

**WELCOME**  
**NEWS FROM THE CENTER**  
**THE BROWN RUDNICK CENTER**  
**FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST**

CHARITABLE GIVING	PRO BONO
COMMUNITY SERVICE	PUBLIC INTEREST

**IT HAPPENED IN *JANUARY, 2002:***

Here are some Center-related activities we thought that you would be interested in hearing about.

**CHARITABLE GIVING**

**BROWN RUDNICK FREED & GESMER  
 CHARITABLE FOUNDATION**  
The Foundation Meeting.

The Foundation Directors met on January 24<sup>th</sup>. In addition to hearing reports on the status of grant recipients, the Directors:

§ Voted to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the **Business Education Roundtable of Rhode Island**. This organization, a grant recipient, is working on several inner-city school initiatives including one focused on helping school principals with best practices.

§ Approved the first **Insight/Foresight grant**, which had been recommended by the Insight/Foresight Advisory Committee. (See below.)

PRO BONO

Our Firm works for equal access to Justice:

§ **Pro Bono Representation.**  
 BRF&G has provided at least **6,633 hours** of pro bono legal assistance in the fiscal year just ending.

§ **Featured Pro Bono Effort:**  
**Friends of Allston Library.**

Recently, the City of Boston opened a highly acclaimed public library in Allston on land donated by Harvard University. The library will serve not only as a source of literary information, but as a broader community resource, hosting public

§ Appointed a **nominating committee** to report back at the next meeting.

Image

### **Insight/Foresight Grants.**

§ **Grant Awarded.** The first Insight/Foresight Grant has now been awarded. The Directors of the Foundation approved a grant to the **Brown/Fox Point Early Childhood Education Program in Providence** for the purchase of a water/sand learning table.

### **Applications Are Now Being Accepted.**

These “monthly” one-time grants from the BRF&G Charitable Foundation will be a small but significant contribution to inner city education based on nominations made jointly by a BRF&G volunteer (volunteering through the Center for Public Interest) and a front-line person working in inner-city education. An Advisory Committee with participation from all Brown Rudnick New England offices now reviews the applications and makes recommendations to the Foundation Board.

Contact **Annette Goodro** (x 8165) for more information about the grant program – or **apply on line:**

[www.brownrudnickcenter.com/grant.htm](http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com/grant.htm)

### **THANKS TO US.**

§ The *Massachusetts Health Law Advocates* has thanked Brown Rudnick for our financial support in helping them to raise \$ 202,000 from their annual breakfast

meetings and serving as a community focal point. To support such endeavors through fundraising and other activities, a community group formed, The Friends of Allston Library.

Through the pro bono efforts of Dan Gusenoff, this group is pursuing essential non-profit tax exempt status that will allow it to be a productive, meaningful participant in making the neighborhood library a vital part of the community.

### **New Pro Bono matters**

undertaken this month include those by :

§ **Wayne Dennison** (Vietnam Veterans)

§ **Anthony Curtis** – London office (American University UK Charity Registration)

§ **Dan Sullivan** (B’Nai Brith)

§ **Jeff Sacks** (both the NOAH Neighborhood of Affordable Housing or “NOAH” & Warren Gardens Resident Association.)

§ **Jane Donegan** (Slater Center for Environmental Biotechnology)

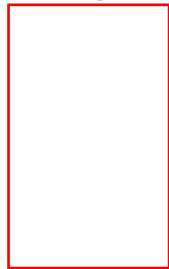
The **Pro Bono Policy** (*see* BRF&G Intranet, policies) makes it easy to participate in pro bono efforts, but remember that approval of the Pro Bono Committee is required for each new matter opened. This process will become even easier in the very near future. Thanks to **Keith Schultz**, the Center for the Public Interest Intranet sight should be available shortly and all pro bono intake and tracking will be

event. The Advocates represent individuals and families denied health care in Massachusetts.

§ The *Massachusetts Bar Association*, at its Annual Meeting, recognized Brown Rudnick for its on-going support as the sole sponsor of the MBA's State-wide High School Mock Trial Program. MBA President Carol DiMento noted that Brown Rudnick had contributed more than \$100,000 over the last four years and expressed her appreciation on behalf of the MBA at the closing lunch of MBA on Saturday, January 26, 2002. Jim McGuire represented the firm at this event.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

§ *Enjoy being a Hero.*



### BRAVO GROUP

**(Brown Rudnick All Volunteer Organizing Group)**

The BRAVO Group held its regular monthly meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup>. The primary topic was a report on various community service activities people involved with the Center have been engaged in.

**Randy Ravitz/Sharifa Atkins** reported on their planning for an upcoming high-school debate in a legislative format on the issue of “profiling” and airport security. Through the Center, they secured an intern (Angela Hokanson from Tufts University) who helped them with preparation for this undertaking.



available on line.

*Randy Ravitz displays a token of thanks received from the Center for Public Interest in recognition of his Community Service Activities. (Photo courtesy of Annette Goodro.)*

## CELEBRATION!

**Hats off to those engaged in other Charitable/Community Service Activities within the Brown Rudnick community:**

§ **Pam Erhstein** and her sister, Tammy Sheehy are raising money for Easter Seals Massachusetts in memory of their brother Barry Ehrstein, who died on December 10, 2001, at the age of 28, in a tragic car accident. Tammy will be competing in the 106th Boston Marathon on April 15 as part of Team Easter Seals. Their goal is to raising \$25,000 by April 1, through individual and corporate sponsorships, and to finish the running of the 106th Boston Marathon.

§ **Charlie Normand** was recognized for his devotion to and strong support for the Red Cross of Rhode Island in a warm letter from retiring Executive Director Barbara DeCesare.

