Drexel students on Alternative Spring Break rebuild a neighborhood block alongside community members.

Good Neighbors
Great Partners

Drexel University Community Impact Report 2012
One of the greatest sources of pride for Drexel is standing alongside our neighbors in Powelton Village and Mantua, the City of Philadelphia and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to build strong communities and a better quality of life for everyone. The benefits of these partnerships accrue to our students and all residents, as well as our University.

Community outreach and economic development are part of Drexel’s strategic direction, as outlined in our new strategic plan for 2012-2017, “Transforming the Modern Urban University.” The greatest impetus for Drexel’s community impact, however, comes from the ground up—our students, alumni, faculty and professional staff, putting their values into action and working to make a difference.

There’s no way to catalog every service initiative across our University—they are too numerous and diverse. But the report in your hands offers a wonderful snapshot of the ways in which Drexel, as an institution and as a community of caring people, supports the neighborhoods and the city and region we call home.

I am especially proud that so much of our community impact occurs through the everyday teaching and research activities that are at the core of our mission. Our School of Education and Center for Civic Engagement, among others, offer curricula that both prepare our students for success and create positive effects in the community. And Drexel’s strength in translational research, or research that is ready to improve lives and impact the marketplace, has the potential to be a major economic engine for our region.

Being a force for growth and for good in the community is a moral obligation for our University, and one of the central goals of my presidency. I am lucky that the Drexel community is full of talented, dedicated and service-minded people to help reach that goal.
Drexel University is privileged to educate our students amid the vibrant neighborhoods of University City, Powelton Village and Mantua, in the exciting city of Philadelphia and the thriving surrounding region. With that privilege comes a responsibility to be a leader in building strong communities.

At Drexel, we use our strengths as an institution to guide our civic engagement. Our vast expertise in education leads to many programs preparing young people for bright futures; the values of our students, employees and alumni are manifested in critical community service; our position as one of Greater Philadelphia’s leading innovators makes us a catalyst for economic development. Our efforts focus on our own neighborhood first, but also impact the city, region and nation.

This report provides a snapshot of the depth and breadth of community involvement at Drexel, from University-wide initiatives to efforts of all sizes spearheaded by individuals.
Supporting Education for Everyone.

A well-educated populace is critical to the success of our society. Drexel is positioned to expand educational opportunity across the region and the nation. We are one of Greater Philadelphia’s most dynamic universities and a recognized leader in educational access and innovation. As such, Drexel is the natural home to a wide variety of programs that help young people learn, help their teachers become more effective and their schools more welcoming and make higher education a possibility, not just a dream. The “Drexel effect” on education is felt from preschool through graduate school, by neighborhood kids and returning veterans, by future scientists, teachers, artists and doctors.

Education is Drexel’s core mission, and we take seriously our responsibility to make sure that the benefits of education accrue as widely as possible.

Focus on Community Growing a Stronger Community Together

In 2010, President John A. Fry began to deepen Drexel’s connection to the neighborhoods tied to its campus. Working with neighbors, businesses and the city, Drexel has launched a range of initiatives to improve quality of life and increase opportunity in University City, Powelton Village and Mantua. Drexel expanded its security boundaries in cooperation with the University City District and invested in improved security technology. A landmark gift from PECO Energy supports programs that improve the residential security component of the University City, Powelton Village and Mantua initiative.

In 2011, the Center for Civic Engagement was named in honor of philanthropist Philip B. Lindy. With a $15 million gift supporting community programs, Mr. Lindy has cast a vote of confidence in Drexel’s ability to make a difference in the neighborhoods it calls home.

PATHS TO ACHIEVEMENT

PEGGY AND RICH GREENAWAY BREAKTHROUGH PROGRAM

Affiliated with the national Breakthrough Collaborative, this six-year academic enrichment program builds a path from middle school to college for promising low-income students from Philadelphia’s public schools. Breakthrough also inspires talented high school and college students to become educators and engaged citizens by giving them the responsibility of teaching in its programs. Breakthrough’s newest program, expanding its middle school model to offer six weeks of summer study and preparation for students entering ninth grade.

