

2022-2023
**COMMUNITY
BENEFITS**
REPORT



Assumption
University

www.assumption.edu

MISSION STATEMENT

Assumption University is a comprehensive, Catholic liberal arts institution sponsored by the Augustinians of the Assumption. We awaken in students a sense of wonder, discovery, and purpose, forming graduates known for their intellectual seriousness, thoughtful citizenship, and devotion to the common good. Our curricular and co-curricular programs provide students with an education that shapes their souls, forms them intellectually, and prepares them for meaningful careers. We are a diverse community that welcomes different points of view and embraces all who share our mission. Enlivened by the Catholic affirmation of the harmony of faith and reason and by the pursuit of the truth in the company of friends, an Assumption education transforms the minds and hearts of students.

CAMPUS COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUPS

Assumption Athletics and Recreation

Campus Ministry

Community Service Learning

Student Government Association

The **Community Benefits Report** is produced by the Assumption University Office of Integrated Marketing.

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On the cover:
Kaitlyn Oemcke, Assumption swimming and water safety instructor, supporting one of several thousand students who has developed this important, life-saving skill by attending classes at Plourde Recreation Center over the years.

Assumption University

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we reflect on the past year's accomplishments and contributions, it brings me great pleasure to present Assumption University's Annual Community Benefits Report.

In the classroom, on the field, and in the greater Worcester community, our faculty, staff, and students remain steadfast in its mission to pursue the truth in the company of friends. The spirit of volunteerism, a cornerstone of our institution, has played a pivotal role in reinforcing the strong bond between our campus and the wider Worcester and Central Massachusetts community.

Volunteering is not just an extracurricular activity at Assumption but an integral part of our educational mission. It is through selfless service that we aim to instill in our students a deep sense of responsibility towards others, mirroring the teachings of St. Augustine. In the past year, our students, faculty, and staff have dedicated countless hours to various community service initiatives, embodying the essence of our Catholic and Augustinian mission. From caring for patients in local Worcester community hospitals, to teaching children and senior citizens in efforts to promote life-long learning, to supporting children with autism at the New England Center for Children, the Assumption community is committed to supporting Worcester.

Moreover, the collaborative efforts between Assumption University and community organizations like the Worcester Art Museum, St. Vincent's Hospital, and the Worcester Red Sox have yielded fruitful outcomes. The synergy of knowledge, skills, and resources has not only addressed immediate needs but has also sown the seeds for sustainable, positive change. We are immensely proud of the partnerships that have flourished and the lives that have been touched through these collective endeavors.

As we move forward, our commitment to community engagement remains unwavering. The transformative power of volunteering extends beyond the immediate impact -



President Greg Weiner, Ph.D. on his inauguration day, flanked by Assumption students gathered to congratulate him and enjoy local food truck "The Dogfather" hotdogs.

it shapes individuals into compassionate, responsible citizens who are attuned to the needs of others.

Thank you for taking the time to read the 2023 annual report to learn more about our commitment to our community. May our shared commitment to service continue to chart a course towards a brighter future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Weiner".

Greg Weiner, Ph.D.

President, Assumption University

FOR MORE ON
PRESIDENT
WEINER



**FEES/TAXES
PAID TO
THE CITY OF
WORCESTER**

Water and Sewer Taxes
\$318,627

Property Taxes
\$63,925

Police Department
Coverage Costs
\$6,582

Fire Department
Detail
\$1,059

Other Fees
\$6,134

- Including:
- Parking lot licenses
 - Certificates of inspection
 - Plumbing fees
 - Liquor licenses
 - Filing fees
 - Food permits
 - Pool permits
 - Lodging fees
 - Camp fees



**WORCESTER COMMUNITY CHILDREN
LEARN TO SWIM
AT ASSUMPTION**

[L-R] Kaitlyn Oemcke (swimming and water safety instructor), Katie Meservey (assistant aquatics director and swimming instructor), and Emma Lang (swimming and water safety instructor) build confidence in young swimmers and their families.

For almost thirty years, Assumption University has offered children in the Worcester community the opportunity to learn a valuable life lesson - how to swim.

Through lessons offered in the Plourde Recreation Center, a team of eight to ten certified water safety instructors, mostly comprised of Assumption students, teach children ranging from 6 months to 13 years old how to swim. The program, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2019, has helped thousands of local children learn to swim, including 96 in the fall of 2022 and 153 in the spring of 2023.

"Assumption always wants to be a part of teaching," said Michael Rodier, director of recreation. "Whether it's in the classroom with our students, or outside of the classroom with the

community, we're teaching valuable life skills and life lessons."

