

WELCOME

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

 **BROWN
RUDNICK
CENTER
FOR THE
PUBLIC
INTEREST** CENTER

CHARITABLE GIVING

PRO BONO

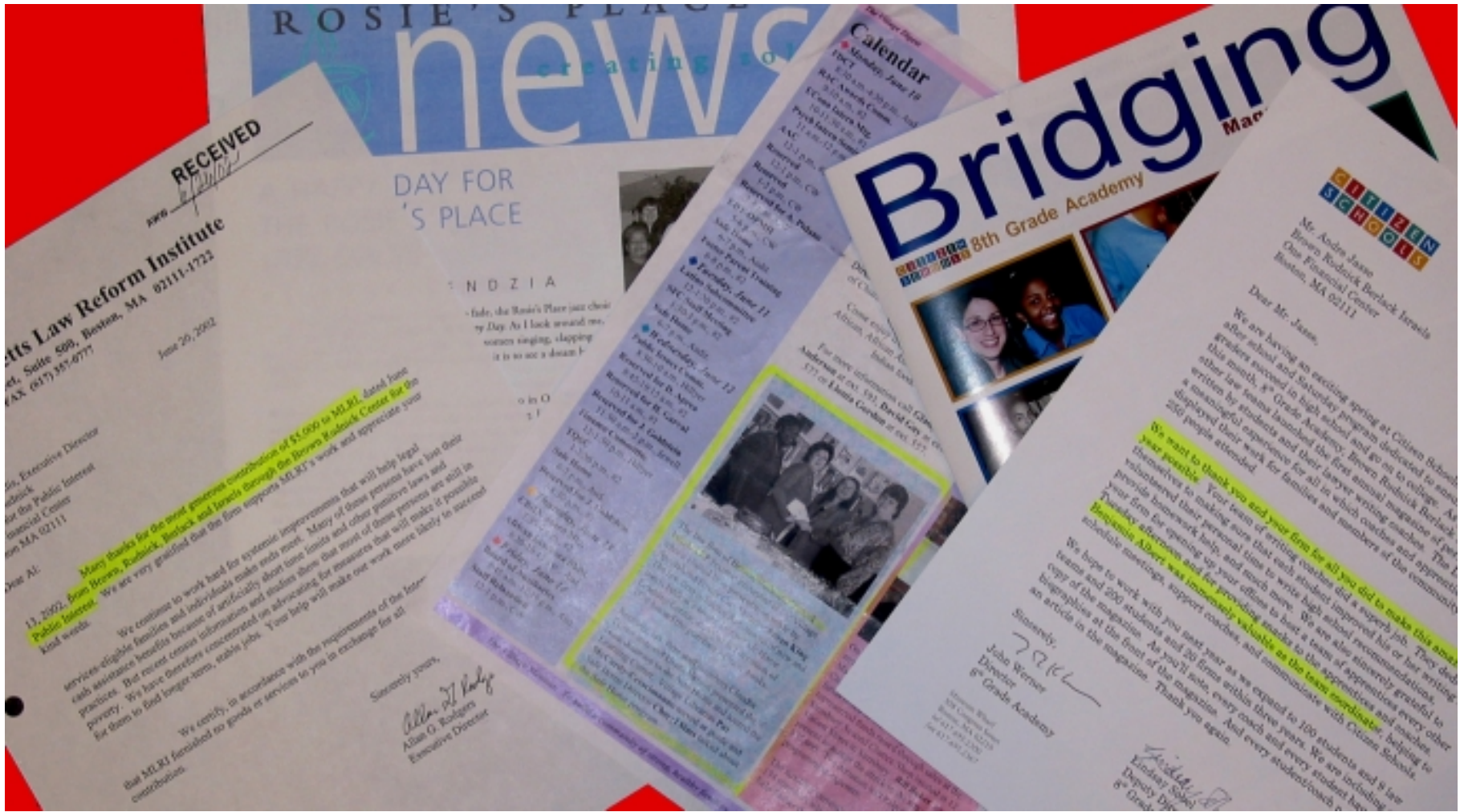
COMMUNITY SERVICE

PUBLIC INTEREST

Summer DOUBLE Edition

IT HAPPENED IN JUNE & JULY,

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



CHARITABLE GIVING

The BROWN RUDNICK FREED & GESMER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION CORP.



