



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contacts:

Lisa Murray
617.856.8509
lmurray@brownrudnick.com

Alexis Zukowski
617.856.8239
azukowski@brownrudnick.com

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Awards *Community Grant* to John Winthrop Elementary School in Boston

Grant dollars will support literacy curriculum for students with special education needs

Boston, MA, March 12, 2009 – The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp., a nonprofit, tax-exempt entity established by attorneys from Brown Rudnick LLP, today announced that it has awarded a *Community Grant* to the **John Winthrop Elementary School**, in Dorchester, MA. The grant dollars will help purchase high-interest books across genres that are at appropriate reading levels for third- and fourth-grade students with special education needs. This is the second *Community Grant* that the Foundation has given to the John Winthrop Elementary School in support of a special needs literacy curriculum.

The John Winthrop Elementary School in Dorchester, Massachusetts has 300 students, pre-kindergarten through grade 5. The school's special education students have learning, language and intellectual disabilities that prevent them from reading on grade level, and teachers are challenged to find interesting books that are suitable for the individual reading levels. According to Michelle Lydon, John Winthrop special education teacher and grant applicant, "By having reading-level appropriate books, students will benefit in many ways. They will acquire grade-level vocabulary which will aid in comprehension, and they will improve their reading fluency. These books will help to reduce their achievement gap, because the students will be acquiring more advanced reading strategies, such as segmenting and blending multi-syllabic words."

Albert W. Wallis, executive director of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp., remarked, "We are delighted to continue our support of the John Winthrop Elementary School's reading program. The books purchased with the grant will help motivate special education students to read. Reading is the cornerstone of a solid education and with the right tools, these students will be in position to succeed."

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>.



Press Release

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.

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.

#####