The learning in the pool, however, goes beyond teaching children to swim. They are also taught other important water safety skills, such as boating safety and the importance of lifeguards.

"Every lesson, there is a safety component regarding being in or around water," said Cheryl Cote, the program's aquatics director. "We use canoes to teach boating safety, and

how to call for help from the lifeguards, and that even our best swimmers can't swim alone."

Student instructors like Evelyn Humphries '25 have found that teaching the lessons are as important to them as the learning is for the students.

"Watching the swim students in these classes progress from being uncomfortable and unable to be reassured, to no longer feeling scared and able to jump into the water on their own is an extremely rewarding experience," said Humphries. "Progressing through the weeks and watching how much more confident parents feel in their child's ability to be in and around a pool deck is the experience I hope that every person utilizing swim lessons experiences."

By teaching the children for multiple sessions, instructors are able to form relationships with the students and build a sense of community within the lessons.

"Seeing the same families and children coming back session after session shows the strong relationship that has been built between

"Whether it's in the classroom with our students, or outside of the classroom with the community, we're teaching valuable life skills and life lessons.

Mike Rodier - Director of Recreation



Assumption Aquatics Director Cheryl Cote (left) with a mother/daughter aquatics team.

the Assumption community and the Worcester community," said Humphries.

"We have one little five year old in the last lesson who always tells her dad, 'I want to sit and have my snack here, because I like being on campus,'" said Cote. "The kids just love it, and we're able to offer them an opportunity to come in and see campus while they're having fun and exerting energy in a positive way."

**SUPPORTING
LOCAL STUDENTS**

Number of students from
Worcester County

721

Number of students from
the City of Worcester

231

Amount of institutional aid
to students from Worcester

\$5,129,338

Amount of institutional aid
to students from
Worcester County

\$16,129,338

(including City of Worcester)

Undergraduates who receive
some form of financial aid

99%

EMPLOYMENT

Annual payroll for employees
residing in the
City of Worcester
\$6,638,989

Annual payroll for employees
residing in the City of
Worcester County
(excluding Worcester)
\$11,563,069

Number of faculty/staff living
in the City of Worcester and
surrounding communities
226



**AU AND NECC
LIVING AND
LEARNING
ABOUT A MUTUALLY- REWARDING,
LONG-STANDING PARTNERSHIP**

The New England Center for Children (NECC), located in Southborough, Massachusetts, is an organization that provides care and services for children with autism through a network of educators, professionals, and researchers. NECC works to help children with autism live and learn in rewarding and productive ways through a variety of different programs and research.

For years, Assumption University and NECC have had a collaboration in order to provide support and education for children with autism and their families. 34 Assumption alumni are currently working across NECC's multiple programs, and 85 additional alumni have worked for NECC in the past.

Students in Assumption's Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) program have the opportunity to become research fellows at NECC to pursue a Master of Arts in ABA while completing a research thesis. Many students have also had

the opportunity to intern at NECC during their Assumption education. Some students who have benefitted from this collaboration have chosen to remain at NECC after their time at Assumption has ended, emphasizing the strength of both the partnership and the work of NECC.

"My time at Assumption prepared me for my role by giving me the opportunity to start as an intern at NECC during my senior year," said Amanda Albanesi, a member of the class of 2020, who now works as a residential coordinator at NECC. "I think being an intern has helped me be a better supervisor in a way

that I can connect and relate to new interns on my team in ways that other supervisors may not be able to."

"The number of Assumption alumni who work here...it just shows a great partnership, great connection," said Jared Bouzan, a member of the class of 1997, who has been chief development officer at NECC since 2016. "So many want to go to Assumption to learn how to work with people who are less fortunate, and their passions for working with them are molded in those four years. It is a privilege and an honor to work in the nonprofit sector."

Bouzan's passion for working with children with autism is personal, as he has a child on the autism spectrum; having that perspective has opened his eyes to look beyond only the child needing support from NECC.

"Our children are in need of a lot of support, but so are the families," Bouzan said. "The child has the diagnosis, but it also affects mothers, fathers, siblings...it's challenging for the entire



Assumption alumni who are now NECC staff: (L-R) Mary Masterson '23, Amanda Albanesi '20, Jared Bouzan '97, Sara Jenkins '20, and Linda Donahue '89

family. When you work at an organization like NECC, you serve more than just direct challenges. You want to help support the parents and their close immediate family as well."

"I think the number of alumni who have come to work here shows the incredible importance Assumption puts on students to learn, grow, be a part of a community, and support others," said Bouzan. "It just shows that our alumni really care about the community and really care about supporting others."

"I think the number of alumni who have come to work here shows the incredible importance Assumption puts on students to learn, grow, be a part of a community, and support others."

