

center news

Foundation Announces 2017-2018 Relationship Grantees



Pictured above, Center volunteers on Thompson Island in May, 2017

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation announces the recipients of its 2017-18 Relationship Grants program. In all, the Foundation will award 14 grants totaling approximately \$200,000 dollars to tax-exempt organizations in Boston; Harford; Orange County, California; Providence; London, U.K.; New York City; and Washington, D.C. These grants support inner-city education programs and commence with the 2017-8 academic year in September.

The Foundation Grants Committee, chaired by Brown Rudnick Orange County Partner Catherine Castaldi, received more than 75 letters of interest from qualified organizations applying for this year's grants. Two dozen of them were invited to submit full proposals, and final selections were made by the Foundation's Board of Directors in June 2017.

Among long-time grantees, are two new grant recipients: Horizons for Homeless Children (Boston) and Generation Citizen (New York City).

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foundation news

2017-2018 Announcement of Relationship Grantees

Boston

Thompson Island Outward Bound: Long-time grant recipient will use grant to support Connections education program for Boston public school students.

East Boston High School Science Enrichment Program: Five-time grant recipient will use grant to increase scientific literacy at East Boston High School through curriculum enhancements and inter-school programming.

Arts & Business Council of Greater Boston/Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts: Long-time grant recipient will use grant to continue Brown Rudnick Holiday Art Contest & Teen Art Law program in Boston public schools and to continue the Corporate Art Lending Program where public-school student art is loaned to businesses.

College Bound Dorchester: Long-time grantee will use grant to support Maritime Apprentice Program (serving older, high-risk population through work & education). Program previously operated by Hull Lifesaving Museum.

Horizons for Homeless Children: New, first time grant that will support reading programs for homeless children.

Hartford

Hartford Public Library: Three-time Relationship Grantee will use grant to support the Leap Into Learning Child Care Program, which provides early literacy training and resources to home daycare centers.

The Mark Twain House: Long-time grantee will use grant to continue summer reading and writing program at the museum for 10th graders as part of Capital Prep Magnet School's six-week summer academy.

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foundation news

2017-2018 Announcement of Relationship Grantees Continued...

London

LIFEbeat: Fifth-year grant recipient, provides transformational learning experiences for teenagers. The grant will provide this by supporting group mentoring and summer camps.

Mousetrap Theatre Projects: Four-time grant recipient will use funds for educating and connecting disadvantaged youth to and through the arts.

New York

New York City Urban Debate League: Long-time grantee will use grant to support award-winning debate program expansion.

Generation Citizen: New, first-time grantee promotes civic education in public schools.

Orange County, CA

UC Irvine School of Law: Four-time grantee will use funds to support a portion of the Saturday Academy of Law, a program offered to disadvantaged, high-achieving 9th grade students from Santa Ana, CA school district.

Century High School: Three-time grantee will use grant funds to support college visits for economically disadvantaged students. Grant will also support college placement test preparations.

U.S. Capitol Historical Society (USCHS): Long-time grant recipient will use funds to support We, the People Constitutional Program educating D.C. public school students through historical tours and classroom lessons, underscored by the Constitutional Challenge essay contest the Foundation created through this relationship.



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University of
California, Irvine
School of Law



foundation news

2017 Foundation Board Retreat



Foundation Directors retreat to Thompson Island this spring for a day long focus on the Foundation's next few years of growth.

Each year, the Center for the Public Interest organizes several summer volunteer events which are open to everyone at the Firm. Recent and activities involving grantees of the Foundation included:

- On June 22, 2017, the Center held its annual Volunteer Day with longtime Relationship Grantee, Thompson Island Outward-Bound. Firm volunteers spent the day assisting in various up-keep projects, including wood chipping, raking – and even fixing a broken pipe – to help Thompson Island get ready for the next hands-on science learning program for Boston Public School children.
- On July 28, Brown Rudnick's New York office will visit longtime Relationship Grantee New York City Urban Debate League summer camp and have lunch.

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foundation news

Center Summer Events on Thompson Island

The Center for the Public Interest held the first 2017 Summer Event with longtime relationship grantee, Boston's Thompson Island Outward-bound. Brown Rudnick volunteers pictured below spent the day assisting in various projects including wood chipping, raking, and even fixing a drain pipe to get the island ready for the next class of Boston Public School students to enjoy hands on science learning on the island. Thank you to everyone who participated in a wonderful day!

Pictured below from top left; Kit Peabody, Caitlin Bartley, Jessica Morello, Lauren Addesa, Rachel Rosen, Eniyah Willingham, Patrick Dolan and Sunni Beville.

