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Winchester A Better Chance awarded \$250,000 Cummings grant

Winchester, MA nonprofit receives 10 years of funding from Cummings Foundation

Winchester, May 27, 2022 – Winchester A Better Chance is one of 140 local nonprofits to receive grants of \$100,000 to \$500,000 each through Cummings Foundation's \$25 Million Grant Program. The Winchester-based organization was chosen from a total of 580 applicants during a competitive review process. It will receive \$250,000 over 10 years.

Winchester A Better Chance (ABC) is a community-based program within the national A Better Chance organization. ABC is committed to producing future leaders who can create positive change on the local, national, and global level. Winchester ABC is proud that its program has sent students to colleges from Tufts to MIT to Bowdoin to The Ohio State University. Supported solely by community and foundation grants, ABC Winchester scholars are proud to be recipients of this generous donation from the Cummings Foundation.

"On behalf of the over 100 students who have come through our program and hundreds of volunteers who been engaged with Winchester ABC since our founding 50 years ago, we are thrilled and honored to be among the many grateful recipients of this year's awards," says Mike Schoenegge, president of the Winchester chapter of A Better Chance. "This grant will allow us to continue to make a huge difference in the lives of the scholars we serve with an emphasis on continued improvement to our chapter house and scholarly program support."

The Cummings \$25 Million Grant Program supports Massachusetts nonprofits that are based in and primarily serve Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties.

Through this place-based initiative, Cummings Foundation aims to give back in the areas where it owns commercial property. Its buildings are all managed, at no cost to the Foundation, by its affiliate, Cummings Properties. This Woburn-based commercial real estate firm leases and manages 11 million square feet of debt-free space, the majority of which exclusively benefits the Foundation.

"We are so fortunate in greater Boston to have such effective nonprofits, plus a wealth of talented, dedicated professionals and volunteers to run them," said Cummings Foundation executive director Joyce Vyriotes. "We are indebted to them for the work they do each day to provide for basic needs, break down barriers to education and health resources, and work toward a more equitable society."

With the help of about 90 volunteers, the Foundation first identified 140 organizations to receive grants of at least \$100,000 each. Among the winners were first-time recipients as well as nonprofits that had previously received Cummings Foundation grants. Forty of this latter group of repeat recipients were then selected to have their grants elevated to 10-year awards ranging from \$200,000 to \$500,000 each.

“Our volunteers bring diverse backgrounds and perspectives, which is so critical to our grant selection process,” said Vyrriotes. “Through this democratized approach to philanthropy, they decide more than half the grants every year.”

This year’s grant recipients represent a wide variety of causes, including food insecurity, immigrant and refugee services, social justice, education, and mental health services. The nonprofits are spread across 45 different cities and towns.

The complete list of 140 grant winners, plus more than 900 previous recipients, is available at www.CummingsFoundation.org.

Cummings Foundation has now awarded more than \$375 million to greater Boston nonprofits.

About Winchester A Better Chance

Since 1971, Winchester ABC has graduated approximately 100 scholars who have continued their education at top colleges and universities.

A Better Chance (ABC) is a national non-profit that identifies, recruits, and refers qualified, highly-motivated students to outstanding secondary schools, both public and private, which provide scholarships to these students so that they may excel in college and eventually go on to assume positions of leadership and responsibility.

Winchester A Better Chance (ABC) is one of 21 community school programs (CSP) that partners with A Better Chance. We admit students who we believe are most likely to benefit from the educational, cultural and social opportunities offered by our unique program. Winchester ABC provides a dedicated and supervised home for scholars to live in while they attend Winchester High School and complete the program.

Our program is fully funded by generous donations from our supportive community, allowing scholars to attend without a financial burden.

About Cummings Foundation

Woburn-based Cummings Foundation, Inc. was established in 1986 by Joyce and Bill Cummings and has grown to be one of the largest private foundations in New England. The Foundation directly operates its own charitable subsidiaries, including New Horizons retirement communities, in Marlborough and Woburn, and Cummings Health Sciences, LLC. Additional information is available at www.CummingsFoundation.org.

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