*Jared Bouzan '97
NECC Chief Development Officer*

**LOCAL
PURCHASING**

Total capital expenditures
paid to vendors in
Worcester County
\$2,122,281

Total capital expenditures
paid to vendors in the
City of Worcester
\$2,058,585

Total capital expenditures paid to
vendors in
Worcester County over
the last 10 years
\$67,892,445

Total purchasing expenditures
paid to vendors in the
City of Worcester
\$2,147,308

Total purchasing expenditures
paid to vendors in
Worcester County
(including Worcester)
\$3,295,356

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

Annual Commitment to the Hanover Theatre

Annual Worcester Red Sox Partnership

Annual Partnership with Worcester Railers and DCU Center

\$145,000

Number of hours students contribute to community activity

100,000+

Groups AU has hosted on campus, or supported

21

- Adopt-A-Student Program
- Catholic Charities
- Catholic Relief Services
- City of Worcester (Election Polling Location)
- Diocese of Worcester
- Hispanics Achieving and Celebrating Excellence (HACE)
- Jewish Community Center
- Notre Dame Academy
- Notre Dame Long Term Care
- Regional Environmental Council, Inc.
- St. John's High School
- Thea Bowman Foundation
- United Way of Central Massachusetts
- Venerini Academy
- WCUW, Inc.
- Worcester Chamber of Commerce
- Worcester Children's Chorus
- Worcester Public Schools Coats for Kids
- Worcester Railers Hockey - Feed the Front Lines Program
- Worcester Red Sox Foundation
- Worcester Regional Research Bureau



WORCESTER INSTITUTE FOR SENIOR EDUCATION PROVIDES WISE LEARNING AT AU'S CAMPUS AND BEYOND

Since 1993, the Worcester Institute for Senior Education (WISE) has been providing intellectual and social stimulation for senior citizens in the Worcester community. Based on Assumption University's campus, and affiliated with the School of Graduate Studies, WISE offers five-week courses to its members on an array of topics, such as music history, biology, and economics.

Until 2022, WISE offered only in-person courses to its members. However, after the COVID pandemic, the program began to offer courses both in-person and online. This allows the program to reach beyond the Worcester community as virtual sessions can allow for senior citizens who may have mobility issues

“ We offer a lot of different types of activities specifically to keep people intellectually active, and we try to do them in person to help foster those social environments. ”

James Keevan, WISE Executive Director

or live outside of driving distance to join from anywhere.

“We now have people from Canada, California, and other locations across North America attending our virtual sessions,” said James Keevan, Executive Director of WISE. “So many people have always wanted to participate and couldn't, but now with online courses, suddenly they are able to participate.”

Besides courses online and on Assumption's campus, WISE also hosts courses at multiple locations across Worcester, including the Worcester Art Museum, the Hanover Theatre, and several retirement communities, such as the Willows and Briarwood. The courses offered at retirement communities are free for any member of the communities, encouraging them to continue their education through WISE.

Along with offering various types of courses for its members, WISE offers opportunities for senior citizens to learn and become engaged within the community, including book clubs, annual dinners, and special interest groups.

“Multiple studies have shown that it is important to provide both intellectual and social environments for senior citizens to help prevent them from stagnating,” said Keevan. “We offer a lot of different types of activities specifically to keep people intellectually active, and we try to do them in person to help foster those social environments.”

“I have been very impressed with WISE and how many people are willing to volunteer to help other members of the community,” said Keevan. “Whether it's on Zoom or in-person, they look out for each other and try



Executive Director of the Worcester Historical Museum William Wallace educates a WISE audience in Le Salon at Assumption's Worcester Campus.

to encourage each other to participate in the activities and stay active, both intellectually and emotionally.”

A CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO OUR VETERAN FRIENDS

Many of our WISE participants either served our country in the military, or are relatives to veterans. Assumption, a Top Ten in the U.S. Gold Military Friendly and a Yellow Ribbon institution, is an ardent supporter of military veterans, active service members, and their families. AU provides assistance financially by offering veteran-specific financial aid packages, and socially with a Veterans Lounge for veterans to study, learn, and meet other veterans. Assumption hosts an Annual Day of Observance ceremony each

November, honoring all veterans at Assumption, in Worcester, and beyond.



Assumption offers a graduate certificate in Special Ops: Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families (SMVF) which provides training for individuals in the human services field, arming them with knowledge of relevant issues facing service members, veterans, and their families.