§ **Karin Sandstrom** (x 8223), an LEA who is also a clinical social worker is collecting used toys for the 5-12 year olds she

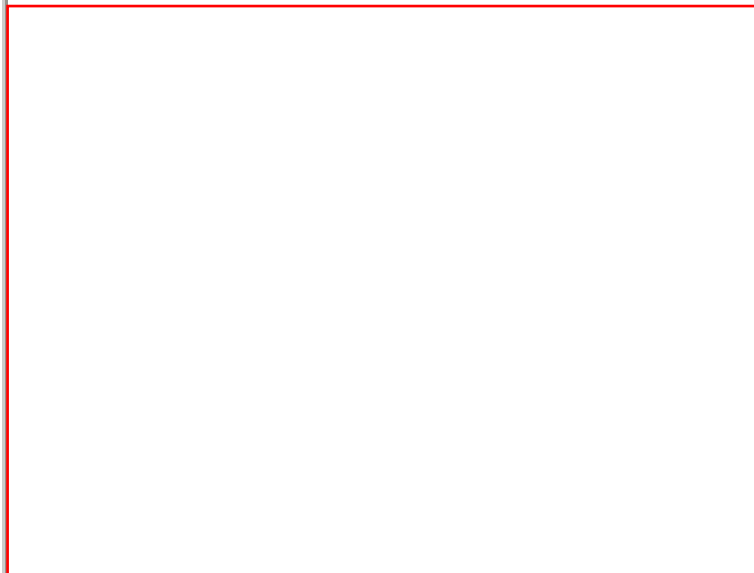
**Toni Jaudon** reported on her work with Citizen School's in putting on the mock trial project presented at the Federal courthouse by students from the Woodrow Wilson Middle School students in Dorchester.

**Jenn Kelley** reported on the Holiday Toy Drive in Boston. Jenn worked with the Department of Social Services to obtain donations by Brown Rudnick employees, providing some 40 underprivileged children with gifts this holiday season.

**Carlene Mercier** (speaking in Diana Nelson's absence) reported on the visit to the Hartford office by juniors, seniors and two teachers from Bulkeley School.

**Tim Cross** along with other volunteers (including Al Wallis) have been visiting the McMichael Head Start Center in Providence (a Foundation grant recipient) and reading to the 3-5 year old students. A book drive for Head Start is also being organized.

**Benjamin Albert** reported on the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Academy activities in Boston. ò



*Benjamin Albert makes presentation to the BRAVO Group displaying student writing from the Eighth Grade Academy. (Photo courtesy of Annette Goodro.)*

works with.

Volunteers\_4.jpg

image/attention.gif

**Please contact Al Wallis or Sandy Brewer (x 8123) to discuss any matters regarding the Brown Rudnick Center for Public Interest. .**

- **The next BRAVO Group meeting** is scheduled for Friday from noon-1:00 on February 22,

## § Other Center Activities

**Focus Group.** On behalf of the Center, **Alyssa Vleck** has graciously agreed to facilitate one or more focus groups to explore community service activities/volunteerism through the Center for Public Interest. The first group met with Alyssa on January 22. If you are interested in participating in a future group, please e-mail Alyssa immediately.

### **Boston:** Neighborhood House Charter

**School.** Brown Rudnick hosted the School's management staff retreat on January 28. The School's Constitutional Convention class will take place in the Boston office in February. Through the Center, tutors/mentors are working with students from the school. These volunteers include: **Sara Laroche, Toni Wall Jaudon, Natividad Valdez, and Dennis Dougherty.**

**MBA Mock Trial Program.** This year many members of Brown Rudnick are involved in the MBA Mock Trial program. **Steve Levine's** son is a student team member; **Benjamin Albert** and **Stephanie Taverna** are serving as judges; **Jim McGuire** is coaching a new team at Another Course to College (ACC) a Boston public school.

**Providence.** Head Start. In conjunction with the Center's "Partners-in-Reading" program with Providence Head Start, the Providence office is soliciting donations of NEW or (gently) USED children's books to contribute to Providence Head Start classrooms. Books appropriate for ages 3-5 may be sent to Tim Cross (x 2643) in the Providence Office or call Sandy Brewer (x 8123) for Boston or Providence drop off locations. All donations should be made no

2002. Everyone at Brown Rudnick is invited to attend.



image/ai

Please note that there is a high degree of serendipity involved in selecting the information which is contained herein and there are undoubtedly numerous other positive endeavors being undertaken by the Firm and the individuals who make up the Brown Rudnick community which have not been included. And, further, please accept in advance our apologies for any errors or unintentional omissions which may from time to time occur in the Center e-mail news -- perhaps even this one.

later than **March 29, 2002**

### Asthma Education Outreach Program

Initiative. In conjunction with the American Lung Association of R.I. (a Foundation grant recipient), the Minority Asthma Coalition has begun meeting to plan this initiative. Kevin Bourque is participating in this effort on behalf of the Center.

Homeless families. Al Wallis participated in a half-day forum regarding homeless R.I. families in on January 18<sup>th</sup>. The forum was held at the Rhode Island Foundation and coordinated by Associated Grant Makers.

**Hartford. Mentoring Program.** The American Leadership Forum of Hartford, a BRF&G Foundation grant recipient, and the Hartford Public Schools unveiled the “Mentoring a Child” initiative in an announcement made at the Connecticut statehouse on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. (**Tom Ritter** and **Al Wallis** attended.) This initiative, shaped by the 2001 Leadership Forum “class” which includes **Doug Cohen**, will strive to provide mentors for all K-3 children in the school system. A presentation is being arranged in the Hartford office to assist interested Brown Rudnick folks who wish to participate in the mentoring program.