



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Lisa Murray
617.856.8509
lmurray@brownrudnick.com

BROWN RUDNICK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES RECIPIENTS OF 2007 *RELATIONSHIP GRANTS* PROGRAM

In its sixth year, Foundation continues to focus on improving literacy, social skills and arts education in inner-city communities

Boston, MA, December 11, 2006 – 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 2007 *Relationship Grants* program. In all, 12 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., "Inner-city education continues to be a critical concern in communities across the country, and children in low-income areas face unique challenges to learning that threaten their future income, health, and social integration. With this in mind, the Foundation aims to take a leadership position among law firms by providing much needed financial, legal and volunteer assistance to under-funded educational programs in urban communities. This year's 12 beneficiaries include 10 non-profits with whom we will continue or expand our relationships, as well as two first-time recipients."

The 2007 *Relationship Grant* recipients are:

- **Reach Out & Read (ROR)** – This nationally-acclaimed organization will use the grant to 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 fourth 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



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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:

- **Boston Medical Center (BMC)** – The grant will continue, for the third consecutive year, the work with BMC's "Medical Legal Partnership" (formerly known as Family Advocacy Program) on the Building Bridges Project. This ongoing program, which focuses on the educational needs of traumatized children, is now active in the Lee Elementary School, and the grant will help to sustain and grow the project. Through the Center for Public Interest, Brown Rudnick also provides pro bono legal representation to BMC's Medical Legal Partnership in conjunction with this project.
- **Facing History & Ourselves (FHAO)** – Brown Rudnick has been the pro bono general counsel to FHAO since the organization's inception, and this is the fourth consecutive year in which a *Relationship Grant* will be provided to FHAO. The 2007 grant will be used for the "Choosing to Participate Program." Specifically, the funds will help co-sponsor a five-month visit to the Boston Public Library's exhibit exploring the relationship between individuals and society.
- **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.
- **Citizen Schools/St. Clair Discovering Justice Project** – Brown Rudnick will continue its support of the "Legal Apprentice Program." 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.
- **Hattie B. Cooper Community Center** – A first time *Relationship Grant* recipient, the Community Center will use the funds towards establishing a playground for the pre-school and after-school programs it provides. Brown Rudnick will explore opportunities for its attorneys and staff to help build the playground.
- **Thompson Island Outward Bound** – A new grant recipient, Thompson will 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 will also provide pro bono and volunteer support.

In Hartford:

- **Children's Museum** – As a grant recipient for three years, the Children's Museum (formerly known as the Science Center of Connecticut) will continue its "Women in



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Science Girl Scout Camp-In Program," a program designed to integrate 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. Brown Rudnick has provided pro bono legal support in the past, and volunteer involvement by the Hartford office will be explored.

- **The Shelter for Women** – A two-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 two-time *Relationship Grant* recipient, the Stowe Center will use the funds for Hartford High School Educational Programming. The 2007 grant will support the "Art in the House" program, which will organize visits and build curriculum aimed at all Hartford middle and high schools. Brown Rudnick also provides pro bono counsel and is exploring volunteer opportunities.

In Providence:

- **Providence Plan** – Building on previous years' grants, the 2007 *Relationship Grant* will be used to support teacher training for the Ready2Learn program which expands early child literacy opportunities. In part through the Foundation's ongoing support, Ready2Learn has been able to obtain assistance from AmeriCorps, allowing the hiring of 30 staff. Pro bono representation is currently being provided, and volunteer involvement by the Providence office will be explored.

In New York City:

- **B.E.L.L. Foundation, Inc.** – A third 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 expand academic and social enrichment programs serving low-income elementary school children with after-school and summer enrichment programs. Specifically, the funds will be used to support, at the Foundation's direction, either a summer program for young children at a Harlem school, or middle-school children in an after-school program in the Bronx.

About Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP

Brown Rudnick is an international law firm with offices in the United States and Europe. The firm's attorneys provide representation across key areas of the law: Corporate & Securities, Structured & Commercial Finance, Intellectual Property, Government Law & Strategies, Complex Litigation Energy, Bankruptcy & Corporate Restructuring, Real Estate and Health



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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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