



The Value of Donating Time: Jim McCurdy

At Massachusetts Hospital School (MHS), donating one's time is just as valuable as receiving monetary donations. There are numerous opportunities to volunteer at MHS for individuals, groups and corporations.

Jim McCurdy is an amazing example of how an individual can make a difference in the lives of the children and young adults at MHS. In the spring of 2008, after retiring, Jim started volunteering at MHS four days a week. Jim works with Virgil Sousa, Coordinator of Athletics, in the adapted physical education program. As a father of two sons involved in sports, Jim often participated in coaching his sons' teams. Working with this program and in the recreation department has been an excellent placement for him.



Jim's family taught him the importance of giving back at an early age. He has instilled these same values in his own sons. When asked why he enjoys volunteering at MHS, Jim explained, "I volunteer for the rewarding experience of helping others. Everyone needs help sometimes. Massachusetts Hospital School is a unique place. The children are great. They're always surprising you. I realized in a short period of time how much everyone appreciates you here."



The Brayton School, Annual Coat Drive

MHS' Brayton School needs your support as they kick off the [16th Annual Anton's Cleaners Coats for Kids drive](#). The Brayton School has participated in this coat drive for the past six years. The mission of *Coats for Kids* is simple - anyone in need of a coat will have one. As a school collection partner, the Brayton School is now accepting [winter coat donations](#) until January 8, 2011.

The school will take gently used, warm winter jackets and coats of any size for both children and adults. The coats are sent to a local Anton's cleaners and then distributed among the [collaborating social services agencies](#). These agencies will give the coats out to those in need. Help the Brayton School make a difference this winter and donate a coat!

Coat donations can be dropped off at MHS' foundation office located on 3 Randolph Street, Canton, MA, in the administration building. For more details and questions, email us at mhsf@mhsf.us.

MHS Visits Capital Hill and Discovers Justice

Massachusetts Hospital School Foundation (MHSF) hosted its second annual legislative breakfast at the State House on September 23, 2010. The purpose of the visit was to increase awareness of the Massachusetts Hospital School (MHS) and its mission among state senators and state representatives.

The breakfast featured an informational presentation with an opportunity for invited guests to meet MHS students, parents, and staff. The program consisted of welcoming remarks by MHSF Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Tom Norton, a parent's testimonial



regarding the quality of their son's life at MHS, and three students shared their experiences about how MHS has helped them achieve success.



The legislative breakfast was a learning experience for all that attended particularly the MHS students. The day allowed the students to learn about both the legislative and judicial branches of government.

After the State House, the students went to the John Adams Courthouse for a [Discovering Justice's field trip](#). The Discovering Justice's program gave the students a hands-on approach to learning about the law and the justice system. It also exposed the students' to historic Boston and the renovated architecture of the courthouse.



MHS is Up with Up with People!

Over 85 [Up with People](#) performers and staff members spent the day at MHS. The group prepared activities and interacted with the students during school hours. They supported the recreation department during afterschool recreation. Before they prepared for their evening show, especially designed for MHS students, the group joined the students for a celebratory dinner.



The Up with People show was vibrant and filled with colors. Their songs and dances represented different countries and culture around the world. The performance brought laughter and enjoyment to everyone who came to the show. MHS would like to thank Up with People for their day of service and their diverse, dynamic performance on October 6, 2010.



Noteworthy News and Events

[12th Annual South Shore Hog Halloween Costume Run](#)

You are invited to join MHS students and staff on *October 31 at 12:00 pm*, to watch the [South Shore Hogs](#) drive around the MHS campus during their annual Halloween Costume Run.

[Holiday Craft Fair](#)

MHS' annual holiday craft fair will be on *December 15, 2010 from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm*. All are welcome to attend. If you are interested in selling crafts, please email us at mhsf@mhsf.us.

[2011 Commencing Class Disney Adventure](#)

The class trip is quickly approaching, *November 18, 2010*. It is not too late to donate to the MHS 2011 Commencing Class Disney Trip. [Donate online](#) today! [Click here to see the Disney video](#).

2011 Dinner Dance Tickets

Save the date! The 2011 Dinner Dance will be on *May 19, 2011*. [Tickets are now available for purchase](#).

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