

BROWN RUDNICK CENTER FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST
CENTER Quarterly

Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest
www.brownrudnickcenter.com

Recipients of 2008 Relationship Grant Program Announced

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp. has announced the recipients of its Relationship Grants for 2008. These annual grants seek to improve inner-city education by forming a relationship with a non-profit organization that optimally includes providing financial support, pro bono legal representation and volunteer energy. In this year’s request for proposals, the Foundation paid special attention to proposals focused on addressing the issues of school truancy and dropouts. Several of this year’s grants will directly support dropout and truancy prevention initiatives, as well as high school GED programs. More broadly, several of the other 2008 grant recipients offer innovative education projects that will help keep students interested in remaining in school.

(continued on page 2)



Judges for the VLA Holiday Card Contest included: Boston Public Schools’ Gena Quigley (*far left*), VLA Executive Director Jim Grace (*2nd from right*) and Brown Rudnick’s Bevette Davis, Center Executive Director Al Wallis, Ann Joyce, Jennifer Martino and Marilyn Stempler (*See page 6 for more details.*)



“Now in our seventh year, the Foundation continues to seek new and innovative ways in which we can help inner-city students gain access to quality educational services. As we move into 2008, we expanded that mission geographically to include Washington DC, and conceptually, to include a focus on issues related to truancy and dropout rates. We look forward to working with these non-profits – many of whom are multiple year grant recipients – to engage disenfranchised children in education, thereby keeping them in school.”

- Al Wallis, Executive Director of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp.

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2008 Relationship Grant Recipients Announced (cont'd)

Relationship Grants are awarded annually to organizations for the purpose of addressing the educational and other needs of economically disadvantaged individuals and groups within the geographic boundaries of Boston, Hartford, New York City, Providence, and/or Washington DC. Grant applications and an explanation of the program can be found at <http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com/foundation>.

In all, 15 grants were awarded to non-profit organizations across Boston, MA; Providence, RI; Hartford, CT; New York, NY; and Washington DC. The recipients are as follows:



Crittendon Women's Union (Boston)

Grant purpose: **Addressing truancy and school dropouts** by supporting the Alternative High School GED and Choices Programs, which help at-risk students to achieve self-sufficiency through education.



Discovering Justice (Boston)

Grant purpose: **Teaching critical thinking and personal confidence** by supporting the Legal Apprentice Program, an after school program in conjunction with Citizen Schools, which engages middle school students and attorney coaches in mock trials held at the Federal Courthouse.



Facing History & Ourselves (Boston)

Grant purpose: **Teaching tolerance and respect** by funding scholarships to train several Boston teachers on the Choices in Little Rock Program, which aims to engage students in the examination of prejudice.



Reach Out & Read (Boston, Providence & New York)

Grant purpose: **Promoting a lifetime of literacy** by purchasing thousands of books for children, which are distributed by their physicians as part of regular pediatric care.



Thompson Island Outward Bound (Boston)

Grant purpose: **Enhancing self-esteem, personal responsibility and respect for the community** by continuing support of the Choices Program, a five-day Outward Bound experience for Boston public school students.

Recipients of 2008 Relationship Grant Program Announced (cont'd)

The 2008 Relationship Grant recipients are as follows:



Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (Boston)

Grant purpose: **Supporting arts education in public schools** by continuing the annual Holiday Card Contest for students in Boston public schools, and continuing the Art Law Program, which teaches the fundamentals of intellectual property in Boston public schools.



Writer's Express (Boston)

Grant purpose: **Improving writing and literacy skills** by supporting the Summer Program at Simmons College through the provision of scholarship support to students in need.



Center for Children's Advocacy (Hartford)

Grant purpose: **Supporting the Truancy and Dropout Prevention Project**, which provides system-wide, education-related advocacy on behalf of children who are homeless, involved with the juvenile justice system and/or have disabilities.



Harriet Beecher Stowe Center (Hartford)

Grant purpose: **Addressing truancy and school dropouts** through continued support for the After School Enrichment Program.



