



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Awards *Community Grant* to Roxbury Preparatory Charter School in Boston

Grant will support literacy initiative aimed at increasing reading proficiency

Boston, MA, March 11, 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 **Roxbury Preparatory Charter School** in Massachusetts. The grant money will be used to fund the school's Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) "Read-Aloud" program, which is designed to help students reach an eighth grade reading proficiency.

Located in Mission Hill, Roxbury Prep is a public school (grades 6 – 8) whose student body is entirely comprised of students of color. One third of the sixth-grade students start out two years below grade level in reading at the time of their enrollment. Roxbury Prep created the DEAR silent reading program and the DEAR Read-Aloud initiative to help students become proficient readers by the eighth grade.

The DEAR Read-Aloud program is a group reading program that seeks to bring students up to their appropriate grade level in reading while encouraging reading enthusiasm. All students in the group have the same book and read passages aloud to their peers. The DEAR Read-Aloud program is accompanied by activities, such as arts and crafts projects and group discussions, that help students connect the text to real life. Students are also able to own their DEAR Read-Aloud books, which is a privilege many of them are experiencing for the first time.

The DEAR Read-Aloud program allows students and teachers to work together and offers the students positive adult interaction. Grant applicant and Director of Development at Roxbury Prep, Jami Therrien, states, "After ten years of operation, Roxbury Prep has a 100% graduate admission into college preparatory high schools and over 75% alumni enrollment in college. These statistics would not be achievable without special programs like DEAR, which improves literacy, encourages group discussion, and ultimately fosters a love for reading."

Al Wallis, Executive Director of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp., commented, "The promise of the DEAR Read-Aloud program is that it not only increases the child's excitement level and interest in reading, but it enables the students to take control of their education. The students have a vehicle to build self-esteem through reading aloud, and they work together with their teachers and peers to analyze and explore the selected readings."



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Roxbury Prep seeks to provide these students with a solid literacy foundation, and the Foundation is delighted to support the school's signature program."

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 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.

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