DREXEL COMMUNITY SCHOLARS

Each fall and spring, Drexel students from across disciplines come together to act as liaisons to community organizations, putting their skills to work to make a positive impact in the neighborhoods they serve. As Drexel Community Scholars, students coordinate activities between the Lindy Center for Civic Engagement and Drexel’s partners, recruit fellow volunteers and develop special service and advocacy programs.

Good Neighbors, Great Partners

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Supporting Education for Everyone.

MARSHALL-BRENNAN LITERACY PROJECT AND MOST CROWD COMPETITION
Through the Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project, Drexel law school students visit high schools throughout Philadelphia to outbuild Philadelphia to engage students in learning about the powers of the U.S. Constitution, chemistry and middle school earth science classes throughout Philadelphia. The program delivers modern scientific instruments via the Science in Motion van to schools, as well as support to local teachers in helping level the playing field between well-funded and poorly funded schools.

PHILADELPHIA YOUTH ORCHESTRA PROGRAM
Through EAA, Drexel offers scholarships to Philadelphia’s youth to learn piano, violin, viola, cello, and other instruments. The program places students in local schools to learn to play the instrument and compete in regional and national mock court competitions.

EXPLORO GUESS SCHOOL PROGRAM
The program is an AmeriCorps-funded initiative where Drexel students teach classes in learning about the power of the U.S. Constitution and its power to resolve conflicts in a civil manner and allow students to participate in learning about the educational environment and experience of students of the city’s public schools. Drexel students participate in the Affiliated Colleges program, providing special programming and office space to the organization as well as offering an opportunity for incoming freshmen to receive $10,000 scholarships.

AN ALTERNATIVE OPPORTUNITY FOR SUCCESS
The initiative builds on the success of the University’s flagship program, Drexel University’s Mandell Theater with 14,000 seats. A few miles away at Samuel Powel Elementary School, CAN DU is the non-profit organization that provides programs dedicated to ensuring the development, education, and community engagement of at-risk students. Drexel, in the spirit of its traditional commitment to educational access and an outstanding, evidence-based program, offers four $3,000 scholarships to Philadelphia for Excellence, a nonprofit organization that provides full-tuition scholarships to Philadelphians with economic need.

AN EXTRA INGREDIENT: THE ARTS
Drexel dance students take a two-pronged approach to making that art accessible to Philadelphia public school children. As part of a touring ensemble, seven to nine dancers visit approximately 40 schools each year to present lecture demonstrations on the art of choreography and dance as well as an education performance. In one residency program, 8 to 10 Drexel students return to a group of middle schools each week for eight weeks to teach dance and choreography with success in the seventh and eighth grades.

EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY AT DREXEL UNIVERSITY (CAN DU)
Drexel University partners with Philadelphia-based youth to create short programs for elementary schools that involve the programming and office space to the organization as well as offering an opportunity for incoming freshmen to receive $10,000 scholarships.

A BETTER CHANCE
By helping economically disadvantaged young people attend outstanding prep schools and go on to higher education, A Better Chance works to improve the lives of well-educated people of color ready to assume positions of responsibility and leadership in American society. Drexel participates in the Affiliated Colleges program, providing special programming and office space to the organization as well as offering an opportunity for incoming freshmen to receive $10,000 scholarships.

EDUCATION ADVANTAGE ALLIANCE
This Philadelphia-based nonprofit provides programs that supplement and enrich the educational environment and experiences of students of the city’s public schools. EAA’s focus includes all levels of educational attainment from high school through college. Through EAA, Drexel offers a scholarship for graduate study in STEM fields to a recent graduate of a historically black college or university.

PI2-Language, Public Library
Students of Drexel students and library and information science professionals have volunteered their time to design, create and maintain “gazette,” an online public service organization that merges collections of resources from the Internet Public Library and the Library’s Internet Index. The site, which offers a comprehensive, reliable database of information, is free to the public and givers more than 10 million visits per year.

