



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Lisa Murray
617.856.8509
lmurray@brownrudnick.com

BROWN RUDNICK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF 2006 *RELATIONSHIP GRANTS* PROGRAM

*First-time grant recipients include
The Treehouse Foundation, Capital Regional Educational Council (CREC), The Shelter for
Women, Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, and Bronx Prep Charter School*

Boston, MA, December 12, 2005 – 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 2006 *Relationship Grants* program. The 2006 program reflects five first-time recipients and 14 grants in all. Grants were awarded to non-profit organizations across Boston, MA; Providence, RI; Hartford, CT; and New York, NY.

The objective of the Foundation's *Relationship Grants* is to improve inner-city education by developing a relationship with a non-profit organization that optimally includes financial support, pro bono legal representation and volunteer time. *Relationship Grants* are awarded annually to organizations that have demonstrated both the need for funding and the willingness to develop an effective volunteer effort with the Foundation. The grant applications and an explanation of the program can be found at <http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com/foundation/relationship.htm>.

According to Albert W. Wallis, executive director of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp., "In 2006, the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation will celebrate its five-year anniversary. In that time, we've helped dozens of educational programs to launch new and innovative projects, providing hundreds of children with early learning opportunities, and allowing many older children to receive education in the arts, sciences, music and theater. We've helped to train teachers, buy school supplies and computers, and support programs that provide educational opportunities to children who have left the traditional educational system and now reside in homeless shelters or youth detention facilities. We think that we have made a positive difference in the lives of many people and have helped to improve several communities, and we feel that our efforts have just gotten underway."

The 2006 *Relationship Grant* recipients are:

- **Reach Out & Read** – This nationally-acclaimed organization will use the grant to purchase books for children in Boston, Providence, and New York City, which will be



Press Release

then be distributed by their physicians as part of regular pediatric care. This is the third 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 also provides pro bono representation and volunteer time.

In Boston:

- **Boston Medical Center/Family Advocacy Program (FAP)** – For the second year in a row, FAP will receive a grant from the Foundation. The funds will be used to refine the innovative “Building Bridges Program,” which focuses on the educational needs of traumatized children. Specifically, an advocacy component will be added through Health Law Advocates.
- **Neighborhood House Charter School** – A *Relationship Grant* recipient since the Foundation was started, the school will continue to use funds for the High School Placement Program originally initiated with the Foundation’s support. Additionally, this year the grant will support the continued annual creation of a student literary magazine which is produced each year with the help of Brown Rudnick volunteers.
- **Facing History & Ourselves (FHAO)** – Brown Rudnick has been the general counsel (pro bono) to FHAO since the organization’s inception. For the third consecutive year, a *Relationship Grant* will be provided to FHAO. The 2006 grant will be used in conjunction with a March visit to Boston by one of the students who integrated the Little Rock Schools, as well as to provide a portion of eight scholarships and follow-up services for teachers in greater Boston.
- **Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts (VLA)** – This is the third *Relationship Grant* awarded to the VLA, allowing the continuation of its Holiday Card Art Contest for Boston public high school students which was initiated in 2004 with Foundation support. In addition to the financial support, the Center coordinates contest volunteers and pro bono attorneys representing low income artists referred by VLA.
- **Citizen Schools/St. Clair Discovering Justice Project** – Brown Rudnick will continue its support of the Legal Apprentice Program which creates two mock trial programs a year for Boston middle school students. Brown Rudnick has coached teams through this program annually since 1999, and new firm mock trial teams will be created in the fall of 2006 through the Boston office.
- **The Treehouse Foundation** – The Treehouse mission is to increase the rate of adoption for children in the public foster care system, provide innovative training/education programs and long term support for adoptive parents, and to change child welfare practice through the development of Treehouse communities and the Treehouse child centered community practice. A first time grant recipient, Treehouse will use the funds to support expansion into Boston in early 2006, and specifically, to develop curriculum on navigating the education system for parents who have recently adopted children in foster care. Pro bono representation is currently being provided, and volunteer involvement by the Boston office will be explored.