Shelter for Women (Hartford)

Grant purpose: **Addressing truancy and school dropouts** through continued support for the Girl Power: Girls Make Democracy Work Program, a social studies program serving troubled girls age 13-21 who are in state custody, and providing these girls with an understanding of government and the legislative process.

Recipients of 2008 Relationship Grant Program Announced (cont'd)

The 2008 Relationship Grant recipients are as follows:



Building Educated Leaders for Life (BELL) (New York City)

Grant purpose: **Addressing truancy and school dropouts** by continuing support for academic and social enrichment programs serving low-income elementary school children.



Educators for Social Responsibility (New York City)

Grant purpose: **Enhancing teacher ability to connect with students** by supporting a pilot program to train new and less experienced secondary school teachers.



Fresh Youth Initiative (New York City)

Grant purpose: **Addressing truancy and school drop outs** by supporting the Community Youth in Action Project, an after school program aimed at developing a generation of committed group leaders who understand the need for an education to be able to contribute to the improvement of the Washington Heights area.



Providence Plan (Providence)

Grant purpose: **Improving the learning readiness of pre-school children** by continued support for the Ready2Learn Program, which works to make every Providence child healthy and ready to learn by the time they enter school.



Washington Lawyers' Committee (Washington DC)

Grant purpose: **Increasing the legal communities' involvement with DC public schools** by supporting the DC Public School Partnership Project.

(For more information regarding the Center's activities in Washington DC, see page 5.)

Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Expands Grant Program to Washington DC



The Foundation Directors have voted to expand the grant program to Washington DC, where Brown Rudnick has a growing presence with

offices in the well-known Homer Building (pictured above). The Foundation has awarded its first Washington DC 2008 Relationship grant to the Washington Lawyers' Committee to support the DC Public School Partnership Project. Additionally, the Foundation awarded its first Washington DC Community Grant to the School for Arts in Learning to support the purchase of science and social studies books to build a resource library for students.

In announcing the geographic expansion, Joseph F. Ryan, Foundation Chairman and Brown Rudnick CEO (pictured at right), said the following in a written statement to the firm:

“For the past six years, the Foundation has been making a positive difference in communities where Brown Rudnick is located. Though our education-related grant programs, in which grant funds are often coupled with pro bono legal support or volunteer activity, we have helped hundreds of children and dozens of non-profit organizations in striving to improve education for some of those who are most at risk in our society. Our efforts have received recognition that spans the spectrum from handwritten, heartfelt notes of thanks from a grateful parent;

to the satisfied smile of a middle school student on the ‘Brown Rudnick team’ as she stands up to argue at a Citizen’s School mock trial; to the Brown Rudnick litigation department group of attorneys and staff brimming with energy and enthusiasm after a summer ‘play date’ and barbeque with children at a Roxbury community center; to full-blown recognition awards, such as the recent ‘Corporate Philanthropy Partner of the Year’ award bestowed on Brown Rudnick by the Boston Business Journal.



Equally as important, the Foundation – which is operated as part of the firm’s Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest – brings Brown Rudnick together as a firm and as a community

focusing on connecting with and improving our society. Through our giving, we also receive the many benefits of doing for others less advantaged than ourselves.

The Foundation will now be able to include Washington DC when it seeks grant proposals and makes grant awards, as well as when it seeks Brown Rudnick volunteers and pro bono support in conjunction with those grants. We anticipate that the next Board election process will include consideration of adding representation on the Board from the Washington DC office.

Welcome, Washington. Your addition to the Foundation jurisdiction will benefit the firm, the Foundation and our communities.”

4th Annual Holiday Card Contest Celebrated

In 2004, the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation awarded one of its first Relationship Grants to the Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts of Massachusetts, Inc. (VLA) to initiate an annual holiday card contest aimed at supporting arts education in Boston Public Schools. Since then, the Foundation and VLA have teamed each year on this project, and have received assistance from the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest and the support of Boston Public Schools.