VOLUNTEERISM

Institutions with direct benefits due to AU's involvement

24

- African Community Education
- Boys and Girls Club of Worcester
- Chandler Elementary Community School
- Friendly House
- Get in the Game - Marrow Drive
- Grafton Street School
- Holden Basketball Clinic
- Holden Youth Soccer Clinic
- Northbridge Junior Baseball League
- Pernet Family Health Services
- Project New Hope
- Rainbow Child Development
- Seven Hills Special Olympics
- Special Olympics - Worcester
- Team Impact
- Triboro Youth Hockey
- Unified Sports
- Veterans Inc.
- Worcester East Middle School
- Worcester Youth Basketball Clinic
- Worcester Youth Field Hockey Clinic
- Work for Worcester Day
- YMCA
- You're With Us

INSTITUTIONAL FACTS

Assumption University was founded

1904

Number of undergraduate students

1,667

Number of graduate students

355

Number of majors/minors

38/50

SCHOOLS

Where AU students volunteered, did practicums, internships, or work study

48

- Algonquin Regional High School
- Auburn High School
- Auburn Middle School
- Beal Elementary School
- Burncoat High School
- Burncoat Middle School
- Calvin Coolidge Elementary School
- City View Elementary School
- Clark Street Community School
- Columbus Park Prep School
- Dawson Elementary
- Devereux School
- Doherty High School
- Flagg Street School
- Florence Roche Elementary School
- Forest Grove Middle School
- Goodnow Brothers Elementary School
- Groton Elementary School
- Houghton Elementary School
- Hudson Public School
- Jaworek Elementary School
- Lake View Elementary
- Lincoln Street School
- Major Edwards Elementary
- Marlborough Public Schools
- McGrath Elementary
- Midland Street Elementary School
- Mountview Middle School
- Nelson Place Elementary
- Norrback Avenue School
- Oak Middle School
- Oxford Public Schools
- Parker Road Preschool
- Quinn Middle School
- Robert H. Goddard Academy
- Shaw Elementary School
- Sherwood Middle School
- Shrewsbury High School
- Sullivan Middle School
- Tatnuck Magnet School
- Thomas Prince School
- Thorndyke Road School
- Wachusett Regional High School
- West Boylston High School
- West Tatnuck Elementary School
- Whitcomb Middle School
- Worcester Arts Magnet
- Worcester East Middle School



NURSING STUDENTS' CLINICAL CARE RESULTS IN ENORMOUS RECIPROCAL BENEFITS

Future nurses train in the clinical labs at Assumption's Froelich School of Nursing. This translates into a big impact on the local health community, when our junior and senior nursing students put their medical and compassion skills to work in the real world.

One of the most important parts of any nursing student's education is the real-world training gained through providing patient-centered care in clinical environments. Assumption University's Froelich School of Nursing (FSoN) students begin attending clinicals at local hospitals and healthcare facilities during their junior year, as they practice and build upon their skills learned in the classroom while helping those in need of care.

Nora Birmingham, a nursing student from the class of 2024, reflected on her clinical experiences and how carrying out the skills she has learned in class has not only benefited patients in her care but has also been personally rewarding for her.

"When I came to Assumption, I was back and forth between pursuing a career in teaching or nursing," Birmingham said. "I really enjoyed helping, and I thought nursing was a great way to connect with the community. Even though it isn't teaching, you still teach your patients, and I can still work with the pediatric population."

"Nursing is not just a profession... You have to really have that caring heart for patients and go above and beyond for them."
Nora Birmingham '24 – Nursing Major

During Birmingham's clinical rotation at Saint Vincent Hospital in Worcester, MA, she was placed in a small group with other student nurses from Assumption, nurses working in the hospital, and an Assumption nursing professor. Through her experience, she learned more about best practices in nursing and new skills such as wound care and respiratory therapy. What stood out the most to her, however, was how the hospital's nurses were able to advocate and care for their patients.

"It has been really rewarding to observe how much the nurses care for their patients," Birmingham said. "For me, being able to learn that level of care, and see the empathetic and compassionate care that the nurses are providing their patients has been important; I want to be that kind of advocate for my patients one day."

On top of learning skills that will benefit them for the duration of their nursing careers, Assumption nurses are also able to establish meaningful connections with other nurses and their patients during clinical rotations.

"We [FSoN nursing students] were able to see a lot of the relationships between the nurses and their patients," Birmingham said. "My roommate helped nurses to set up a party for an older

gentleman's 85th birthday where they made paper swans. We establish relationships with our patients and connect with the community along with learning."

"Nursing is not just a profession," Birmingham said. "There are so many characteristics behind it. You have to really have that caring heart for patients and go above and beyond for them."