MAYOR MICHEL Nutter welcomed Drexel University’s Legacy School to call to celebrate the program, which provides full-tuition scholarships to Philadelphia with economic need.

COMMUNITY ALUMNI NETWORK AT DREXEL UNIVERSITY (CAN DU)
An outreach-organization consisting of talented and dedicated alumni, provides support in service projects aimed to promote civic engagement, social responsibility and leadership development. In November 2011, the CAN DU Philadelphia Park Project hosted a clean-up event for West Philadelphia’s Morris Park, planting nearly 324 native trees, shrubs and grasses and 300 bulbs and daffodils. CAN DU volunteers also removed more than 80 bags of trash and approximately 500 pounds of invasive debris and plants. A few miles away at Samuel Powel Elementary School, CAN DU led a revitalization effort for expanding access to a technology-intensive culture is expected to coincide with the opening of the University’s new Main Building in the 2012-13 academic year.

YOUTH JAZZ GROUPS
Each year, local elementary or secondary school youth performance groups experience the thrill of sharing the stage of Drexel’s Theater Department with college musicians, when the ensemble of the Drexel Jazz Orchestra invites the young performers to join in concert. Recent guest groups have included the West Philadelphia Achievement Charter School Music Club and the Jazz Combo of the Camden, N.J., Creative Arts High School.

EXTENDING THE 52ND STREET PROJECT TO WEST PHILADELPHIA
Drexel’s Theatre Department is replicating its highly successful New York initiative in which an educational program has helped youth create short plays and mount productions with professional actors and directors. Inspired by the 52nd Street Project, Drexel’s program will help students from West Philadelphia build self-esteem and learn to work with peers from a variety of backgrounds. The program’s launch
Supporting Education for Everyone.

Philadelphia Futures

Drexel was founded on the principle that a quality education should be accessible to everyone—a philosophy upheld through the University’s partnership with Philadelphia Futures, an organization that provides programs and resources to high potential, economically disadvantaged college-bound students.

With Philadelphia Futures, Drexel continues its commitment to cultivating a diverse student body and a rich educational experience. Through the organization’s Sponsor-A-Scholar program, Drexel provides area high school students with intensive summer academic enrichment experiences, admissions and financial aid counseling and an opportunity for dual enrollment in college-level courses.

Drexel’s Office of Information Resources and Technology, Enrollment Management group and Drexel University Libraries provide two intensive summer training courses for Philadelphia area sophomores and recent high school graduates involved in Philadelphia Futures. The sophomores participate in a month-long computer camp, learning how to navigate new types of technology through digital storytelling.

Recent Philadelphia Futures high school graduates who have been accepted at Pennsylvania colleges participate in a three-week, pre-college preparatory program in Drexel’s Korman Center, giving them college experience in math, English and study skills.

Meeting Needs and Improving Lives.

Drexel is a community built around the search for answers to society’s questions. We are also proud to be a community of caring students and professionals driven to make a difference. Bring those two elements together, and they create a force for socially responsible action.

Drexel brings a wide variety of institutional and volunteer resources to bear on the challenges affecting our neighbors and society. We help people maintain their health, access needed services and forge a more pleasant and nourishing environment for everyone. Programs run or assisted by Drexel volunteers have an impact on thousands of Pennsylvanians, many of whom face socioeconomic disadvantages.

The culture of service at Drexel draws new participants and new ideas each year. It is one of the University’s greatest points of pride, and one of the ways in which we fulfill our responsibilities to the world around us.

Focus on Our Neighborhood

Drexel-PECO Community Education Collaborative

To further strengthen the University’s ties to the community, Drexel and PECO created the Drexel-PECO Community Education Collaborative, backed by a $1 million grant from PECO to improve public school options for West Philadelphia families.

A community education and enrichment plan was developed collaboratively with community stakeholders in Powelton Village and Mantua, including a comprehensive assessment of educational needs and resources that lays the groundwork for a network of strong schools.

The project began by providing $500,000 to the Powell School. Academic support includes a Drexel faculty advisory team for curriculum enhancement, funding for a teacher position and professional development. Physical projects include library renovation, new school signage and air conditioning.