The contest provides an opportunity for educators to engage students in an art enrichment program. Students submit artwork for possible selection as the cover of one or more VLA/Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation holiday cards.

Cards are then sold by the VLA to raise funds for their nonprofit mission. Brown Rudnick attorneys and staff are among the major card purchasers.

Eight schools participated in the 2007 art contest: MFA / BPS Scholarship Program, Boston Latin Academy, East Boston High School, The Harbor

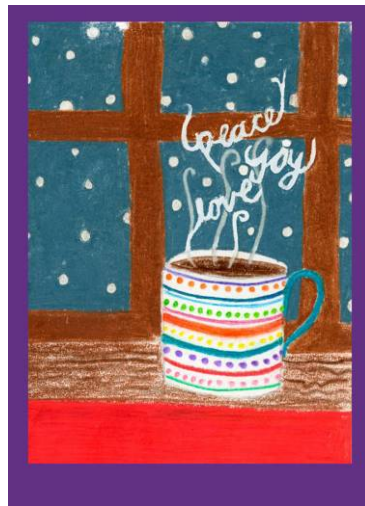
School, Brighton High School, Dearborn Middle School, The McKay School and The John D. O'Bryant High School.

Two students tied for first place honors: Ms. Mallory Pearson, a senior at Boston Latin Academy, for her work entitled, "Holiday Mug" (*far left*); and Mr. Phat Tran, a senior at East Boston High School, for his work entitled "Troubled Breeze" (*left*). Boston Latin Academy Junior Lauren Doherty was also honored for her painting called, "Snowed In." In

addition to the top awards, 20 artistic merits were presented.

Contestants, along with their teachers and families, gathered to celebrate at an awards reception, sponsored by the Brown Rudnick

Charitable Foundation, held in November at the firm's Boston office. Legendary chalk artist Sidewalk Sam offered inspiring remarks, and VLA Executive Director James Grace presented each winning student with an award certificate and art supplies. He also gave a gift to the winning students' class.



2007 Holiday Card first-place winners



Boston Public Schools students who participated in the contest.

New Pro Bono Matters

Twice a year, through the Center for the Public Interest, lawyers from Brown Rudnick staff a **legal clinic for the homeless**, which is coordinated by the **Boston Bar Association's Lawyers Clearinghouse**. In October 2007, our team interviewed clients at the Shattuck Shelter in Boston.



The Brown Rudnick legal team at the Shattuck Shelter: (back row from left) Christine List, Mary O'Malley, Camille Gerwin, Anil Ranganath and Al Wallis; (seated) Steven Veenema and Jennifer Paradee

Through the **Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts of Massachusetts**, we are also representing the following new clients:

- An **indigent artist**, who is seeking to recover money paid in an eBay transaction
Contacts: Andrew Strehle and Caleb Piron
- The **Concord Women's Chorus**, regarding various personnel and non-profit matters
Contacts: Cheryl Pinarchick and Jennifer Paradee
- An **indigent artist**, in negotiations with an art gallery that is withholding the artist's property
Contacts: Andrew Strehle and Tanya Bosi
- An **individual**, in a possible age discrimination claim against her employer, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston
Contacts: James Hauser and Rebecca Alperin

We are representing the following clients through the **New York Legal Services Bankruptcy Program**:

- **Several pro se debtors**, filing for personal bankruptcy
Contacts: William Baldiga, Steven Smith, David Abadir, Robert Stark, Steven Smith, Madeleine Tan and Neal D'Amato

Other Clients

In keeping with our expansion to Washington DC, we are involved in an important pro bono matter in the federal courts. We are representing **James Alan Fox, the Lipman Family Professor of Criminal Justice at Northeastern University** and other criminologists as amici in the gun case before the U.S. Supreme Court entitled *D.C. v. Heller*. Professor Fox and some of his colleagues will be presenting the criminologists' view in support of the DC gun law.