Press Release

In Hartford:

- **Science Center of Connecticut** – The Science Center provides educational programs in math, science, environment and technology. As a second time *Relationship Grant* recipient, the Science Center will use the funds to create the “Women in Science Girl Scout Camp-In Program.” This program will integrate two science programs (one on astronomy and another on career paths in science) into existing Girl Scout camp overnights, giving merit badges for completion of the program. Pro bono representation is currently being provided, and volunteer involvement by the Hartford office will be explored.
- **Capital Regional Educational Council (CREC)** – Partnering with Asylum Hill Congregational Church and Saint Joseph College, CREC seeks to establish a school for young children on Asylum Hill that will mix suburban and inner-city children and serve as a forerunner to the creation of a charter school. As a new grant recipient, CREC will use the funds to support school start-up by helping to furnish one of the three classrooms and provide educational materials. Pro bono and volunteer involvement with Brown Rudnick’s Hartford office are being explored.
- **The Shelter for Women** – A new 2006 *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 will help create a new program called, “Girl Power: Girls Make Democracy Work,” a social studies program for troubled girls ages 12-18, who are in state custody. The program is designed to give girls an understanding of the political process. Pro bono and volunteer involvement with Brown Rudnick’s Hartford office are being explored.
- **Harriet Beecher Stowe Center** – A first-time *Relationship Grant* recipient, the Stowe Center will use the funds to arrange visits by students from the adjacent high school to the Harriet Beecher Stowe House, and for training of participating teachers in visual and language arts and social studies.

In Providence:

- **Providence Plan** – Building on last year’s grant, the 2006 *Relationship Grant* will help to fund training teachers and support the AmeriCorps program in partnership with “Ready to Learn Providence,” a program which expands early child literacy opportunities. The grant will also be used to solicit matching contributions from other funding sources. Pro bono representation is currently being provided, and volunteer involvement by the Providence office will be explored.



Press Release

In New York City:

- **B.E.L.L. Foundation, Inc.** – A second year *Relationship Grant* recipient, B.E.L.L. provides academic and social enrichment services to low-income elementary school children with after school and summer programs. The Boston-based organization has expanded the geographic scope of its services, and the grant will support after-school programs in New York City. Brown Rudnick is also providing B.E.L.L. with pro bono legal representation and working with them to develop volunteer engagements.
- **Bronx Prep Charter School** – Bronx Prep is a rigorous, college preparatory academic program that operates on an extended-day and extended-year schedule, allowing students to spend 50% more time in school than students attending traditional public schools. Strong academics and college prep are at the core of the mission, but it also believes that to educate well-rounded students, a wide variety of opportunities, especially in music and art, need to be provided. As a first time grant recipient, Bronx Prep will use the funds to create a new program: “Bringing Public Interest Law, Service and Advocacy to the South Bronx.” Specifically, the grant will support the creation of a public interest service curriculum, including the study of current social issues and development of a public service program associated with that study. Brown Rudnick will seek to establish volunteer involvement through the firm’s New York office.

About Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP

Brown Rudnick is a full-service, international law firm with offices in the United States and Europe. The firm’s 200 attorneys provide representation across key areas of the law: Corporate & Securities, Corporate Finance, Intellectual Property, Project and Structured Finance, Bankruptcy & Corporate Restructuring, Energy, Government Law & Strategies, Health Care, Real Estate, Complex Litigation and Trusts & Estates. Combining a dedication to excellence with the implementation of sophisticated technologies, Brown Rudnick provides its clients with a breadth and depth of expertise uniquely suited to their legal needs. For more information about the firm, 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. The Center supports the mission of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp., which provides grants in support of improving inner city education. For more information about the Center, please visit www.brownrudnickcenter.com.

####