Presidents' Community Partner Award



Granite Pathways
Saint Anselm College

In a single year Granite Pathways has proven to be an invaluable community partner for Saint Anselm College. The Meelia Center reached out to Granite Pathways when a sophomore nursing class decided to make service-learning an integral part of their Mental Health Nursing course. Pathways "club house" model proved to be an ideal learning site.

At Granite Pathways there are no patients or clients; there are only members. The discussions that students engage in at the program focus on the activity of the day or people's lives in community, and not on problems or mental health diagnosis. This strengths focused approach is not only empowering to the club house members, but is equally empowering to young nursing students about to enter the field.

In many other ways Granite Pathways has demonstrated its strength as a partner in community engagement. Staff and members have presented the model to a social work class, further contributing to the education of Saint Anselm students. They have worked with a new Meelia Center Student Coordinator, helping her to develop professional management skills. They have also worked with a Fine Arts class to allow the Visual Communications students to engage in the real work of creating logos and info graphics to support their agency.

Saint Anselm looks forward to many more years of engagement with Granite Pathways and their inspiring members. This mutually beneficial relationship has started strong and will no doubt grow deeper as the staff and members, and students and faculty define additional ways to collaborate.