

Community Relationships

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS REMAIN ACTIVE AT MARISTHILL



For the past several years Maristhill has enjoyed a wonderful and collaborative relationship with Brandeis University.

For example, since 2007 Brandeis students have been involved in an intergenerational relationship-building program called “Companions to Elders.”

This volunteer effort is managed by Bill Driscoll in Maristhill’s Activities Department, and is consistently popular among the residents who are “matched” based on common interests.

In addition, individual students often opt to get involved as part of their curriculum. Chrissy Callahan is a great example. She’s a double major in journalism and media studies along with French and Francophone studies at Brandeis University, graduating December 2010. But Chrissy also works in Brandeis’ Department of Creative Services, helping edit and maintain the Brandeis website.

She became involved with Maristhill this past August when she was looking for a fifth class for the semester. Eager to do something experiential where she could apply her knowledge to a practical project, Chrissy jumped at the chance to get involved with Maristhill when her friend and advisor, Sarah, recommended an experiential learning course.

Sarah helped coordinate a meeting between Chrissy and Maristhill for an interview, an assessment and a discussion about possible ways in which she could help.

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After the evaluation Barbara Allen, Maristhill’s Director of Marketing and Admissions, was very pleased to assign Chrissy several media-related projects, which mirrored portions of Chrissy’s academic focus areas.

“It’s a great way to learn while giving back to the community,” Chrissy says. “The staff and residents at Maristhill are very knowledgeable so, along with having a great time I’m also gaining valuable first-hand, practical knowledge.”

An avid and self-proclaimed “fashionista,” Chrissy spends most of her precious free time running a beauty blog for Her Campus Magazine (<http://hercampus.com/beauty-school>), an online magazine for college women. She writes product reviews, interviews industry professionals and commentary about trends in the beauty world.

After graduating, Chrissy hopes to get a job in beauty or fashion journalism and move to New York City to explore this exciting field! She also enjoys traveling, and dreams of traveling to Paris frequently for her future career.