Pictured below from bottom left; Jennifer Reiss, Alvin Carter, Gordon Penman, Molly Childs, Shari Dwoskin, Sam Williams, Tyler Lewis, Asharee Brown and Kuka Duodu.



center news

Center Summer Events

The Center for the Public Interest continued another summer visit to Rosie's Place. 15 brown Rudnick Volunteer spent the day assisting homeless shelter Rosie's Place staff prepare a full lunch complete with chicken and vegetables, salad, fruit, pasta and soup for over 210 women and children. Rosie's Place was founded in 1974 as the first women's shelter in the United States whose mission is to provide a safe and nurturing environment that helps poor and homeless women maintain their dignity, seek opportunity and find security in their lives.

Today, Rosie's Place not only provides meals and shelter but also creates answers for 12,000 women a year through wide-ranging support, housing and education services.

Pictured below from top left; Oliver Baez, Brendan Reaney, Billy Brown, Patrick Dolan, Alvin Carter and Asharee Brown.

Pictured below from bottom left; Kathleen Gerwatowski, Cristina Staltare, Elizabeth McGeoy, Bianca Lonergan, Meghan Donahue, Emily Daughters, Amanda Varella Buck, Molly Childs and Maral Ucuzian.



grantee news

Foundation Supports Healthy Food Learning Center for Head Start Program at Children’s Friend in Providence, RI

The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to the Children’s Friend Carter Street Center in Providence, RI to support classroom healthy food centers and an outdoor garden for the children in the Head Start program to help students learn about healthy eating.

“Children should be encouraged to try foods that they would normally avoid and to develop healthy eating habits. I have integrated nutrition lessons into the curriculum for the students at Children’s Friend, and with this grant, I will be able to expand the program. We hope this project will bring the benefits of healthy eating to life for the children in all of our classrooms at the Carter Street Center.”
—Lea Kabbas, a Head Start teacher at Children’s Friend and grant applicant



**The Foundation’s
Community Grants
support
immediate,
one-time needs
identified by
someone close to
the front lines of
education.
Maximum amount
awarded is \$2,000.**



grantee news

Foundation Helps Staten Island Public School Develop Robotics Club

The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to P.S. 21 The Margaret P. Emery Elm Park School in Staten Island, New York. The grant will be used to purchase LEGO WeDo Kits for an upcoming school robotics club. The students will combine construction sets with the LEGO WeDo education software and activity packs to build models using motors and sensors.

“My students are very motivated and excited about hands-on, inquiry-based projects in augmented and virtual reality, coding and robotics. The addition of LEGO WeDo Kits and a robotics club will further students’ knowledge in these areas and help them explore a series of cross-curricular activities.”

-Patricia Wong, P.S. 21 media librarian and grant applicant.

Foundation Supports BUILD NYC’s Student Business Plan Competition

The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to BUILD NYC to support its student Business Plan Competition. Specifically, grant dollars will be used to fund a portion of the prizes awarded to the final five student business teams at the competition. BUILD NYC is a nonprofit that uses entrepreneurship and experiential learning to ignite the potential of youth in under-resourced communities and equip them for high school, college, and career success. The annual Business Plan Competition brings together 80 student teams who present their innovative business ideas to a group of judges.

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Center Video

To learn more
about the
Foundation’s
Community
Grants, watch the
Center’s latest
video [HERE](#).



grantee news

BUILD NYC Continued

“We are thankful for the Foundation’s support. By helping to fund prize money for the finalists, we are acknowledging the dedication and outstanding accomplishments of these student entrepreneurs. The competition helps students appreciate the benefits of hard work and perseverance. We have found that the skills that the students acquire through the BUILD program have led to improved engagement in their education.” -Dwayne Wellington, Director of Curriculum and Instruction at BUILD NYC and grant applicant.

Foundation Helps Establish a Writing Center at the Boston Teachers Union School

The Foundation awarded a Community Grant to the Boston Teachers Union (BTU) School in Boston, MA. The grant will provide one-time setup costs associated with furnishing an on-site, student-focused writing center in partnership with 826 Boston, a nonprofit organization that provides free writing and tutoring programs for Boston students ages 6 - 18. The 826 Boston Writers’ Room at the BTU School will provide students with tutoring and writing assistance during and after school.

“Having a dedicated space within our school will transform the culture of writing at the BTU School and will open a world of possibilities for my students. We are grateful to the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation for helping us establish this much-needed writing center.”
-Alice McCabe, fourth grade teacher at the Boston Teachers Union and grant applicant.

Apply for a Community Grant!

