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Brandeis University was founded seventy years ago as a research university dedicated to both intellectual excellence and social justice. One of Brandeis’ key foundational values is the commitment to the Jewish concept of tikkun olam, or the aspiration to “repair the world.”

There are more than 260 student-run organizations on the Brandeis campus, including the Waltham Group, which engages hundreds of Brandeis students in active community service initiatives. Long before volunteerism became popular on other campuses, Brandeis was doing serious work in and with the community, but also in the classroom, through co-curricular activities, and in formal institutional partnerships.

## The Waltham Group

Founded in 1966, the Waltham Group is now the largest student organization at Brandeis. The group is advised by the Brandeis University Department of Community Service, and provides support for student-led service initiatives. The Waltham Group’s 19 community engagement and advocacy programs focus on areas including education, sustainability, mentorship, housing, health, aging, food justice, and the celebration of differences in physical and mental abilities. Over 80 student coordinators lead these initiatives.

The Waltham Group is only one of many ways that Brandeis gives back and gets involved in improving the life of the community. Brandeis sponsors scholarships for outstanding Waltham high school graduates to attend Brandeis; to date, more than 100 “Brandeis/Waltham” Scholars have graduated from Brandeis University. A student-initiated group called TRII (The Right to Immigration Institute), the only undergraduate program in the country that trains college students to be certified by the Department of Justice as advocates for immigrants, regularly assists immigrants

## IN OUR COMMUNITY

Logging over 40,000 volunteer hours annually, the students of the Waltham Group are making a difference every day across the community with over 40 community local, regional and national partner sites. Though the impact of the Waltham Group is truly incalculable, the Independent Sector has estimated that the economic impact is \$1,195,200 annually to Waltham and Greater Boston region.

- Community engagement and advocacy initiatives focus on: Education, Sustainability, Mentoring, Housing, Health, Aging, Food Justice, Celebrating Differences in Physical and Mental Abilities

750 student volunteers with over 80 student coordinators during 2017-18

over 40 community partner sites (local, regional, and national) served during 2017-18

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## Good Neighbors

Named in 2018 as the number five school in the country for “Most Students Engaged in Community Service” by the Princeton Review, Brandeis University received the 2018 Good Neighbor Award from the Waltham Partnership for Youth. There are many ways, beyond the Waltham Group, that Brandeis gives back and gets involved in the community.

- Brandeis sponsors scholarships for outstanding Waltham high school graduates to attend Brandeis. More than 100 “Brandeis/Waltham” Scholars have graduated from the university.
- The Right to Immigration Institute (TRII), a non-profit organization founded by Brandeis students, trains undergraduates to be certified by the Department of Justice as advocates for non-citizens in local immigration court. TRII members regularly assist immigrants in Waltham who would otherwise be without representation or counsel.
- Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis believed that success in business must not be measured by profits alone, but also by positive social impact. This philosophy is embraced by Brandeis International Business School, which follows in its namesake’s footsteps through courses like adjunct professor Gene Allen Miller’s “Field Projects: Consulting in Social Innovation Impact.” The course focuses on experiential learning, placing students in non-voting board positions with non-profits in Waltham and throughout the Greater Boston area. The course’s goal is to bridge the gap between service and leadership by developing and inspiring future leaders.

There is a breadth and depth to the way Brandeis contributes to the community—there’s direct service on behalf of its students, service in classrooms and in teacher education and work with nonprofits and local fundraising. Brandeis’ approach is one of relationship building and collaboration.

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