Unbounded Vision, Magnified Good

How does The House of the Seven Gables, this icon of American culture, leverage its power to do good? Through stimulating, thoughtful Community Conversations on topics ranging from immigration to social reform; through innovative programming developed to find and tell new stories, such as Caribbean Connections, a summer enrichment program for elementary school students; through classes that serve adult students striving to learn English and acquire citizenship, preparing them for oral interviews and supporting their naturalization applications; through partnerships with organizations that provide literacy-building programming to preschoolers and their mothers, immigrant students and their families, and other at-risk youth.

The unbounded vision our founder, Caroline Emmerton, carries a remarkable, generative force: it continually inspires us to dig deep into community, reach out to partners, and magnify good.
CARIBBEAN CONNECTIONS
The Gables offers a five-week summer enrichment program at the Salem Public Schools that aims to help Salem students and their families discover untold stories and hidden connections between Salem and the Caribbean. Caribbean Connections was created in 2012 in collaboration with the Essex National Heritage Commission, who partnered with The Gables after winning an America’s Best Idea grant from the National Park Foundation. The grant promoted Ken Burns’ challenge to excite urban youth about history. Caribbean Connections offers students a chance to learn in English and Spanish about their heritage and the historical connections between Salem and the Caribbean. The program invites students as well as parents to think critically about their role in this evolving history as new residents of the United States.

ESL AND CITIZENSHIP
The Gables offers English-as-a-Second Language and citizenship classes from October - June to adults eager to learn English and those aspiring to become American citizens. The classes are held at Salem Academy Charter School in Salem, MA. In recent years, The Gables has also hosted naturalization ceremonies on its lawn for local residents who have completed the program as well as new citizens from the Boston area. This is done in collaboration with United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS
In keeping with our Settlement mission, The Gables hosts a series of community dialogues to address topics such as immigration, social reform, and current events. Unlike a traditional lecture, the Community Conversations encourage discussion between the speaker and audience members during the course of the presentation.