

October 21, 2008

Community Foundation Awards Mini-Grants to Greater Fall River Nonprofits

Nine groups receive grants totaling \$35,000

The Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts (CFSEMA) has awarded \$35,000 in mini-grants to 9 nonprofit organizations in Greater Fall River for programs that focus on family literacy, youth development and empowerment, and education transportation.

The first-time mini-grants program was launched this summer "in recognition of the vital role that the Fall River area plays in the health and prosperity of our region," said CFSEMA President Craig J. Dutra. "Our Board of Directors approved the initiative and developed its priorities after a series of conversations with community leaders from Fall River, Somerset, Swansea and Westport."

The CFSEMA received 20 grant applications with total requests of \$93,250. After making site visits to all 20 applicants, the Distribution Committee awarded grants of up to \$5,000 from the CFSEMA Discretionary Fund to the following organizations:

- **Bristol Community College/Grimshaw-Gudewicz Art Gallery**, a \$1,750 grant for "Fall River as I See It: The Boys and Girls Club Photo Project".
- **Partners for a Healthier Community/Healthy Youth Task Force**, \$3,000 for Team FRESH Web Page connecting youth to activities and resources in Greater Fall River.
- **SER-Jobs for Progress**, \$5,000 grant to form a Family Learning Center for ABE/ESOL programming.
- **Stanley Street Treatment and Resources**, \$5,000 for BOLD (Building Lives Drug-Free) Coalition to "Embolden and Engage Youth".
- **Thomas Chew Memorial Boys and Girls Club**, \$2,250 for Stay in School, a youth empowerment, drop-out prevention and college preparatory project.
- **United Neighbors of Fall River**, \$5,000 for Foster Care Connections Mentoring Program, which provides foster care youth mentoring by adults who were once in the foster care system.
- **Westport Community Schools**, \$4,000 for Project Action Enhancement Activities including youth empowerment, drop-out prevention and college prep.
- **YMCA Southcoast Fall River Branch**, \$4,000 for a Career Development in Family Literacy project to supplement the Even Start program that helps with employment and career readiness and ABE.
- **United Interfaith Action**, \$5,000 for Advocacy and Education: Fall River School Transportation, which seeks to implement initiatives to improve public transportation affordability and youth access for high school students.

The mini-grant focus is on literacy programming for children birth to pre-kindergarten and workforce development through English literacy and adult education, along with youth leadership and drop-out prevention programs for middle school to high school-age youth. Improving public transportation availability and affordability to and from schools is also a priority.

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.

While the Foundation's primary grantmaking focus is on the SouthCoast communities of Greater New Bedford, Greater Fall River, and Greater Plymouth County, CFSEMA is a regional foundation serving 41 cities and towns. To date, the Community Foundation has distributed over \$6 million from 110 funds to humanitarian, educational and cultural organizations in the region. . More information about the Foundation can be found at www.cfsema.org.

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