

# Welcome to the McKeen Center!



*“...literary institutions are founded and endowed for the common good, and not for the private advantage of those who resort to them for education.” – Bowdoin President Joseph McKeen, 1802*

The **Joseph McKeen Center for the Common Good** provides opportunities for students to discover the ways in which their talents, passions, and academic pursuits can be used for the benefit of society through public engagement. By linking diverse activities, the McKeen Center serves as a vibrant and central source of information, events, and activities related to community involvement and public engagement for students, faculty, and staff.

Annually, students, faculty, and staff connected to the McKeen Center contribute approximately **60,000 community service hours**. There are over 25 student-led service groups run from the McKeen Center, including groups focused on organizing blood drives, increasing college access, working with immigrants and refugees, helping low-income individuals file their taxes, and building homes with Habitat for Humanity. Each year, over 150 students mentor in the local school system.

There are many different ways to get involved in the McKeen Center! You can:

- Join (or start) a **student-led service group** like the ones listed above
- Earn your Federal Work Study wages by tutoring through **America Reads and Counts**
- Help distribute over \$10,000 in grants to local nonprofits as part of the **Common Good Grant Committee**
- Spend a summer working at a nonprofit abroad as a **Global Citizens Fellowship** recipient, in the United States as a **Denning Summer Fellow** or **Bowdoin Public Service Fellow**, or locally in Maine as a **Maine Community Fellow**
- Immerse yourself in a community through an **Alternative Winter Break** or **Alternative Spring Break** trip
- Take a **Community-engaged course** and work directly with community partners to understand public issues both in theory and practice
- Volunteer with **Bowdoin Votes** to help increase voter registration and promote civic engagement among students
- Learn how to dialogue across difference with fellow students and Maine community members through the **What Matters** conversation series
- Sign up for **Service News**, our weekly email newsletter that keeps you up-to-date on service opportunities
- ...and much more! Come talk with us to find how your passions can translate to work for the common good.

In addition to your Orientation Trip, there will be several ways to get introduced to the work we do early on in the fall, including the annual **Volunteer Fair** in early September and sign-ups for many of our volunteering and educational programs throughout the Fall.

**We are so excited to welcome you to Bowdoin and are looking forward to meeting you when you arrive for your Community Immersion Orientation Trip!**