



# Press Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Media Contact:

Lisa Murray  
617.856.8509  
lmurray@brownrudnick.com

### **The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Awards *Community Grant* to the Charles Sumner School in Boston, Massachusetts**

*Elementary school is taking steps to reduce school playground bullying and violence*

**Boston, MA, October 8, 2008**– The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp., a nonprofit, tax-exempt entity established by attorneys from Brown Rudnick LLP, announced that it has awarded one of its Community Grants to the **Charles Sumner School** in Boston, Massachusetts. The school will use the grant to help continue the “Project Praise” program, which is designed to address violence and bullying on school playgrounds. Specifically, grant dollars will purchase recess playground equipment, materials for curriculum workbooks, and classroom materials as well as supplies for staff members and playground monitors.

Created in 2007 by psychologist Gagan “Mia” S. Khera PhD., and in cooperation with The Children’s Hospital Neighborhood Partnership, Project Praise is a two-part program that seeks to: 1) organize outdoor and indoor recess and empower playground and lunch monitors; and 2) establish order through playtime rules and policies and with a system of rewards and verbal praise for good behavior. According to Dr. Khera, “Bullying and violence on school playgrounds is occurring at an alarming rate. Our successful pilot program suggests we will be able to increase students’ social play which will hopefully decrease the number of suspensions and fights, leading to increased classroom time for children and a less stressful school environment. The administrators at The Sumner, Ms. Lourdes Santiago and Ms. Frances Campbell work very hard to make this school a safe and loving place for children.”

Albert W. Wallis, executive director of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp., commented, “The bullying and violence that sometimes shows up in our schools have been of concern to the Foundation for some time. This grant allows us to assist one of our neighborhood elementary schools to address this issue. By building safer playground environments and training monitors and staff members, we can ensure that the children have a safe and educational environment in which to play. We are pleased to support Charles Sumner School in their efforts to improve playground environments and decrease the amount of potentially harmful situations at school.”

Created to support front-line educators who often do not have a voice in funding decisions, the *Community Grants* subsidize small, concrete projects, which will improve inner-city education within Boston, Hartford, Providence, Washington, D.C. or New York City within the coming year. The Foundation will generally consider grant applications monthly and award grants in an amount totaling not more than \$2000 in any one month. The grant applications and an



# Press Release

explanation of the program can be found at  
<http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com/foundation/communitygrant.asp>.

## **About Brown Rudnick 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](http://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](http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com).

#####