Founded in 1992, the Barbara and Edward Netter Center for Community Partnerships is the University of Pennsylvania’s primary vehicle to bring to bear the broad range of human knowledge needed to solve the complex, comprehensive, and interconnected problems of the American city so that West and Southwest Philadelphia (Penn’s local geographic community), Philadelphia, the University itself, and society benefit.

Thanks to a wide range of democratic partnerships—developed through innovative Netter Center programs—thousands of Penn students, faculty and staff have worked in and with local institutions, including schools and health clinics, as part of their academic experience. Collaborating with community members, they address real-world concerns and produce positive change, through University-Assisted Community Schools as well as various programs including:

- Agatston Urban Nutrition Initiative
- Arts, Culture, and Humanities
- College Access and Career Readiness
- Moelis Access Science
- Nonprofit Institute at Penn
- Penn Reading Initiative
- Penn Volunteers in Public Service (Penn VPS)
- Young Quakers Community Athletics

Thanks in large part to the Netter Center for Community Partnerships, Penn has established a proud legacy of working with its neighbors to strengthen the cultural, educational, and economic fabric of West Philadelphia and the greater Philadelphia region.”

- Amy Gutmann, President, University of Pennsylvania

This brochure was produced by the Netter Center Community Advisory Board’s PR Committee along with Isabel Sampson-Mapp, Chair, Netter Center Community Advisory Board. Cover photo is of Community Advisory Board members receiving the Distinguished Community Service Award from Penn President Amy Gutmann at the Netter Center’s 20th Anniversary Conference in November 2012.

Thanks to a wide range of democratic partnerships—developed through innovative Netter Center programs—thousands of Penn students, faculty and staff have worked in and with local institutions, including schools and health clinics, as part of their academic experience. Collaborating with community members, they address real-world concerns and produce positive change, through University-Assisted Community Schools as well as various programs including:

- Agatston Urban Nutrition Initiative
- Arts, Culture, and Humanities
- College Access and Career Readiness
- Moelis Access Science
- Nonprofit Institute at Penn
- Penn Reading Initiative
- Penn Volunteers in Public Service (Penn VPS)
- Young Quakers Community Athletics

Thanks in large part to the Netter Center for Community Partnerships, Penn has established a proud legacy of working with its neighbors to strengthen the cultural, educational, and economic fabric of West Philadelphia and the greater Philadelphia region.”

- Amy Gutmann, President, University of Pennsylvania

This brochure was produced by the Netter Center Community Advisory Board’s PR Committee along with Isabel Sampson-Mapp, Chair, Netter Center Community Advisory Board. Cover photo is of Community Advisory Board members receiving the Distinguished Community Service Award from Penn President Amy Gutmann at the Netter Center’s 20th Anniversary Conference in November 2012.
...Help Schools in the Community?
Penn VIPS Scholarship Program: Each year, graduating seniors from Bartram, Overbrook, Parkway, Sayre, and West Philadelphia High School who have been accepted to an accredited college or university and have a history of service may apply for one of five competitive scholarships ranging in value from $500 to $1,000.
Penn Workplace Mentoring Program: This program brings seventh graders from Mastery Charter Middle School - Shoemaker Campus to the University of Pennsylvania, where they interact with faculty and staff. The goal of the program is to help mentees explore a college campus and to help them set goals for their future education and careers.
Class of 80 Mentoring Program: Every month, Penn alumni from the Class of 1980 meet with Sayre students to expose them to a variety of educational and career opportunities that they may not otherwise experience. Mentors form positive relationships with their mentees, talk to them about the importance of an education, and help them set career goals.
Career Day Speakers Bureau: The Netter Center can help schools identify speakers on topics such as career options and preparations, as well as the importance of a college education.
College Access: Students from Sayre and West Philadelphia High Schools in grades 9 to 12 have the opportunity to learn about the college search process, apply for financial aid, fill out college applications, complete FAFSA forms, and receive support in their efforts to go to college.
Pipeline Program: Sayre and West students in grades 9 to 12 with an interest in health sciences and health careers can get involved in hands-on, inquiry-based activities. Penn students work inside Sayre and West classrooms in the fall, and the high school students are brought to Penn to work inside the Perelman School of Medicine’s classrooms and laboratories in the spring.

...Help Organizations in the Community?
Supports for Community Organizations through Penn Volunteers in Public Service (Penn VIPS): Your community-based organization or school could work with Penn employee volunteers, as well as make use of capacity-building workshops and in-kind donations to support your work in serving neighborhood residents.
Nonprofit Institute: Yes, your nonprofit or faith-based organization can benefit from participation in the Nonprofit Institute, which is offered twice each year. It is a two-week seminar in which Penn and community experts share their expertise on topics such as board development, grantwriting, human resource management, legal issues, nonprofit finance, insurance and risk management, public relations, social media, and public speaking.
Penn Volunteers: Your community-based organization could send requests for volunteers to be circulated to the Penn community every other month. Staff, students, faculty, and alumni volunteers may be available for ongoing, special one-time, or monthly projects. Examples of community organization requests have included but are not limited to:
- Donation Drives: Your constituency may be able to receive donated school supplies, food, toys, holiday gifts, and coats that Penn VIPS collects during annual drives that are supported by the Penn community.
- Excess Items Distribution: From time-to-time, Penn offers items such as furniture no longer in use and office supplies for sharing with the community. You have your name added to the list to receive alerts.
- Information, Referrals, and Other Technical Assistance: Please contact the Netter Center for more information on other Penn programs and technical resources that may be helpful to your organization or for help with finding other resources.

...Partner to Promote Health in the Community?
Supports Community Health through a Partnership with the Dr. Bernett L. Johnson, Jr. Sayre Health Center: The Dr. Bernett L. Johnson, Jr. Sayre Health Center is a full-service, primary care health facility located at 95th and Locust Streets, behind Sayre High School, in the Cobbs Creek neighborhood of West Philadelphia. The Center has been serving the needs of area residents since the summer of 2006. Sayre Health Center is a school-based Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). It is an independent clinic with whom the Netter Center and other Penn partners work to support health education and services for the community.

The goal of Sayre Health Center is to provide health education, health promotion, disease prevention and primary care services to Sayre High School students and to community residents, especially those from the surrounding zip codes of 19119 and 19143. Its services are designed to be sensitive to patients’ needs, to inspire trust and engagement, and to be accessible to the most vulnerable and underserved members of its catchment area.

Sayre Health Center offers:
- clinical services
- health education and promotion workshops and special events
- health careers training and credentialing for Sayre High School students
- professional training in health care for undergraduate and graduate students
- Sayre Health Center welcomes all patients regardless of ability to pay. It charges based on a sliding scale. Please call 215-474-4444 to schedule an appointment or to register for workshops and events. Additional information can also be found at its website, www.sayrehealth.org.

The Netter Center is committed to diversity, inclusivity, and community. By engaging Penn students, faculty, staff, and alumni in democratic partnerships with local community members and organizations, we can make a real difference on campus and in West Philadelphia.”
– Ira Harkavy, Associate Vice President and Founding Director, Netter Center

...How Does THE NETTER CENTER...