Foundation Directors met on 6/ 27 & 7/y 18. Some of the actions taken included:

@ the July 18 meeting:

Presentation – Directors received a presentation from representatives of Head Providence (“Head Start”). Head Start receives a Foundation grant to its McMichael Center. As a result of the Foundation’s grant to the Head McMichael Center which serves 320 children a day, classrooms that had too hot for a healthy learning environment are now air conditioned. This has particularly helped children with asthma. Additionally, BRBI has provided refurbished computers helping the McMichael Center move into “the 21st century.” Head Start is very appreciative of the grant support, but was particularly pleased with the volunteers through the Brown Rudnick Center the Public Interest who visited the McMichael Center to read to the children.

Grant Awarded - The Directors accepted the Insight/Foresight Advisory Group's recommendation and voted to approve an Insight/Foresight Grant of \$1999 the Equistrides Therapeutic Riding Center, Inc. in Connecticut. [<http://www.equistrides.org/flash.html>] Equistrides uses the relationship between horses and special needs children to help encourage learning and intellectual growth. The grant will be used to support participation by two needy students from the Hartford Public Schools. Carlene Mercier and Everson of the Hartford office will also be volunteering in this therapeutic horseback riding program.

Insight/Foresight Program Extended –

The Directors approved a Grant Committee (Mike Paris, Chair) recommendation to extend the soon to expire Insight/Foresight Grant Program until the end of January, 2004. (See next page.)



@ the July 18 meeting:

Presentation – Directors received a presentation from representatives of the American Lung Association of Providence (“ALA”). ALA is a Foundation grant recipient and they reported on the progress being with the grant. The funded project's purpose is to increase awareness of the problems associated with asthma in the greater Providence area, particularly in African-American and Hispanic communities. The Foundation grant has served as a catalyst and point for this project. A planning committee was formed, with volunteer Kevin Bourque from BRBI participating. The committee engaged a consultant to help develop the “logic plan”. Activities have begun to flow from the plan, including training of staff in other organizations working in the Hispanic community, participating in a radio show on the topic and responding to a request to testify before Congress regarding the asthma problem. Additionally, the Foundation grant has served as leverage to help with application to Blue Cross/Blue Shield for a \$ 25,000 grant which has enabled the hiring of Brenda Brown, African-American/Hispanic outreach worker.

Grant Awarded - The Directors accepted the Advisory Group's recommendation and voted to approve an Insight/Foresight Grant of \$1999 to the McMichael School Head Start Program in Providence. The grant will go to help with the purchase of educational tools (cassette players and books on tape) which the school otherwise could not afford.

New Grant Program - The Directors approved a Grant Committee (Mike Paris, Chair) recommendation for issuance of a Request for Grant Proposals for new “Relationship Grants.” (See next page.)

CHARITABLE GIVING...

BRF&G CHARITABLE FOUNDATION GRANT PROGRAMS

There has been considerable activity by The Foundation Directors in the past two months regarding the Foundation's two education-related grant programs.

- **The Successful "Insight/Foresight Grant Program" has been extended until 2004.**

The Foundation has made numerous grants in Boston, Providence and Hartford since this program began last summer. Because of the program's success, the Directors have extended it through January, 2004. Under this program, grant applications are initiated jointly by a front-line educational worker and someone who has volunteered through the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest ("Center"). The Foundation awards approximately one grant per month of up to \$2003 to fund a specific proposal to a recipient with a demonstrated need. Applications for these grants can be found at: <http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com/grant.htm>