Contacts: Al Wallis, Nancy Reiner, Ulyana Bardyn and Ben Welch

In conjunction with **Human Rights First**, we are representing an **individual from Guatemala** in preparing an application for asylum based on lack of state protection from domestic violence.
Contacts: Andrew Dash, Elizabeth Graybill and David Miller

We are assisting in the formation of a **non-profit corporation**, whose purpose is to raise funds for needs-based scholarships.
Contacts: Brian Gallogly and Kenneth Goldberg

Pro Bono Accolades Awarded

The Center periodically awards Pro Bono Accolades in recognition of extraordinary contributions, made by a Brown Rudnick attorney or staff member, to the mission of the Pro Bono Committee, the legal profession and our community. In early January, accolades were awarded to:

- Partner and Foundation Board member **Carl Axelrod**, in recognition of his career-long commitment to making pro bono representation a regular and important part of his practice; his encouragement, support and mentoring of pro bono legal representation within Brown Rudnick; and the extraordinary contribution he has made to our communities through the more than 4,500 hours of pro bono representation he has personally provided to organizations such as the Anti-Defamation League and Community Servings.
- Partner and Foundation Board member **Nancy Wilsker**, for the leadership she has provided and the model she has established in serving as General Counsel (Pro Bono) to international non-profit client Facing History and Ourselves.
- Paralegals **Nancy Tinsley, Jonathan Schwartz, Janet Wamsley, Susan Oldham, Laura Rappaport and Deborah Medeiros**, for their exceptional dedication to supporting and participating in pro bono legal representation in 2007.



Foundation Executive Director Al Wallis, Carl Axelrod, Nancy Wilsker and Administrative Partner Andrew Strehle at the Accolades ceremony

THE BROWN RUDNICK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION CORP.


**MAKING A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO INNER-CITY EDUCATION
AND THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN BOSTON, HARTFORD, NEW YORK,
PROVIDENCE AND WASHINGTON DC**

The Foundation is a non-profit entity created in 2000 by partners of the law firm of Brown Rudnick. The Foundation's primary mission is to address the educational and other needs of economically disadvantaged individuals and groups, in cities where Brown Rudnick is located through a full menu of giving, which could combine financial support, volunteer efforts and the provision of pro bono legal representation. The Foundation accepts contributions from all individuals, businesses and entities concerned about improving inner-city education.

Two New Community Grants Approved

Created in 2007, the Foundation Community Grants support immediate, small, concrete, one time initiatives proposed by front line educational workers to improve inner-city education. The Foundation Directors has approved the award of four new Community Grants, for a total of seven grants, to:

- **Horace Mann School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing** in Boston to support the purchase of a multi-function laser printer that teachers can use to create classroom materials such as worksheets, handouts and color documents that are designed specifically for the deaf and hard of hearing.
- **School for Arts in Learning** to support the purchase of science and social studies books to build a Resource Library for students. This is the Foundation's first grant awarded in Washington DC.
- **Chinatown Neighborhood Center** of Boston to support the English-as-a-Second-Language curriculum that is part of the Oak Street Youth Center program offered at the Neighborhood Center. Specifically, grant dollars will be used to purchase standardized assessment test forms, bilingual dictionaries, gift cards as student incentives, college application books and resources, and career exploration resources.
- **Nickerson Community Center** of Providence for the purchase of essential camera and electronics equipment needed for the Center's day care program.



“Because deafness is a low incidence handicap, the Horace Mann staff often has trouble finding classroom material that matches student interests and reading levels. The new printer will allow us to create customized educational materials that are colorful and visually appealing – an essential feature for deaf students.”

- *Thomas P. Lally, technology teacher
at Horace Mann*



Al Wallis, Foundation Executive Director, presents teacher Thomas Lally with a Community Grant to the Horace Mann School

Brown Rudnick Takes Part in Lee Denim/Breast Cancer Awareness Day

In October, 2007, the firm took part in this annual event in which employees are permitted to wear jeans to work in exchange for a small contribution to a non-profit organization working to cure breast cancer. Over \$2,600 was donated this year by employees of the firm. Additionally, Brown Rudnick's London office participated in a similar cause through "Wear It Pink Day".