All year the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation seeks applications for educational grants to support inner-city educators through its Community Grant 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; London; Providence; New York; Washington, DC, or Orange County, California within the coming year. The grant applications and an explanation of the program can be found [HERE](#).



community involvement

Lawyers Have a Heart 5k Run



15 Brown Rudnick runners participated in the 10th Annual Boston Lawyers Have Heart 5k in support of the American heart Association. The event has raised over \$369,000 to date.

Summer Associates and the SAILS Program

For over a decade, the Center for the Public Interest has held an annual Summer SAILS (Summer Associates in Support of Legal Services) program, whereby Brown Rudnick Summer Associates are invited to a brown bag lunch to discuss the history of pro bono legal representation, as well as the nature and scope of Brown Rudnick's pro bono work. As part of the program, the associates select several legal services organizations to receive a donation from the Center. The donation amount is roughly equivalent to the cost of a group lunch. This summer donations were made to the following organizations:

Greater Boston Legal Services (Boston)

Avenues for Justice (Andrew Glover Youth Program), Comprehensive Development Inc., and the Eviction Intervention Services "EIS" (New York)

University of California Irvine Public Interest Law Fund "UCI PILF" (Orange County)

Amara Legal Center (Washington, DC)



GREATER
BOSTON
LEGAL
SERVICES



cdi
COMPREHENSIVE
DEVELOPMENT, INC.



EIS HOUSING
RESOURCE CENTER

**AVENUES
FOR JUSTICE**

Andrew Glover Youth Program

University of California, Irvine
School of Law

 **AMARA LEGAL CENTER**

pro bono

Recent Accolades

- Personal bankruptcy representation

In May, Center for the Public Interest Executive Director Al Wallis presented Pro Bono Accolades to Boston Associates Tyler Lewis and Emily Kruda to recognize their initiative, leadership, teamwork, skill and sensitivity to the client's needs and to the program's public interest goals in representing the debtors in c. 7 bankruptcy proceedings.

- Providence Plan Representation

Pro Bono Accolades were presented in the New York City office by Foundation Treasurer Steve Wasserman to the Providence Plan Legal Team, the full team included: New York Attorneys Adam Cantor, Nicole Bouchard, Vince Guglielmotti, Mary Ambacher, Stephanie Bollheimer, Julia Catania, Justin Weddle and Steve Wasserman, and Boston Office Caitlin Macdowell, Wayne Dennison and Amanda Varella. This Accolade is in recognition of the great team which provided pro bono legal representation to the Providence Plan. The Plan suffered a devastating blow when its CFO pled guilty to embezzlement. Our team helped the organization through that ordeal and through restructuring of its important public interest programs.



Pictured to the left, Adam Cantor, Nicole Bouchard, Vince Guglielmotti, Mary Ambacher, Stephanie Bollheimer, Julia Catania, Justin Weddle and Foundation Treasurer Steve Wasserman.



Pictured above from left, Tyler Lewis, Center for the Public Interest Executive Director Al Wallis and Emily Kruda.



Pictured above from left, Center for the Public Interest Executive Director Al Wallis, Caitlin Macdowell and Wayne Dennison.

pro bono

A Lifesaving Pro Bono Victory By Our Brown Rudnick Team

A well-coordinated legal team of Brown Rudnick attorneys worked for over three years to save a 14-year-old boy from the terrors of his existence in El Salvador. "Walter" who feared for his life, in desperation, had fled an abusive father and repeated gang bullying, making a tortuous journey from El Salvador through Mexico and across the border into the U.S. In 2104, at the request of Kid's in Need of Defense (KIND), Brown Rudnick represented Walter winning him crucial Special Immigrant Juvenile Status ("SIJS") from the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services ("USCIS") so that he could remain in the U.S.

Walter then lived and attended school in the Bronx, and did well there. But his future in the U.S. was far from secure since USCIS denied him a Green Card which blocked his path to citizenship and certain U.S. benefits. We continued our pro bono representation of Walter in pursuit of reopening the Green Card application. But then we learned that Walter had made a grave mistake and had been arrested for marijuana possession.

Walter was challenged at his immigration interview by the immigration judge about his "disqualifying" arrest for marijuana possession. Our team, who Walter had not informed about the arrest, regrouped to address our continued pro bono legal representation of Walter. They worked to establish new engagement terms and deeper trust with Walter. And they persisted in seeking his Green Card.

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"I couldn't be happier and more proud for Walter, as this represents something to him that we can't comprehend. Not only does he not have to look over his shoulder consistently now, but he can live and work here - truly begin his life at the age of 21. Finally, even though he made a mistake ... in the past, Walter is a good person - he wanted nothing more than to live and work here, he wants to go to college."