- **An RFP for "Relationship Grants" has been issued.**

On July 31, the Foundation issued a request for grant proposals for a new grant or grants to be made for 2002-2003. Grant proposals, which are due September 27, may be for amounts between \$5000 and \$50,000. Through these "Relationship Grants", the Foundation endeavors to have an active relationship with the recipient organization, providing both significant financial support and the energy and talent of volunteers, including of pro bono legal representation. The Foundation has previously awarded Relationship Grants and created partnerships with recipients in three Boston, Hartford, and Providence. Relationship Grants are typically made an annual basis and it is important that the recipient demonstrate a need a willingness to develop an effective volunteer effort with the Foundation well as a need for funding. Applications for this grant may be obtained at www.brownrudnickcenter.com/relationship.htm

Grant Presented. On June 9, at the first anniversary of the new Allston Library, Al Wallis and Dan Gusenoff presented the Friends of Allston Library, Inc. with an Insight/Foresight Grant check from the Foundation. (Dan has provided pro bono legal assistance to the Friends.) The grant will allow the purchase of English as a Second Language and Chinese language materials to serve the Allston-Brighton community.



CHARITABLE GIVING...

OTHER CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

BRBI ASSOCIATES CONTRIBUTE TO GBLS.

Almost \$ 4000 was raised by BRBI associates as part of part of the annual drive by associates at major Boston Boston law firms to raise funds for Greater Boston Legal Boston Legal Services. [Benjamin Albert](#) coordinated coordinated BRBI participation. (Additionally, the Firm the Firm recently contributed \$30,000 to GBLS to to support their work providing legal services to the to the indigent in greater Boston.)

BRBI Sells BRF&G Items & Donates Proceeds to the Foundation.

As a result of the merger creating Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels, LLP, firm merchandise with a BRF&G “brand” have become outdated. The old merchandise has been offered at reduced prices, with the proceeds being donated to the Brown Rudnick Freed & Gesmer Charitable Foundation Corp. The contribution to the Charitable Foundation is expected to be approximately \$1400.

⇐ A Call to Protect.

Once again, on behalf of the CENTER, BRBI staff contributed 69 cell phones, extra chargers, and extra batteries to A Call to Protect. On June 7, [Benjamin Albert & Ursula McCarthy](#) shipped these phones which will be refurbished by Motorola and provided free of charge to victims of domestic violence.

Through the Center, BRBI Hosts Non-Profit Organizations.

Business Education Roundtable. On June 3, the Providence office hosted a breakfast for the Business Education Roundtable mentoring program. National Consumer Law Center. On June 13, the One Financial Center office provided a meeting place for a meeting of board members of National Consumer Law Center.

Help is on the way!



911



CHARITABLE GIVING... SAILS Program



Pro Bono Committee Chair, Mike Paris, leads a discussion about BRBI's pursuit of equal access to justice.

On July 25, the BRBI summer associates participated in The *Summer Associates' Initiative for Legal Services (SAILS)*. As a result, through the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest, BRBI will make a financial donation to two worthy non-profit organizations.

The national SAILS Program bridges the gap between private and public legal services. SAILS provides law firms with an opportunity to educate summer associates about their firms' pro bono programs. With the support of the employing law firm, the summer associates have a "brown bag" lunch to discuss pro bono legal services and charitable giving and to designate a charity they would like to support. The employing firm donates the equivalent of what it would have spent for the summer associates to eat a good meal at a restaurant at the firm's expense. With the encouragement of **Linda Manning**, BRBI's Legal Hiring Coordinator, this is the second year that BRBI has participated in this program.

Summer associate **Jeff Fritz** coordinated the summer associate's decision to make contributions to:

- A child advocacy organization: [The Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children](http://www.mspcc.org/html/home.cfm) (<http://www.mspcc.org/html/home.cfm>)
- An anti-hunger organization: [Project Bread](http://www.projectbread.org/) (<http://www.projectbread.org/>).



PRO BONO



The BRBI Pro Bono Commitment.

- BRBI is committed to equal access to justice. In the present fiscal year, as of the end of July, the Firm has devoted the following number of hours to pro bono legal representation:

3,555.5.

