



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Lisa Murray
617.856.8509
lmurray@brownrudnick.com

BROWN RUDNICK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF 2008 *RELATIONSHIP GRANTS* PROGRAM

*Foundation grant program expands to Washington D.C. and adds new focus
on school truancy and drop-out issues*

Boston, MA, December 17, 2007 – Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp., a non-profit, tax-exempt entity established by Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP, is pleased to announce the recipients of the Foundation's 2008 *Relationship Grants* program. 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 time. As part of this year's RFP process, the Foundation expanded its geographic reach to include Washington, D.C., where the firm has a rapidly growing office. Additionally, the Foundation paid special attention to grant proposals focused on addressing the issues of school truancy and drop-outs.

In all, 15 grants were awarded to non-profit organizations across Boston, MA; Providence, RI; Hartford, CT; New York, NY; and Washington, D.C.

The 2008 *Relationship Grant* recipients are:

In Boston, Providence and Hartford:

- **Reach Out & Read (ROR)** – This nationally-acclaimed organization will use the grant purchase books for children in Boston, Providence, and New York City, which will then be distributed by their physicians as part of regular pediatric care. This is the fifth consecutive year that Brown Rudnick has awarded Reach Out & Read a *Relationship Grant*. Through the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest, the law firm of Brown Rudnick will also continue to provide pro bono legal representation to ROR on a national basis. The firm's attorneys and staff volunteer to read to children and take part in book drives.

In Boston:

- **Facing History & Ourselves (FHAO)** – Brown Rudnick has been involved with FHAO since its inception and now serves as the pro bono general counsel to FHAO, and this is the fifth



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consecutive year in which a *Relationship Grant* will be provided to FHAO. The 2008 grant will be used for the "Choices in Little Rock Program," an educational project that examines prejudice. The grant will fund scholarships used to train several Boston teachers on the curriculum.

- **Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (VLA)** – The grant will be used to continue the VLA's Holiday Card Contest for Boston public high school students which was initiated in 2004 with Foundation support. Also, funds will be allocated to the new VLA's "Art Law Program," which is dedicated to teaching intellectual property in Boston public schools. In addition to the financial support, the Center coordinates Holiday Card Contest volunteers, and firm attorneys provide pro bono representation to low-income artists referred by VLA.
- **St. Clair Discovering Justice Project/ Citizen Schools/** – Brown Rudnick will continue its support of the "Legal Apprentice Program." The grant will help to sponsor the mock trials at the Federal Courthouse in Boston. Through the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest, firm attorneys will continue to coach two mock trial teams next year for Boston middle school students. Brown Rudnick has coached teams through this program annually since 1999.
- **Thompson Island Outward Bound** – A two-time grant recipient, Thompson will continue to use the funds for its "Choices Program," a five-day outward bound experience for Boston public middle school students. The grant will support student attendance from the Boston Community Leadership High School in the Brighton neighborhood of Boston. Brown Rudnick's volunteer support will consist of hosting a career day at the firm's Boston office.
- **Writer's Express** – A new grantee, the funds will support a summer program at Simmons College by providing scholarships to students in need. Brown Rudnick currently provides pro bono legal support, and volunteer work is being explored.
- **Crittenton Women's Union** – The grant will be used to support Alternative High School GED and Choices Programs. Brown Rudnick will also provide pro bono and volunteer support.

In Hartford:

- **The Shelter for Women** – A three-time *Relationship Grant* recipient, The Shelter for Women is a 116-year-old program that provides shelter for homeless women and on-site educational programs. The grant is for the continuation of "Girl Power: Girls Make Democracy Work," a social studies program for troubled girls ages 12-18, who reside at the shelter. The program is designed to give girls an understanding of the political process. Brown Rudnick volunteers will teach government relations and related legal courses.
- **Harriet Beecher Stowe Center** – A three-time *Relationship Grant* recipient, the Stowe Center will use the 2008 grant to continue support of the After School Enrichment Program. Brown Rudnick also provides pro bono counsel and is exploring volunteer opportunities.



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- **Center for Children's Advocacy** – A new grantee, the Center will use the funds to support the Truancy and Drop-out Prevention Project. This program provides systemic education-related advocacy for children who are homeless, involved with the juvenile justice system and/or have disabilities. Brown Rudnick is exploring ways to offer pro bono and volunteer support.

In Providence:

- **Providence Plan** – The 2008 *Relationship Grant* will continue support the Ready2Learn program which expands early child literacy opportunities. Brown Rudnick currently serves as general counsel, pro bono, to this organization. Volunteer involvement by the Providence office will be explored.

In New York City:

- **B.E.L.L. Foundation, Inc.** – A fourth year *Relationship Grant* recipient, B.E.L.L. (Building Educated Leaders for Life) provides academic and social enrichment services to low-income elementary school children with after school and summer programs. This year's grant will be used to continue academic and social enrichment programs serving low-income elementary school children with after-school and summer enrichment programs. Pro bono and volunteer support are being explored.
- **Educators for Social Responsibility** – This organization is first-time grant recipient. The funds will support a pilot program designed to train new and less-experienced secondary school teachers. Brown Rudnick is investigating volunteer activities with this group.
- **Fresh Youth Initiative** – A new grantee, this program will use the funds for its Community Youth Action Project, aimed at developing a generation of committed group leaders who will contribute to the improvement of the Washington Heights area. Volunteer support is being explored.

In Washington, D.C.:

- **Washington Lawyers' Committee** – A new grantee, the funds will support the D.C. Public School Partnership Project, promoting the link between the legal community and D.C. public schools. The Committee has identified specific pro bono needs for policy and advocacy work related to education reform in D.C. Also, possible volunteer activities include adopting a school, which would entail holding a career day at Brown Rudnick's Washington office, as well as ongoing mentoring and tutoring.

Relationship Grants are awarded annually to organizations for the purpose of addressing the educational needs of less enfranchised individuals and groups within the geographic boundaries of Boston, Hartford, New York City, Providence, and/or Washington D.C. The



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grant applications and an explanation of the program can be found at www.brownrudnickcenter.com/foundation.

According to Albert W. Wallis, executive director of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp., "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, D.C., and conceptually, to include a focus on issues related to truancy and drop-out 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."

About Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP

Brown Rudnick is an international law firm with offices in the United States and Europe. The firm represents clients from around the world, providing business-focused solutions that address today's ever-changing, ever-demanding competitive marketplace. With an entrepreneurial and collaborative mindset, Brown Rudnick offers a broad slate of capabilities and talents in areas that include: Bankruptcy & Corporate Restructuring, Complex Litigation, Corporate & Securities, Energy, Finance, Government Law & Strategies, Health Law, Intellectual Property and Real Estate. For more information, please visit www.brownrudnick.com.

The Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest is a measure of the firm's strong commitment to the community and serves as an umbrella entity encompassing the firm's pro bono legal work, charitable giving, community involvement and public interest efforts. For more information, please visit www.brownrudnickcenter.com.

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