

Enoch Woodhouse, MYC Mission Hill Representative 2001-2003, was profiled in the *Boston Globe* for his volunteer work.



## Enoch Woodhouse

As a sophomore at Harvard majoring in religion and African-American studies and as a member of the fencing team with an obligation to work out six days a week, Enoch Woodhouse, 19, does not have a lot of spare time.

And yet, when he was asked to mentor a boy from Mission Hill, Woodhouse said, yes, of course.

His name is Jose. He's 12. He's Puerto Rican, and his parents do not speak fluent English. On Saturdays, Jose boards a bus, along with six other boys from Mission Hill, for the ride to Harvard Square and an afternoon in the company of Harvard students who volunteer to be mentors.

Some days the group will go on trips to the Museum of Science or to the Frog Pond for skating. Often Jose is alone with Woodhouse. They went to the Princeton game, Jose's first exposure to tailgating. Sometimes they find a secluded spot at Lamont Library, and Woodhouse helps Jose with what can be overwhelming to a third-grader, fractions or a history project about the Pilgrims. Often they end with a visit to Lollicup for a bubble tea.

For Jose, the afternoons are an opportunity to talk to an adult about problems at school, life in Mission Hill, and his fantasy of playing shortstop in the big leagues.

For Woodhouse, who grew up in a wealthier part of Mission Hill, the afternoons are a flashback to cultural and economic diversities beyond Harvard, and also to his fortune in attending Roxbury Latin School, where he excelled at academics and fencing.

"Enoch is modest as well as generous," said a friend, David Manzo, president of The Cotting School in Lexington. "I'll bet he didn't mention he's spent part of three summers in Honduras, laboring to bring water to a remote village."

He hadn't.

"With Jose, at first I was wary of the time commitment," says Woodhouse, "but when I think of what else I might be doing, how meaningless it would be compared to the opportunity to help Jose, then it's not a sacrifice at all. I look forward to it."



Source: Jack Thomas, "Six and the City," *Boston Globe*. 1 January 2005.  
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