- **These pro bono matters are among those opened in June & July:**
 - **Benjamin Albert (supervising); Meghan Dilley; Julie Strom; Jason Mahle; Andrea Paparella; Molly Selzer; Jeffrey Fritz** - ADL (a new summer project on behalf of the Anti-Defamation League.)
 - **Margaret Pinkham and Sarah Heaslip** – Rosie’s Place (new matter)
 - **Carol Ennis** – Carol B. (bankruptcy)
- **LAWYERS CLEARINGHOUSE ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS THANKS BRBI Pro Bono ATTORNEYS:**

In July, the Lawyers Clearinghouse on Affordable Housing and Homelessness publicly thanked:

 - > its 2002 **Community Legal Referral Program Volunteers**, including the following BRBI attorneys: Sara A. Laroche, Jeffrey W. Sacks, & Fatema Yeganeh.
 - > its 2002 **BBA Business Law Pro Bono Project Volunteers**, including the following BRBI attorneys: Carl E. Axelrod, Brenda M. Cotter, Kathryn A. Haffner and Fatema Yeganeh.

Center Intranet Now Available.

The Center intranet is now available for internal use by BRBI employees. Of particular note: pro bono approval requests and reports will now be done electronically via the Intranet site.

[//www.brownrudnickcenter.dom/](http://www.brownrudnickcenter.dom/)

COMMUNITY



SERVICE

THE BRAVO GROUP helps ROSIE'S PLACE



Making a Plan...

- **June**/The BRAVO Group ("Brown Rudnick All Volunteer Organizers" Group) met on June 21. The major focus of the meeting was on Rosie's Place. Marty Wengert, Director of Volunteer Services at Rosie's Place, spoke with the group about Rosie's. As a result of the BRAVO Group meeting, an afternoon of service was being planned for BRBI employees to visit Rosie's this summer to serve lunch to the women who use the shelter.

COMMUNITY

SERVICE ...



The BRAVO Group Executes the Plan...

- **July**/In lieu of the July BRAVO Group meeting, a dozen folks from BRBI prepared and served lunch @ Rosie's Place in Boston to about 75 homeless women and children. The interest in this Community Service activity was so great, that another visit to serve lunch is planned for August 9. (Contact Sandy Brewer @ x 8123)



"Last Friday at Rosie's Place is an experience in my life that I will always remember." Rosie's volunteer [Anna M. Bosworth](#) (Legal Executive Assistant)



"A newspaper the other day asked people on the street when the last time was that they did volunteer work. Some were proud that they could say that they had volunteered at some point within the last year. I felt so good -- I had volunteered at Rosie's Place in the past week!" Rosie's volunteer [Jeff Fritz](#) (Summer Associate)

Community Service....

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS - The Eighth Grade Academy.

- Through the Center for Public Interest, BRBI this past year participated in creation of “The Eighth Grade Academy”, a program of the Citizen Schools in Boston pairing legal professionals with eighth grade students to work on writing skills.
- Benjamin Albert writes on June 4: Today marks an important date in the brief history of Citizen Schools' **Eighth Grade Academy**. Today, students from Boston's public schools, who were paired with Brown Rudnick attorneys almost a year ago, will come together to celebrate their successes and reflect on their time together at a **Magazine Launch Party**.
- Making a commitment to a program and a child for a year (and perhaps for a lifetime) is no small task. **Cheryl Pinarchick, Elise Busny, Erin McLaughlin, Gregg Cosimi and Danika Haueisen** gave an enormous amount of time and energy to positively impact the lives of their respective apprentices. The results have been outstanding, and each of these people should be congratulated for their efforts and their successes.

Here is what the eighth grade students had to say about some of their BRBI coaches: *

- “My lawyer is [Erin McLaughlin](#) and I learned where to put my commas from her.” - Jerry John Marcel.
- “My writing coach is [Danika Haueisen](#), who works with Brown Rudnick....One thing I learned from my lawyer is that I should always make a web for the topic that I am writing about so you can be able to know where to start your essay from.” – Holdens Philogene.
- The lawyer I worked with is [Elise Busny](#). She has a good vocabulary and use of words and is a good writer. She taught me how to organize a paragraph: with topic sentences, conclusions and counterarguments.” - Stephanie Smith.
- “My lawyer is [Gregg Cosimi](#). One thing I learned from him is that I should make more paragraphs instead of putting everything in one.” – Noble Williams.

