COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES
Sponsored by the 2018 Major Reunion Classes

May 2018

Demonstrating ongoing alumni commitment to “Princeton in the nation’s service and in the service of humanity,” many major reunion classes have organized community service and engagement initiatives leading up to and during Reunions 2018.

Class of 1973

The Class of 1973 has chosen to support two organizations in the Princeton area: Womanspace and HomeFront NJ. Womanspace began as a women’s shelter just a few years after their graduation and has grown into a comprehensive provider of services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. HomeFront NJ has a mission to end homelessness in Central New Jersey. Members of the Class of ’73 are being asked to bring new infant clothing, women’s clothing and personal hygiene items.


The Classes of 1978, 1983, 2003, 2008 and 2013 will be joining forces to help low-income children and young adults who have experienced poverty, abuse, and neglect develop safe, supportive environments where they can unleash their full potential and become self-reliant members of their communities.

On Thursday, May 31, alumni and friends will gather in Newark, NJ for the morning (9:00 a.m. to noon), the afternoon (1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.), or both, to volunteer their time with these local community-based initiatives:

- Work on an affordable housing site with YouthBuild (https://www.youthbuild.org), where 16-24 year olds who did not finish high school enroll for a school year to restart their education, learn work skills while building affordable housing in their community, engage in community service, and receive leadership training.

- Help improve program spaces at Hetrick-Martin Institute (http://www.hmi.org/newjersey) which welcomes LGBTQ students who are at-risk of harassment, abuse, neglect, homelessness and in need of finding a safe, supportive environment in which to grow and thrive.

- Paint houses with ARFC / St. Clare's Housing Program (http://www.hmi.org/newjersey), where students who are the victims of abuse and those impacted by HIV/AIDS find housing and the stability needed to live healthy lives.

Alumni can also support the young people at these three Newark, NJ organizations by donating through Amazon NJ essential daily living items and toiletries to help provide a safe & supportive living environment and greater self-sufficiency.

- YouthBuild wish list: http://a.co/2btZgUY
- Hetrick Martin wish list: http://a.co/czEx7Hn
ARFC/St Clare’s wish list:  [http://a.co/iPBbM2G](http://a.co/iPBbM2G)

On **Friday, June 1**, alumni and guests are encouraged to join the five classes in Dod Courtyard anytime between **10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.** to help fight hunger as they pack meals for **Kids Against Hunger** ([www.kidsagainsthunger.org](http://www.kidsagainsthunger.org)), which provides fully nutritious meals to support youth who are moving from malnourishment or food insecurity to self-sufficiency.

Later on **Friday, June 1** from **2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** in McCosh Hall, Room 66, a member from each participating class will participate in a panel discussion on how the joint service initiative was put together and what they learned from the project. They hope to provide guidance to alumni planning future Reunions community service projects.

**Class of 1988**

For their 30th Reunion Service Project, the **Class of 1988** has chosen to support the life-changing work of service dogs by partnering with **The Seeing Eye** ([http://www.seeingeye.org](http://www.seeingeye.org)), headquartered in Morristown, NJ. Founded in 1929, The Seeing Eye is the oldest existing guide dog school in the world with the mission to enhance the independence, dignity and self-confidence of people who are blind, through the use of specially trained Seeing Eye dogs. Leading up to Reunions, the class is collecting donations to present when alumni and guests visit their headquarters over Reunions weekend. The goal is to raise $5,000 or more, so that the class will have the opportunity to name a guide dog in training.

On **Thursday, May 31**, the class has arranged a tour and service project at The Seeing Eye Headquarters from **10:45 a.m. until 3:30 pm.** On **Friday, June 1** from **3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** in Butler Courtyard, classmates and friends will be able to meet puppies and trainers from Mercer County Puppy Raisers, a volunteer group in the local Princeton area who train puppies for The Seeing Eye. In addition, Koa (Hawaiian for "brave warrior"), who has been living on campus at Princeton and training to be a diabetic alert dog, will be on site with his trainer, Camden Olson ’19.

**Class of 1993**

For their 25th Reunion, the **Class of 1993** has organized the **Tiger Reading Challenge**, which is an effort to celebrate the joy of reading among their class and the greater community through a partnership with the **Princeton School District**. The class will provide 5 summer reading books per backpack to 328 under-resourced students in kindergarten through 8th grade. The class will collect and purchase the books, pack them in backpacks at Reunions, write encouraging notes on bookmarks and help deliver the backpacks to the schools.

In addition, the Class of 1993 will also sponsor this year’s **Princeton University Reunions Run (PURR) 5k** on **Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m.** All proceeds will support the Princeton Internships in Civic Service (PICS) program.

**Class of 1998**

As part of their 20th reunion class community service project, the **Class of 1998** has partnered with the **Bridge of Books Foundation**. They are providing ocean and science themed books to children in underserved communities throughout New Jersey. Their goal is 100% class participation, with each classmate donating at least one book from their Amazon Wishlist ([https://tinyurl.com/ycyd28t2](https://tinyurl.com/ycyd28t2)). The books they have purchased leading up to Reunions are already being distributed to children in need.