prepared a dinner, served by Drexel nutrition students, at the **Hickman Temple A.M.E Church** shelter in West Philadelphia using surplus food donated by **Shop Rite of Parkside** after the Papal visit.



Drexel Toy Drive



Writer's Room at the Dornsife Center



Dornsife Center Opening



**Drexel University**

Office of Government and Community Relations

3180 Chestnut Street

The Left Bank, Suite 102

Philadelphia, PA 19104

215.895.2109

[drexel.edu/ogcr](http://drexel.edu/ogcr)