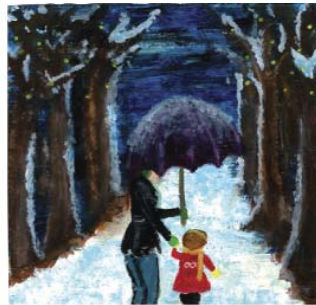




(Photo: Boston Public School student artists contest entrants celebrate with Center Executive Director Al Wallis, standing on left, and VLA Executive Director Jim Grace, standing on the right.)

**COVER STORY:**  
 VLA HOLIDAY CARD CONTEST

In what has become an annual event, the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest hosted winners of the annual BR/Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts holiday art contest. The Boston event center at Brown Rudnick was filled with Boston Public School students who entered the contest, as well as teachers, parents, and folks from Brown Rudnick. Awards were given for artistic accomplishment. Brown Rudnick Partners, Andy Strehle and Cheryl Pinarchick, pulled the winning raffle ticket for one of the students in attendance for two free tickets to the Nutcracker (generously donated by Partner, Jim Hauser). Congratulations filled the air. Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts is the recipient of a grant from the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation for the holiday card contest.



2010 - Victoria Nguyen  
 Latin Academy  
 Titled: Midnight Walk



2010 - Brenda Hercules  
 East Boston High School  
 Untitled

*2010-11 Relationship Grant Recipients*

In each of Brown Rudnick's domestic cities, the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation has announced the award of the 2010-2011 Relationship Grants. These grants, eleven in total, are given to tax-exempt organizations for programs and activities designed to improve inner-city education in a city where Brown Rudnick has domestic offices. For more information about the 2010-2011 grantees, visit [www.brownrudnickcenter.com](http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com).

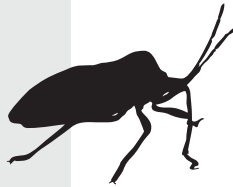
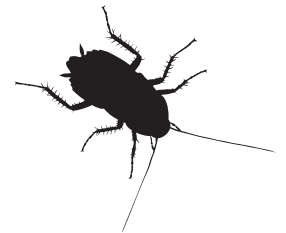
**IN THIS ISSUE:**

- **VLA Holiday Card Contest Winners**
- **2010-11 Relationship Grant Recipients**
- **Recent Community Grant Recipients**
- **Pro Bono Success Stories**
- **Serving the Community**

# Charitable Giving is at Our Center

## ISLAND ADVENTURES WITH BOSTON STUDENTS

On one of Boston's Harbor Islands, Brown Rudnick Partner John Wadsworth, Legal Executive Assistant Amy Simmons, Manager of Financial Planning & Analysis Antonio Mota and Center for the Public Interest Executive Director Al Wallis join students from the McCormack Middle School in an environmental educational outing with **Thompson Island/Outward Bound Educational Center**. The visit included hunting for bugs in the fields and using the "Monkey Bridge" to reach the tidal pools. A Foundation grant continues support for the *Connections Program*, allowing students from the McCormack Middle School to join thousands of other Boston middle school students who are provided academic achievement and character building programming using both the public school classroom and facilities on Thompson Island.



## CONNECTING KIDS AND THE CONSTITUTION IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

In Washington, D. C., Foundation Director Buddy Menn and Center for the Public Interest Executive Director Al Wallis deliver the grant check to the **United States Capitol Historical Society**. The grant will provide a second year of support for historical and educational programming in Washington, D.C. middle schools which connects in-class teaching about the Constitution with the *We the People Constitution Tour* of the nation's Capitol. The grant will also support the *We the People Constitutional Challenge*, an "essay" contest, in the public schools, created by the Historical Society and the Foundation last year.

## PHILANTHROPY IN HARTFORD

In Hartford, Brown Rudnick Foundation Directors Doug Cohen and Mike Camilleri, together with Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest Executive Director Al Wallis, recently met with Relationship Grant recipients to discuss the grant programs and present the grant checks. In the top photo, the check is presented to the COMPASS Youth Collaborative to support two new after-school education programs in the Hartford Public Schools. (Mike and Doug on far left, Al far right.) In the bottom photo, the grant check is presented to the Village for Families and Children to support their civic education program for troubled women from the Gray Lodge Shelter.



## PHILANTHROPY IN PROVIDENCE

In Providence, Brown Rudnick Foundation Director Ed Pare (third from right) and Center Executive Director Al Wallis (fourth from left), deliver the grant check to the Providence Plan's Executive Director Pat McGurigan and Ready 2 Learn Providence Program's Director Leslie Gell, and AmeriCorps staff. Ed serves pro bono as the Providence Plan's General Counsel.



## RELATIONSHIP GRANT TO CITIZENS SCHOOLS

The Foundation presented a Relationship Grant check to Pat Kirby (on right), Director of Citizens Schools in Boston, to support the middle school mock trial program held at the U.S. District Court. Brown Rudnick attorneys will coach a middle school team this year, as they have done for more than a decade.



## RELATIONSHIP GRANT TO BELL

The Foundation presented a Relationship Grant check to Building Educated Leaders for Life (“BELL”) to support an afterschool program at P.S. 36 in Harlem. The Foundation has been partnering with BELL at this school for four years.

## REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY IN WASHINGTON, D.C.’S NORTH CAPITOL STREET AREA

In Washington, D. C., Brown Rudnick Foundation Director Buddy Menn (second from left) and Center for the Public Interest Executive Director Al Wallis (far right), deliver the grant check to the **Perry School Community Center**. In a community center offering a variety of multi-generational programs in a struggling D.C. neighborhood, the grant will support the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters Program (the “HIPPY Program”), an early learning program which trains parents in the skills and practice of building young children’s early literacy capacity.