WORDS FROM THE WOOSOX

"Being a graduate of Assumption University and a current front-office employee of the Worcester Red Sox, I've witnessed firsthand the tremendous impact of our partnership on the Worcester Community. This collaboration has fostered a dynamic bridge between academia and sports, nurturing invaluable opportunities for student engagement and community involvement. The partnership has offered students a chance to be involved with a one of its kind sports organization that is unique to the city of Worcester. I've certainly benefited from it as a student and am looking forward to seeing the relationship continue to grow for years to come."



Danny Malm '22 – Group Events Manager, Worcester Red Sox

INTERNSHIP OR WORK STUDY

Non-school locations where AU students volunteered, did practicums, internships, or work study

121

- AAFCPAs
- AD Creative Co.
- ADP
- Advanced Psych Services
- Aflac
- Amazon
- American Construction Corporation
- American Superconductor
- Anthony Bizzotto
- Ascentria Care Alliance
- Attention Behavior and Cognition
- Auburn Police Department
- Barrett Family Wellness Center
- Bayard Press
- Baystate Physical Therapy
- BioSynth
- Bisceglia, Steinman, and Fudeman
- Bollus Lynch LLP
- Braathe Enterprises
- Central Mass Prep
- Central Massachusetts Collaborative
- Charles River Laboratories
- Cigna Corporation
- Clarke Living
- Clinton Police Department
- Collins Aerospace
- ComputerVault
- Congressman Tom Emmer
- Connecticut PGA
- Cornerstone Bank
- CT Financial Partners
- CVS Health
- D1 Training
- DCF Worcester West
- DeFiner
- Deloitte
- Department of Children and Family Services (DCF)
- Devereux Behavioral Care
- Dynamy John S. Laws Academy
- Eisenberg Assisted Living Home
- Elliot Physical Therapy
- Enterprise Holdings
- Envestnet | Yodlee
- EPK Media
- Family and Community Resources
- Fiorellas
- Framingham Union Hospital
- Genesis Club
- Giolekas Sports and Family Chiropractic

(List continues on next page.)

NOTE: The above listing does not include schools. Participating schools are listed in the lefthand column on preceding page.

Non-school Internship or Work Study Locations

(Continued from previous page)

- Girl Scouts of Eastern MA
- Greendale Physical Therapy
- Guilford Police Department/ Guilford Youth & Family Services
- Hartwell Learning Center
- HEARD Strategy and Storytelling
- Helping Our Women
- Holden Martial Arts
- Holy Trinity Rehabilitation Center
- Home Helpers Home Care
- Infosec
- Innovo Benefits
- Isto Biologics
- Jewish Healthcare Center
- Kahn Litwin Renza
- Keystone Collaborative
- KMKFIT LLC
- Mass Golf
- Massachusetts Pirates
- Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus
- MathWorks
- May Institute
- Medical University of SC
- Mirick O'Connell

- Nazareth
- NetScout Systems
- New England Center for Children
- Nordson EFD
- Notre Dame Health Care
- O'Connor Maloney & Company, P.C
- Ocean State Job Lot
- Off The Rails
- One Mission
- Ouellette Wealth Management Group
- PENTA Communications, INC.
- People's United Bank
- Periodontal and Implant Excellence
- Rec Farmers Market
- Renaissance Medical Group
- Revive of the USA, Inc.
- Rhode Island Department of Public Health
- RippleMatch
- SciQuel
- Scratch Marketing & Media
- Scribe America
- Servello CPA
- Seven Hills Foundation
- Sevens Hills Aspire Program

- Signiant
- Smithfield Police Department
- Sodexo
- Sound Running
- Summit Academy
- Superior Communication Services
- The BORO Program
- TJX Companies
- Twin Sisters Livingston
- UMass Chan Medical School
- UMASS Memorial ED
- UMass Memorial Health
- UniBank for Savings
- Visitation House
- Wachusett Early Childhood Center
- Walden Behavioral Care
- Waypoint Writing
- Wells Fargo
- West Boylston Police Department
- Wolf and Company
- Worcester Court Service Center
- Worcester District Attorney's Office
- Worcester Railers
- Worcester Red Sox

AND MORE...

**Groups AU hosted on campus,
rented space to, or made
financial donations to**

15

- Association for Core Texts and Courses
- Girls Inc.
- Jesse Burkehart Softball
- Nativity School
- Netvue Regional Gathering
- Not I
- Prospect Select
- Saint John's High School Swim
- Science Olympiad
- Shamrock Field Hockey
- Special Olympics Swim Team
- St. Paul's Football
- Step3Baseball
- Worcester Team United AAU Basketball
- WRSD Basketball

2022-2023

COMMUNITY BENEFITS REPORT



**Assumption
University**

Office of the President
500 Salisbury Street | Worcester, MA 01609

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