* source: Bridging Magazine, Citizen Schools, June 2002.



Center activities in the News

The Providence American

June 20, 2002

McMichael Head Start Children Say Thank You to Law Firm



(Providence) - Children from McMichael Center in Providence thanked [Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP](#) employees for their continued support of the Head Start Program. Brown Rudnick employees volunteered their time to read to the children at the McMichael Center. The children performed a play for the employees at the Brown Rudnick offices in honor of the National Association for the Education of Young Children's "Week of the Young Child." Volunteers were also presented with certificates as a thank you for their continued support.

Brown Rudnick's involvement with Head Start is part of their overall community giving program and the [Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest](#), an umbrella entity that encompasses all pro bono, charitable giving, community involvement and public interest cases at the firm. The Center maximizes the firm's philanthropic efforts and community outreach through coordination of personnel and resources.

Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP, is a full service, corporate law firm with 225 lawyers in six locations - Boston, Providence, Hartford, New York, London, England and Dublin, Ireland. The Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest is the law firm's vehicle for promoting public interest initiatives, providing pro bono legal services, and enhancing philanthropic efforts through targeted charitable giving and community service projects.

Left to Right: Angel Taveras of Brown Rudnick; Bertha Bischert, McMichael Head Start Center Manager; McMichael Center children.



(Allston/Brighton Journal)

June 13, 2002

The pride of Allston: Branch library celebrates first birthday

By ANNA SCOTT CORRESPONDENT One year after opening, the Allston branch of the Boston Public Library is alive, well, and teeming with books and patrons. In fact, their anniversary party, held in the library's clean and modern building off Cambridge Street, was buzzing with welcome like a family affair...

The original Allston library, which was located above a drug store on Harvard Avenue, closed in 1981 during a season of massive budget cutting...The Friends of the Library raise funds to cover what the library's budget cannot, such as the cost of Christmas parties, art exhibits, and this year's anniversary party. The president of the group, Nancy Grilk, partnered with the [Center for Public Interest at the Boston law firm Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels, LLP](#) to win a \$2,000 grant to purchase Chinese language books and English as a Second Language materials. Albert Wallis, the Executive Director of the Public Interest Center, presented Nancy with a check at the party...

Center activities in the News...

ALLSTON- BRIGHTON TAB

Boston law firm helps Crittenton Hastings House programs with a grant



August 1, 2002

[Providence] Community notes...

- *Grant:*

The law firm of **Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels** recently presented a \$2,000 grant to the Brown/Fox Point School, a nonprofit school open 10 hours a day for children ages 3 to 5. The grant was used to purchase a water and sand table, which children can use to intermix those elements in mathematical and scientific ways.

With more than 8,000 people and families to serve, many in needy circumstances, the Crittenton Hastings House received a boost for its program to help train preschool teachers with a \$2,003 grant from the **Center for the Public Interest at the law firm of Brown, Rudnick, Berlack, Israels** in Boston.

"With the shortage of teachers, we are making an effort to train and retain teachers," said Suzanne Baker, a spokeswoman for the agency which provides services ranging from education, early education and childcare, family and community health, nutrition and mental health.

Baker said the grant, which focuses programs dealing with inner-city educational needs, would allow teachers to attend staff training workshops throughout the year and hone their skills to help those who need the Crittenton Hastings House services.

The agency works to promote self-sufficiency for individual and families and is based in the Oak Square area in Boston's Brighton neighborhood, and also has centers in West Roxbury and at the Dorchester courthouse.

The teachers who will benefit from the grant are in the early education program, Baker said, and some of the funds will go to staff development and purchasing new curriculum materials. She said many children from low-income families would benefit, as they are given preschool lessons to help them prepare for kindergarten and early education.

