



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts awards \$665,200 to 45 Area Nonprofits

SPRINGFIELD, MA – The Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts (CFWM) recently awarded \$665,200 to 45 area nonprofits through its Capital Grant and Capacity Grant programs, two of the Foundation’s six competitive grantmaking programs. CFWM’s grantmaking programs focus on improving and supporting the quality of life for people in Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire counties.

CFWM Capital Grants help local nonprofit organizations expand their impact by funding new and upgraded technology, equipment, and facilities. Capacity Grants support local nonprofits to build their own organizational effectiveness and operational efficiency. Grant awards range from \$4,500 - \$40,000 and address community needs in the areas of arts and culture, education, the environment, health, housing, and human services.

Longtime CFWM grantee [Valley Eye Radio](#) was awarded a Capital Grant to purchase new equipment to expand its broadcasts to reading impaired listeners throughout the Pioneer Valley. “Without this grant and the resources to purchase new technology and equipment, we would not be able to serve more listeners in more settings who need our accessible programming produced specifically for their needs,” says Barbara Loh, Executive Director. “It will help to avoid social isolation among the elderly and disabled, and will help them navigate the more complex world of the 21st century... It will give them equal footing to help maintain their quality of life and health.”

Over 25 of the projects funded were supported by trusts administered by Bank of America. CFWM receives and reviews grant applications on behalf of Bank of America for four charitable trusts for which the Bank serves as a trustee. Total grant awards by county are as follows: Franklin, \$108,800; Hampden: \$412,000; Hampshire: \$144,400.

Capital Grants were awarded to the following programs and organizations: Ascentria Community Services; Baystate Health Foundation; Bethlehem House; Chester Theatre Company; Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society; Davenport Child Care; Franklin County Community Meals Program; Franklin Land Trust; Friends of the Montague Common Hall; Friends of the Springfield Public Library Gardening the Community; Hilltown Community Health Center; Hitchcock Center for the Environment; Holyoke Young Men's Christian Association; Mental Health Association; Multicultural Community Services of the Pioneer Valley; Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation; Robert F. Kennedy Academy; Roca; Second Chance Animal Services; ServiceNet; Springfield

Museums Corporation; Stanley Park of Westfield; Tapestry Health Systems; Tolland Volunteer Fire Department; Valley Eye Radio; Willie Ross School for the Deaf; and Womanshelter Companeras.

Capacity Grants were awarded to the following programs and organizations: 1794 Meetinghouse, Inc.; Birthday Wishes; Brick House Community Resource Center; Cancer Connection; Double Edge Theatre Productions; Hilltown Land Trust; Kestrel Land Trust; Link to Libraries; Mary Lyon Education Fund; Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange; Massachusetts Review; North Quabbin Citizen Advocacy; Northampton Education Foundation; Trauma Institute and Child Trauma Institute; and the World Affairs Council of Western Massachusetts.

About the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts

Founded in 1990, the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts administers a charitable endowment consisting of over 600 separately identified funds (\$173 million) serving the three counties bordering the Connecticut River in Western Massachusetts (Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin counties). For more information about the reach and impact of the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, visit

<http://communityfoundation.org>.