## COMMUNITY GRANT TO ASSIST EAST BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

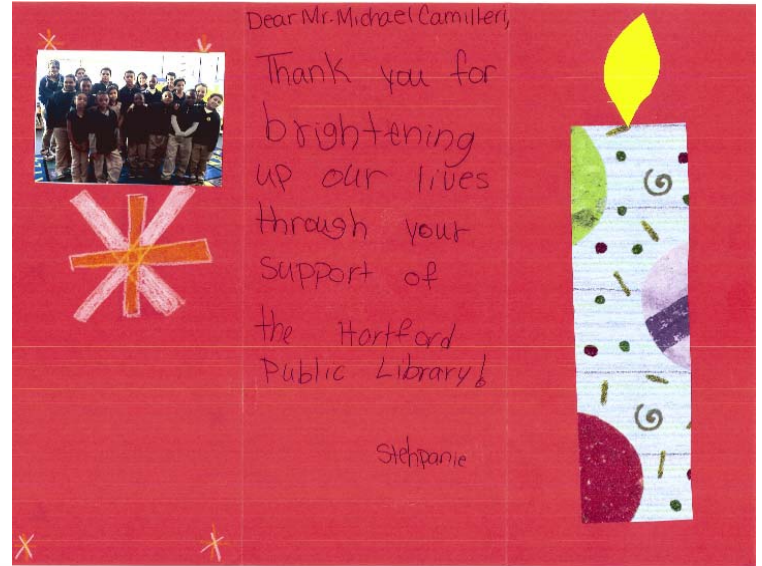
The Foundation presented a Community Grant to teacher Kristen Caccitore of East Boston High School. The grant supports high school student participation in a “green science” program.



## APPROVAL OF NEW COMMUNITY GRANTS

At its December meeting, the Foundation approved the award of new Community Grants to:

- The Hartford Public Library to support the Homework Help Program which provides 310 students with 23 weeks of after-school homework assistance in a safe and welcoming environment at 5 branches of the library.
- The Jeremiah E. Burke High School in Boston, to allow the purchase of ESL science books for two classes.



## Pro Bono is at Our Center

### HELPING THE HOMELESS

Brown Rudnick's Boston and Hartford offices provided counseling and representation to homeless clients at legal clinics this fall. The Boston clinics were organized by the Boston Bar Association's Clearinghouse, and the Brown Rudnick team was lead by attorneys Al Wallis and Christian Rivera. In Hartford, the clinics (known as the Homeless Experience Legal Protection, or "HELP") are organized by Connecticut Appleseed organization, and the Brown Rudnick team is lead by attorneys Douglas Cohen and Michael Camilleri.



## PRO BONO AWARD TO BROWN RUDNICK

At a recent award event, New York Legal Services presented 2010 Pro Bono Recognition Awards to Brown Rudnick's Diane Nardi (left) and Yanfei Shen (right).

Diane received the award on behalf of the Firm in recognition of the quality and quantity of the New York office's representation of individuals denied unemployment insurance benefits. Diane is the supervising partner on these pro bono engagements, which are screened and referred to Brown Rudnick by Manhattan Legal Services. Yanfei received the award as a Pro Bono Leader in recognition of the legal work she did with the Family Law/Domestic Violence Unit of South Brooklyn Legal Services during the time that she was a Brown Rudnick "deferred associate."



### **More Pro Bono**

This fall and winter, Brown Rudnick attorneys and paralegals have entered into new pro bono legal engagements representing many homeless clients, individuals who are contesting denial of unemployment benefits, and individuals seeking assistance in filing for personal bankruptcy.

## Community Service is at Our Center

### 9/11 REMEMBRANCE

To remember the events of September 11, 2001, and to remind public safety workers that we have not forgotten their efforts then, nor since, to protect us, The Center has organized a Brown Rudnick visit to the local firehouses in New York and Boston for the past nine years. We provide the firefighters with lunch and talk with them to convey our appreciation for all that public safety workers do for our communities.



## HOLIDAY GIVING

During the winter holiday season, Brown Rudnick employees donate gifts and funds to local organizations to assist children and people in need. In Boston, gifts are purchased for children in the care of the state Department of Children and Families. In New York, since 2004, the office has participated in a Toys for Tots Drive. With donations from employees, the office orders toys to be delivered directly to the Brooklyn Marine Base for the Drive. In Hartford, we adopt four students from the Hartford Breakthrough II School and purchase clothes, winter coats, hats, gloves, toys, books and art supplies for these students.



## WE, THE PEOPLE

As part of a Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation relationship grant provided to the U.S. Historical Society, Washington D.C. middle school students are given guided tours of government sites associated with the U.S. Constitution. These tours are then related to classroom lessons. Recently students from the Whittier School, with whom the Foundation has partnered for several years, took the tour with Brown Rudnick's Anna Lindel as one of the chaperones.

## ANNUAL UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

This fall, as part of the annual United Way Campaign in Brown Rudnick's Boston office, the Center hosted a lunch for United Way speakers and the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation's Boston Relationship Grant recipients. Among the other activities, the Boston office held a chili contest (won by Lillian Horwitz - center with award) to raise funds for the United Way.



Please contact Al Wallis or Kym Patrico to discuss any matters regarding the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest. Thanks especially to Kym Patrico, Lisa Murray, Connie Kelly and Kristin Cicerone for their assistance with this newsletter. And finally, apologies for any errors or unintentional omissions, which may from time-to-time occur in the Center Quarterly – maybe even this one.

- Al Wallis

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