Denim Day in Hartford Office

In another unique fundraising event motivated by a staff member's family loss, attorneys and staff in Brown Rudnick's Hartford office wore jeans to work in exchange for a small donation to the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Firm Kicks Off United Way Campaign

The firm's 2007 annual United Way Campaign was kicked off with videoconferenced remarks by CEO Joseph Ryan to all domestic offices in October. Several activities to raise funds were held in Brown Rudnick offices, and many employees and alumni made personal contributions at United Way breakfast events or through payroll deduction pledges. Overall, the firm raised over \$32,000 this year.



Halloween-themed treats offered at the United Way Bake Sale in the Boston office



Boston office accounting clerk Fran "The Chili Queen" Wilkins, who has won the United Way Campaign's Chili Cook-Off Contest five years in a row

Remembering Others During the Winter Holiday Season

With gifts: During the holiday season, individual donations play a key role in making the holidays joyous and memorable for many underprivileged children. Again this year, Brown Rudnick organized toy and gift drives across many of its offices under the auspices of the Center for the Public Interest. The Center's BRAVO/New York group helped to collect toys and gifts for "Toys for Tots" and the "Operation Santa Program." In Boston, there was robust involvement in "adopting" a child in the care of the Massachusetts Department of Social Services (DSS) and purchasing holiday presents for him or her. People in Brown Rudnick's Hartford office participated in the "Adopt a Family for the Holidays" program.

In person: Through the Center, volunteers in the New York and the Boston offices reached out to the homeless and hungry this autumn. Boston volunteers worked at one of the Firm's long-standing pro bono clients, Rosie's Place, where they prepared and served meals for homeless women and children. New York volunteers, coordinated through the Center's BRAVO/New York group, worked feeding the hungry at the soup kitchen at St. Luke's Lutheran Church.



BRAVO for Green!

As part of the bi-monthly community service activities organized by the Center’s BRAVO New York Group, volunteers planned a “green” campaign to promote energy efficiency and conservation.

Boston Office Raises Funds for “Pie in the Sky”

The Boston office coordinated Thanksgiving donations for Community Servings as part of that organization’s “Pie in the Sky” annual fundraiser. Community Servings is dedicated to providing free home-delivered meals throughout eastern Massachusetts to people homebound with HIV/AIDS and other acute life-threatening illnesses, who are unable to shop or cook for themselves.



Winning in the Fight Against Breast Cancer

The Center would like to congratulate Julia Forbes and her team of Brown Rudnick Friends and Family on walking and raising funds for Boston’s 15th annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk on October 14, 2007. The team also won the award from the American Cancer Society for Largest Team in the event’s Law Firm Challenge, with an impressive 54 members.

Brown Rudnick Executives Participate in “Principal for the Day”

Chief Administrative Officer Beth Hurley and Center Executive Director Al Wallis (*both pictured at right*) participated as “Principals for the Day” at two Boston Public Schools in the annual event conducted by the Boston Plan for Excellence. Beth shadowed the Principal at Umana Middle School, while Al was at the Boston Community Leadership Academy.



JANUARY

- 16 **New York:** 2008 New York Relationship Grant Recipient Lunch (12-1 pm, Room 47A)
- 16 **Boston:** Citizen Schools / Discovering Justice Mock Trials (5-7:30pm, Moakley Courthouse)
- 24 **All offices:** Annual Meeting, Directors of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation, (2-3pm)
- 25 **Boston:** Thompson Island / Outward Bound Student Participant Visit (12-1pm)
- 30 **Hartford:** 2008 Hartford Relationship Grant Recipient Lunch (12-1pm)
- 31 **DC:** 2008 DC Relationship Grant Recipient Lunch (12-1pm)

FEBRUARY

- 1 **Boston:** Groundhog Job Shadow Day
- 6 **Boston:** 2008 Boston Relationship Grant Recipient Lunch (12-1pm)
- 8 **Providence:** 2008 Providence Relationship Grant Recipient Lunch (12-1pm)
- 13 **All offices:** Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Board of Directors Meeting (8-9am)
- 28 **Boston:** Walk to the Hill in Support of Legal Services (11am-2pm, State House)

MARCH

- 11 **All offices:** Pro Bono Working Group Meeting (12-1:30pm)
- 12 **All offices:** Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Board of Directors Meeting (8-9am)

For more information, please contact Kym Patrico at (617) 856-8175

Just Us.