"Everyone is going to hit the ground running at age five," she said, thanks to lessons in everything from literacy to learning body parts to an emphasis on early education skills they need to be ready for school.

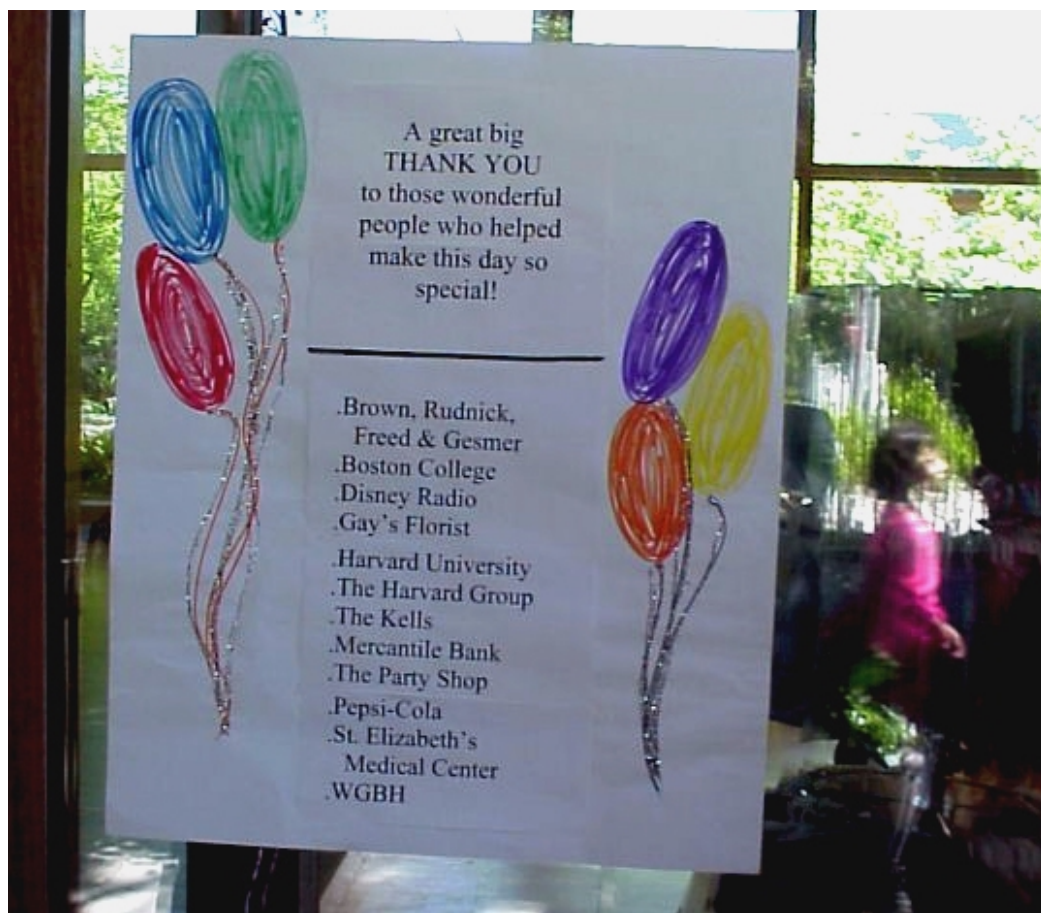
Teachers at the agency will now be able to attend more seminars and workshops and learn new teaching skills and better those, which they already have, she said, thanks to the grant. She said about 10 teachers could be helped.

"We wanted to defray the costs," of those programs she said.

She praised the **center and Executive Director Al Wallis**.

"We hopefully are on the road to a wonderful partnership because we had a very enthusiastic sponsor," she said.

Last Words...



Anniversary Celebration at Allston Library

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

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

Please join us at the next BRAVO Group meeting (chaired from Boston) on September 27 (there will be no August meeting) from noon to 1:00. (rsvp to Sandy x 8123).