At the McMichael School, the library reopened for the first time since the 1980s thanks to Drexel volunteers. Teachers are receiving one-on-one mentoring and professional development workshops from Drexel faculty, and the second grade displayed work they did with a Drexel team working on redesigning the playground.

The entirety of the program, which will be implemented over the course of the next five years, will allow the University to invest in the personal and educational development of young people.

Healthy Neighbors

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

HEALTH OUTREACH PROGRAM

Drexel medical students see 3,000 low-income Philadelphians annually through the Health Outreach Program. Supervised by a licensed Drexel physician, students provide primary health services at four different sites. In 2010-11, 360 students and 35 faculty volunteers volunteered at worksites such as patient care at a Salvation Army inpatient substance abuse treatment center, the Eliza Shirley Shelter for homeless mothers and children, the Street Side mobile clinic for intravenous drug users and the Chinatown Clinic, serving Asian and other immigrants and refugees.

11TH STREET FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES OF DREXEL UNIVERSITY

A national model and a local icon, 11th Street Family Health Services continues to provide vital health care to thousands of North Philadelphia residents in public housing. The center is managed by Drexel nurses in partnership with the Philadelphia Housing Authority and the Family Practice and Counseling Network.

More than 160 organizations provided medical information for residents, as well as free health screenings including blood pressure, blood sugar, vision,

11th Street Family Health Services of Drexel University has been serving public housing residents in North Philadelphia for more than 25 years.

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A HELPING HAND

CAMPAIGN FOR WORKING FAMILIES
TAX CLINIC
The Earle Mack School of Law and Campaign for Working Families provide free tax clinics to low-income people in Philadelphia. The program, run by student volunteers at 17 sites around the city, seeks to improve the economic well-being of low- and moderate-income individuals, families, and communities by building a movement to dramatically increase access to tax credits and benefits.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ASSISTANCE PROJECT
In response to the unavailability of lawyers and court staff to assist victims of domestic violence who seek Protection from Abuse orders, student volunteers from the Earle Mack School of Law help the Domestic Violence Assistance Project provide information and advocate to help victims better understand and successfully complete the protection from abuse legal process.

VETERANS OUTREACH
Drexel’s Veterans Task Force, Office of Veteran Student Services and the Drexel Veteran’s Association have partnered with The Veteran’s Group, a shelter in Powelton Village, to provide valuable resources and relationships benefiting those who have served our country. Initiatives include an on-campus clothing drive to benefit residents, a program connecting them with the Drexel Recreation Center and an invitation to join Drexel’s Memorial Day observation and picnic. A block party fundraiser in Powelton Village helped raise awareness to veterans and fund a central air system for the home.

SENIORLIFE HELPLINE
Older Pennsylvanians receive legal services from Earle Mack School of Law students through this partnership with the SeniorLIFE Center. Students provide elderly clients, many from communities with low legal resources, free and confidential legal counseling, information and referrals. The Helpline handles issues including real estate and housing, consumer protection, family law, estate and advance planning, public benefits, elder abuse and neighbor disputes.

SOAP, RAPID ACCESS TO BENEFITS
For its SOAP (Student Outreach Access and Recovery Project), the Homeless Advocacy Project relies on Earle Mack School of Law students to help homeless individuals gain rapid access to Social Security benefits. SOAP clients may be living on the streets, in public buildings or at safe havens or other emergency housing sites, and may have been denied SSI numerous times. Students participate in all aspects of case development including conducting interviews, obtaining records, completing forms and writing letters of support.

CHAMPIONS OF CARING
Young people in Greater Philadelphia are taking active roles in their communities to reduce prejudice and promote positive change thanks to Champions of Caring. Drexel provides meeting spaces and special programming for the community and school-based programs offered by Champions of Camp. The University also hosts the organization’s annual awards celebration, and makes a $10,000 Drexel scholarship available to a qualified participant.

HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE
Since 1996, organizations in West and North Philadelphia have donated more than 5,000 toys annually to disadvantaged children, thanks to Drexel’s Holiday Toy Drive. Students, faculty and professional staff contribute toys, solicit donations and wrap the gifts in eco-friendly bags. Then, community leaders and Drexel volunteers gather to celebrate the season and distribute bags of toys.

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE CHANCE FOR PHILADELPHIA CAMPAIGN
This student-coordinated project collects canned goods and funds for programs combating hunger in Philadelphia. Partners have included the University of Pennsylvania College of Medicine’s Student Assembly, the Philadelphia Youth Collaborative and Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. The campaign spearheaded a multi-campus effort on campus and in the community.

GREAT PLACES

PHILADELPHIA MURAL ARTS PROGRAM
Drexel’s Exhibit Design course has focused student projects around Philadelphia’s world-renowned Mural Arts Program. Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design students developed a mobile exhibit to promote Mural Arts and provide community outreach at the program’s “pop-up studio” locations, where developers have allowed Mural Arts to occupy vacant retail space for the duration of a mural project, creating activity and interest in sometimes desolate areas.

MANTUA PRESBYTERIAN DESIGN/BUILD
Drexel students are undertaking a community design/build initiative at Mantua Presbyterian Apartments, an affordable housing community just north of the University City campus. This two-course sequence, for which Westphal College faculty are working to raise $20,000 in research funding, will bring together students from a wide variety of disciplines including architecture, urban planning, interior design and even bioengineering.

PHILLY CLEAN UP
When Mayor Michael Nutter issued his annual call for the city to come together for the Philly Creek Day-Up, Drexel made its presence felt. In 2012, more than 200 Drexel volunteers helped with city-wide cleaning efforts involving neighbors at schools, parks and business corridors from the Schuylkill River to 57th Street. Their cleaning, painting and greening efforts helped make the city more beautiful and demonstrated Drexel’s commitment to great neighborhoods.

Drexel’s Chinatown Clinic is one of the locations where Drexel medical students provide care for more than 3,000 underserved Philadelphians each year.
Meeting Needs and Improving Lives.

**Quest to Understand Autism**

Drexel is taking a leadership position in tackling the challenges of autism, a condition that can create enormous tolls on society. Autism, a neurodevelopmental disorder, fundamentally alters individuals’ abilities to interact and communicate, reverberating from the individual to the family, through the education system and deep into the social service and healthcare sectors.

At the A.J. Drexel Autism Institute, launched in 2011, Drexel scientists seek preventable causes of autism spectrum disorders, develop approaches that will help children with autism receive better services and promote understanding of how those with autism can be better integrated into the community.

The Institute— the nation’s first autism research center focused on public health science— builds on outstanding faculty, resources and research at Drexel, including the School of Public Health’s Early Autism Risk Longitudinal Investigation. EARLI is considered one of most promising efforts to discover biological markers and environmental risk factors for autism. Drexel is the lead coordinator, with other research sites including the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, the University of California Davis, John Hopkins and Kaiser Permanente.

**Lindy Neighbors Program**

A simple, powerful concern for the well-being of neighbors and young people laid the foundation for some of Drexel’s most inspiring community partnerships. Philip B. Lindy, namesake of the Lindy Center for Civic Engagement and Lindy Scholars program at Drexel, created Lindy Neighbors to support Drexel’s work in the communities around its University City campus.

His generosity opened the door for students, faculty and professional staff to explore ideas that draw people together to improve neighborhood quality of life.

In just one year, Lindy Neighbors has made a difference in promoting healthy lifestyles and access to healthy food. The program has funded several faculty-led projects in Mantua including the redesign of the McMichael School playground. Lindy Neighbors has helped further integrate civic engagement into Drexel’s fabric of experiential learning by creating co-op jobs for students working on food access issues. In-progress initiatives include a Mantua youth group and a summer sports program for neighborhood kids.

The impact of Lindy Neighbors will grow, as its projects strengthen the bond between Drexel and Philadelphia.

