



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Awards *Community Grants* to Two Inner-City Education Programs in Boston

Grant dollars will support primary and secondary education programs

Boston, MA, April 14, 2008 – The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp., a nonprofit, tax-exempt entity established by attorneys from Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP, today announced that it has awarded Community Grants to two Boston-area education programs: the **John Winthrop Elementary School** and the **Bird Street Community Center**. Both non-profit organizations deliver programs that foster the social, emotional and cognitive development of Boston's inner-city students.

The John Winthrop Elementary School in Dorchester, Massachusetts has 300 students, pre-kindergarten through grade 5. The school will use the Community Grant to purchase "just right" books for third and fourth grade students with special education needs. According to Michelle Lydon, Boston Public School special education teacher and grant applicant, "My students are third- and fourth-graders who have a range of language and learning needs. In order to develop their reading skills they must have access to high interest, low-level books across all genres. With these appropriate materials and specialized, small group reading instruction, the students will improve their reading fluency, expand their vocabulary, and build on their reading comprehension strategies. With a variety of meaningful, engaging text at their fingertips, the students' reading levels will show measurable gains over the school year."

The Bird Street Community Center is a private, nonprofit organization providing high quality, affordable child care and recreational, educational and developmental activities for youth and their families in North Dorchester and surrounding neighborhoods of Boston. The Center serves more than 650 youth between the ages of 5 and 19 years of age with a variety of programs that encourage and promote their intellectual, physical, and social development. For the Bird Street Community Center, the grant will support the transportation of limited-income students to college preparatory classes at Suffolk University during the summer of 2008. The Center's Education Coordinator runs the "Connections 2 College Summer Program" (C2C), which improves the lives of and enriches the educational goals for youth in Boston. Juniors and seniors spend six weeks as residential college students at Suffolk University, and the transportation that will be provided through the grant will afford the students safe travel and access to campus facilities and labs.



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Albert W. Wallis, executive director of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp., remarked, "A recent study by the Editorial Projects in Education (EPE) Research Center on high school drop-out rates suggests that the community in which a student lives and attends school has a lasting influence on whether or not that child stays in school. According to the report, children in urban communities have only a 50% likelihood of graduating high school. Our Foundation is committed to increasing the number of high school graduates by improving the quality of inner-city education. To this end, both the John Winthrop Elementary School and the Bird Street Community Center provide students with novel educational opportunities that support and cultivate each child's intellectual, social and developmental skills. By assisting these organizations, we are keeping students on the path to high school graduation."

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

About Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP

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