



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

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57 Pioneer Valley nonprofits awarded nearly \$1M Community Foundation grants support organizations' core missions

SPRINGFIELD, MA – The Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts (CFWM) recently awarded \$976,400 to 57 area nonprofit organizations through its Mission Grant Program, one of the Foundation's six competitive grantmaking programs. Mission Grants have been the mainstay of CFWM's competitive grantmaking since 1991, and were designed to improve and support the quality of life in the communities of Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties.

The grant awards ranged from \$2,500-\$25,000, and address community needs in the areas of arts and culture, education, the environment, health, housing, and human services for residents in our region. Total grant awards by county are as follows: Hampden, \$649,500; Hampshire, \$173,800; Franklin, \$153,100.

"This funding will allow us to improve access to justice for the underserved here in Hampden County," says Ariel Clemmer, Pro Bono Director of the Hampden County Bar Association. John Majercak, President of the Center for EcoTechnology, was "ecstatic" to receive the grant, sharing that, "We are feeling like our outreach and education work is even more urgent than ever, and we couldn't do it without (this) support."

"It's always exciting to see the breadth and creativity put forth by the Mission Grant applicants," says Jim Ayres, Vice President for Programs and Strategy of CFWM, "And this year proved no different. We're honored to partner with these organizations in their ongoing dedication to the vital work they do to help our community thrive."

Mission Grants were awarded to the following Pioneer Valley organizations:

Action Centered Tutoring Services; Amherst Boys and Girls Club; Appalachian Mountain Club; Arise; Art Garden; Berkshire Children and Families; Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampden County; Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County/Center for Human Development; Big Brothers Big Sisters of Franklin County; Boys and Girls Club of Greater Westfield; Catie's Closet; Center for EcoTechnology; Community Action Pioneer Valley; Community Adolescent Resource and Education Center; Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture; Connecticut River Watershed Council; Critical Connections; Don't Take That Receipt!/Filmmakers Collaborative; Dress for Success of Western Massachusetts; EmbraceRace/Proteus Fund; Emily Dickinson Museum/Amherst College Trustees; Empty Arms Bereavement; Girls on the Run of Western MA; Greater Springfield Habitat for

Humanity; Hampden County Bar Foundation; Holyoke Civic Symphony Orchestra; Holyoke Rows; Ko Theater Works; LifePath; Lovin' Spoonfuls; Make-It-Springfield; Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities; May Institute; Mount Grace Land Conservation; Northampton Jazz Festival; Not Bread Alone/Center for Human Development; Open Pantry Community Services/South Middlesex Council; Partners for a Healthier Community; Piti Theatre Company/Fractured Atlas; Pots on Wheels; Raising a Reader Massachusetts; Reach Out and Read, Connecticut and Massachusetts Region; Revitalize Community Development Corporation; Rick's Place; Rise Above Foundation; Safe Passage; Sibling Connections; Springfield Public Forum; Survival Centers; Teach Western Mass; The American Red Cross of Western Massachusetts; The Literacy Lab - Western Massachusetts; The Literacy Project; The Nolumbeka Project; Toxics Action Center; Treehouse Foundation; Valley Educational Associates.

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>.