West Philadelphia middle school students learn about cooking and nutrition at Drexel.
The best indicator of the quality of life in any neighborhood, city or region is the economic opportunity available to its residents. Drexel has a responsibility, as an anchor institution in our urban Philadelphia landscape, to use our long-term economic power in a variety of ways to better the welfare of the community.

Our direct effects on the economy—operating expenditures of nearly $800 million, more than 8,900 people employed at all locations—are just part of our leverage to create growth. Drexel’s strength in translational research attracts investment to projects that are ready to go to market and spin off new businesses, particularly biomedical innovations. And our neighborhood initiatives range from increasing owner occupancy to helping neighbors find new career opportunities.

Drexel can and must be a catalyst for growth that leads to a better quality of life, better jobs and a robust economy.
Leading the Way to a Stronger Economy.

Focus on Our Neighborhood

The Papadakis Integrated Sciences Building and its biowall, a living air filter, exemplify the green construction transforming campus and University City.

Another $98 million project on Chestnut Street, construction transforming campus and University City. Drexel can provide that spark, through its leadership in translational research as an instrument for growth.

Focus on Our Neighborhood

A Better Campus for Students and Neighbors

An urban university campus must offer facilities that advance the academic mission, and forward-thinking architecture that enhances the city streets. Drexel excels at this balance.

Three new academic centers represent 450,000-plus feet of space, $200 million of construction boosting the local economy and diverse ways of strengthening the streetscape. The unique and inviting Papadakis Integrated Sciences Building features green technology like its 80-foot-high biowall, a living indoor air filter. A new center for the LeBow College of Business will be Drexel’s largest academic building and make a direct connection down Market Street to Philadelphia’s business district. And the URBN Center of the Westphal College of Media Arts & Design is reanimating a classic urban building by Robert Venturi.

Another $98 million project on Chestnut Street, developed in a landmark partnership with American Campus Communities, will create 360,000 square feet of retail space benefiting the entire community, and student residences drawing students out of neighborhood-destabilizing rental housing.

Drexel’s new strategic plan, “Transforming the Modern Urban University,” includes a comprehensive campus master plan that offers a roadmap to making University City an “Innovation Neighborhood,” known worldwide as a destination for business and research.

The Drexel Smart House is a 19th-century neighborhood home as a laboratory for student-led research into sustainable urban design.

$15,000 loan to full- and part-time students living in a residence, the program promotes the benefits of owner occupancy of single-family homes surrounding the University. Drexel has formed partnerships with area lenders, realtors and home insurers, title, home inspection, home security, home energy efficiency and moving companies to assure students to study, explore, live and work in Philadelphia.

being renovated for use as a “living and learning laboratory,” the City of Philadelphia’s Department of Parks and Recreation has embarked on a multifaceted partnership with Drexel to green the University’s surrounding neighborhood. The collaboration supports Mayor Michael Nutter’s Greenworks Philadelphia plan and will benefit several playgrounds in the Mantua section of the city and offer trees to Drexel faculty and professional staff who live in the city.

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WEST PHILADELPHIA CAREER FAIR

More than 600 individuals attended the West Philadelphia Career Fair, a partnership between Drexel and other community-based organizations to offer information from more than 50 employers about employment opportunities specifically for West Philadelphia residents. Drexel provided pre-fair classes that prepared residents to compete for immediately available job openings. And Drexel’s Talent Acquisition team facilitated mock interview sessions at Enterprise Development Services West and People’s Emergency Center to prepare candidates for the job market in general.

WORKREADY: PHILADELPHIA YOUTH NETWORK

Drexel has continued its strong relationship with WorkReady and the Philadelphia Youth Network, a system of programs dedicated to building the region’s future workforce. Drexel’s commitment reached new heights in 2011, when the University hired its highest ever number of full-time residents from West Philadelphia high schools. Drexel was recognized with the Blood Sweat and Grit in the Dining Hall honor at Philadelphia Youth Network’s Breakfast of Champions.

The Pedagogy Institute’s Integrated Sciences Building and its biowall, a living air filter, exemplify the green construction transforming campus and University City.

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