Little Brandon, Isabella and Emily walk into a first grade class...but the chances are slim that a dozen years or so later all of them will walk out of high school with a diploma. About a third of our children, nationwide, will drop out of school. In some places, less (Boston loses only about 2 out of 5, or 40%); in some, more (about half of New York City children will drop out.) In all cases, it is alarming.

Would it surprise you to learn that in Boston the most recent figures show that almost three out of five public school dropouts are male and out of ten dropouts, nine are people of color? Which means that our little Brandon is most at risk – and as a high school dropout, he will be damaged in tangible ways. Brandon will earn considerably less over his lifetime than his high school graduate counterparts. (37 cents less than every dollar the graduate earns, according to one Connecticut study.) But, as a dropout, he won't have to make those pennies stretch for as long: his life expectancy will be almost a decade shorter. The price for this dropout problem is not paid by Brandon alone. As a nation, it costs us \$200 billion each year in lost productivity and tax revenue.

Yet this issue has been largely invisible to the general public. The Youth Transitions Task Force, a coalition of non-profit organizations and government agencies convened by the Boston Private Industry Council, is among those trying to do something about that. In 2006 they issued a report calling for attention to and action on this issue entitled "Too Big to Be Seen: The Invisible Dropout Crisis in Boston and America."

We at Brown Rudnick do see it. From our seven years of philanthropy through the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation aimed at improving inner-city education, we have gained an appreciation for the significance and centrality of this problem.



Al Wallis and Sidewalk Sam at this year's Holiday Card Contest celebration

Therefore, for 2008, the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation has sharpened the focus of its Relationship Grants to more particularly target the truancy and dropout problem. Many of the fifteen grants we have awarded (see pages 2-4 of this newsletter) are to organizations and programs actively seeking to address this issue and its root causes.

The stakes are too high and the problem too pervasive for our society to ignore. With additional support of pro bono legal assistance and involvement of volunteer energy through the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest, we are lending our assistance to those who are working to turn those dropout numbers – and those lives – around.

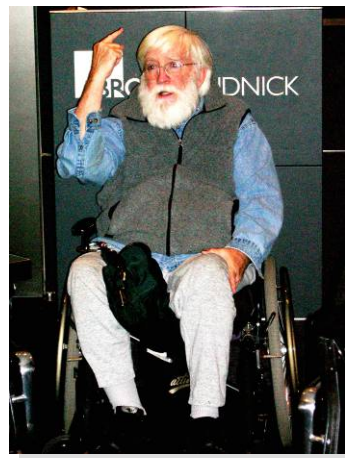
With support from business and legal communities, together with an infusion of money and the creativity and energy of determined non-profit organizations, savvy school, civic and government leaders may find ways to remove barriers and create conditions that allow more urban students to achieve high school graduation.

We see you, Brandon.

Al Wallis, Executive Director,
Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest

About Our CENTER

A public interest focus is alive and well in our Firm. The Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest is an integral part of the Firm, with a mission to champion, coordinate and celebrate the Firm's involvement in pro bono legal representation, community service activities and charitable giving.



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Please contact **Al Wallis** or **Kym Patrico** to discuss any matters regarding the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest.

Thanks especially to Kym Patrico, Lisa Murray, Jenn Martino and Connie Kelly for their assistance with this newsletter.

And finally, apologies for any errors or unintentional omissions, which may from time-to-time occur in the Center Quarterly – maybe even this one.

- Al Wallis