

## September 2010 Newsletter

### A Joyful Summer Picnic: Green Roof Tour and terrific food



On August 15th, SCC hosted its first ever Summer Picnic on the grounds of St. Polycarp Village. Around 40 people came together to share dishes from their native countries or cities, tour the St. Polycarp green roof with Senior Project Manager, Courtney Koslow, and enjoy a beautiful summer afternoon with other members of the community. "Since so much of the important work that SCC does has to do with building strong personal relationships," explains Board President Janine Lotti "I see events like the picnic as a natural extension of our mission and our work. Sometimes as Board members we get very caught up in the business end of the organization. For me, it is important and essential to feel connected in a more direct and real way to the work that we do---and do so well. What better way to do this than at a picnic?"

### Saying Goodbye to Wonderful Summer Interns

As the summer draws to a close, SCC says goodbye to its three wonderful interns: Meghan, who worked with the Real Estate Development team, and Luo and Elias, who worked with the Community Corridor Planning group.

Over the summer the real estate development department had Meghan Foley, a student from the Dartmouth Tuck School of Business, work on our Green Line development strategy. Meghan analyzed parcels located along the green line corridor to evaluate the financial development potential. Meghan started out with a report done last summer by Nick Bonard in which all parcels within the ½ radius of each station were analyzed to see which had the best redevelopment potential in terms of site location and zoning. Meghan then ran the top ranked parcels through a financial model and further ranked parcels. Her findings show that today the best options for redevelopment are in the Union Square/Brickbottom area. Meghan's hard work will be used to continue our work related to the Green Line extension.

Also this summer SCC had two interns working on our CCP project, Luo from Tufts University and Elias from the Prospect Hill Academy. Luo worked from September 2009 through this August helping to prepare the "inTeractive Somerville" online mapping tool. Elias worked from July-August of this year also working on "inTeractive Somerville" but more specifically creating video footage that will be incorporated into the website. Both interns did an incredible job helping to prepare the mapping tool and their dedication to the work will be greatly missed.

## **An Insightful Conversation with SCC Member Sidia Escobar**

Earlier this week SCC member and former intern Sidia Escobar paid a visit to SCC to renew her membership and to take some time to tell SCC organizer Tito Meza about the challenges the Student Immigrant Movement (SIM) is facing in pushing for legislation that would allow thousands of immigrant students to attend state colleges and universities as Massachusetts residents, paying in-state tuition rates. The college dreams of many of our immigrant high school graduates are squashed simply because they cannot afford the costs of college as an out-of-state student, and their legal status prevents them from being considered an in-state resident even if they've lived in Massachusetts since early childhood. Sidia informed Tito that the student movement is facing many challenges in the sense that a lot of people say they are in favor of the legislation, but there is not very much action to back up those words. Sidia believes that immigrants and all of us would benefit from a better understanding about why immigrants come to the U.S., and what they hope to accomplish here. While frustrating at times, Sidia wants to stay involved in efforts to achieve justice and opportunity for students and for all immigrants.