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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Community Foundation Awards \$200,000 in Drug Prevention, Education Funds

Seven individual or collaborative programs have been awarded a total of \$200,000 in drug prevention, awareness and education grants by the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts under the 2005 New Bedford Against Drugs (NewBAD) funding cycle.

Community Foundation Board Chair Elizabeth Isherwood announced that the Board of Directors has approved NewBAD grants for the NorthStar Collaborative (\$63,335); the Community Boating Center (\$35,000); the Boys and Girls Club of Greater New Bedford (\$35,000); PACE-YouthBuild (\$21,643); United Interfaith Collaborative (\$18,322); YMCA SouthCoast (\$16,500); and 3<sup>rd</sup> EyE Unlimited (\$10,200). Fourteen proposals were received.

“This year, we have awarded double the amount of funding as in past NewBAD cycles,” said Community Foundation President Craig J. Dutra. “We’re confident that the high-quality and innovative programs that have been funded will make a significant contribution to the ongoing problems of drug abuse and drug-related violence in our community.”

NewBAD was established in 1997 with an anonymous, \$1 million donation to the Community Foundation. NewBAD is an effort to provide financial support for existing drug awareness, prevention, and education programs; the expansion of these programs; or the development of new programs serving the people of Greater New Bedford.

This year’s increase in available funds includes allocations for two new components, \$50,000 in *Capacity Building* technical support for program evaluation, board development, fiscal management and strategic planning, and \$25,000 for *Community Action Awards* of up to \$2,500 each to support events, publications, and education plans that address NewBAD’s goals.

The proposals awarded grants include:

**NorthStar Collaborative**, an art-based youth development program that has demonstrated success in strengthening characteristics that offset the effects of risk and deprivation. The collaborators – Brick by Brick, NorthStar Learning Center, Treatment on Demand, and PACE/YouthBuild – plan to expand the number of program participants and implement new after-school programs and counseling.

**Community Boating Center**, to provide services focused primarily on underprivileged and at-risk youth, and to instill in people of all ages the values of integrity, sound judgment and teamwork. The grant will provide support for the existing program, and allow the Center to implement after-school programs in collaboration with schools and youth service organizations.

**The Boys and Girls Club of Greater New Bedford**, a grant for SMART Moves, a prevention model with a comprehensive curriculum that focuses on issues surrounding drug and alcohol abuse and targets solutions. The grant provides support for the existing program, which serves 425 participants a year, and will help broaden the numbers of participants and geographic area served.

***PACE-YouthBuild***, a grant to support their substance abuse component as well as funding for a new program that will enable YouthBuild members to produce an age-appropriate anti-drug book for PACE Head Start preschoolers.

***United Interfaith Action/Maya K'iche***, a Capacity Building Grant to integrate substance abuse prevention activities into their violence prevention programs, as well implementation of a Maya K'iche Center in the North End

***YMCA Southcoast***, a Challenge Grant for Youth Achievers, a multi-cultural leadership program that will enhance the academic, personal and career development of middle and high school youth from the South and West Ends of New Bedford.

***3<sup>rd</sup> Eye Unlimited***, to give youth a voice, through the arts, to develop and implement their own strategies surrounding violence and drug prevention.

### ***About the Community Foundation***

Since 1995, area residents have been turning to the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts to make their philanthropic giving as effective as possible. CFSEMA is a public charity serving thousands of people who share a common concern – improving the quality of life in Southeastern Massachusetts.

To date, the Community Foundation has assets of more than \$14 million and has distributed over \$3 million from 59 funds to humanitarian, educational and cultural organizations in the region.