-Gerard Cicero

pro bono

A Lifesaving Pro Bono Victory By Our Brown Rudnick Team Continued...

And we succeeded. Recently, Walter received his Green Card, making him a permanent legal resident of the U.S. It was New York associate **Gerard Cicero**, who joined this team as a summer associate in 2014, who's detailed and persuasive advocacy got us successfully across the finish line.

Former partner **Andy Dash** and present partner **Mason Simpson** provided mature, stable guidance that maintained our high level of representation. An important contributor to our success was the crucial support, particularly with translation and client relations, provided by support staff **Jeanette Weiner, Sonia Calderon**, and **Evelyn Gonzalez**.

VLA Fee Collection Initiative Marks 12th Anniversary.

This year marks the 12th anniversary of our Volunteer Layers for the Arts (VLA) Fee Collection Initiative. Over the last twelve years, we have represented indigent artists and organizations in **42** matters, and our representation has contributed to their recovering more than **\$270,000**. In addition, we helped clients find new places to work, establish their rights to artwork, clear their credit and criminal records, and evaluate their rights and claims.

In 2006, 2012, and 2014 the Firm's work was recognized by VLA-MA's Robert B. Fraser Award for Pro Bono Excellence. In 2007, the Firm and VLA-MA were recognized as the 2007 Corporate Philanthropy Partners of the Year by the Boston Business Journal.

VLA Fee Collection Initiative Continued...



Pro bono Committee Chair and Brown Rudnick Partner Andrew Strehle conceived of and leads this highly successful initiative.



2006 VLA Awards pictured from left; Jim Grace, Al Wallis, Bob Frasier and Andrew Strehle.

center news

Send us your photos!



What does the Center and Foundation mean to you? Has a Relationship Grant or Community Grant helped your school, or helped bring an innovative educational program to life? Maybe as a lawyer, your work on a pro bono matter helped make a difference in someone's life. Or, perhaps you participated in a volunteer day organized by the Center that you found particularly fulfilling. Share your experience with us!

You can also post photos to the Brown Rudnick [Facebook](#) page at and don't forget to include [#CenterSelfie!](#)

To participate, send your digital photo (with proper photo credit and a brief caption) to [Elizabeth McGeoy](#)

By submitting your photo you agree that you are responsible for ensuring that you have the right to submit the photos, including authorization for the photos use by the Center and Foundation from anyone appearing in the photo.



Photos submitted by *FDR High School, 2017 Community Grantee*

just us

What can we do to respond to societal tragedy?



There is no shortage of tragedy in the current world. Recently, such tragedies have descended fast and frequently upon the United Kingdom. A recent one -- the deadly fire at London's Grenfell Tower -- was particularly horrific and disturbing.

It is difficult, on a personal level, to find a meaningful way to respond to these tragedies. Some of us in Brown Rudnick's London office were only one or two degrees of separation from knowing the victims. In one case, the tragedy unfolded for one of our Partners, first with learning that her child's bus driver had rushed into the blazing building to rescue his disabled spouse and his son. He succeeded but the family was severely injured. The bus driver went back into the building to save others and lost his own life. The Brown Rudnick Partner could not do anything about the fire. But, she could launch an immediate crowdfunding effort to raise funds in support of the injured family members. Many from Brown Rudnick quickly and generously contributed, allowing the fundraising to double its initial goal.

Brown Rudnick as a Firm also reached out to help in another way.

For more information and full coverage on the Grenfell Tower Fire please visit BBC news at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/bo8trkrh>

Please contact Al Wallis or Elizabeth McGeoy to discuss any matters regarding the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest. Thanks especially to Lisa Murray, and Elizabeth McGeoy 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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just us

What can we do to respond to societal tragedy? Continued...

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Relationship Grantee, LIFEbeat, provides innovative discussions with and interactive activities for disengaged youth, which often have life-changing effect. The organization had its office space in the Aldridge Academy, a school where it also provides programming. Aldridge is adjacent to the Grenfell Tower. During the fire, debris was falling on the school and it was necessary to vacate and close for the rest of the summer. When Brown Rudnick discovered that LIFEbeat had been displaced by the fire, the Firm's London office generously provided free, temporary work space for LIFEbeat's small staff through August, when the Academy is expected to reopen. In this way, LIFEbeat will be able to sustain the work it does so well in altering the course of lost youth, creating a better future for them and a better future for the U.K.

We probably cannot individually intervene in an active tragedy like Grenfell. But, we may be able to act in smaller, powerful and more direct ways in the aftermath to soften the blow, help the affected people and organizations regain their footing, and build a bridge to their future. In the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower tragedy, Brown Rudnick found a way to do just that.

- Al Wallis

