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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Grants Available through Community Foundation's Lipsky-Whittaker Fund

The Lipsky-Whittaker Fund of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts (CFSEMA) is seeking proposals for grants to support projects focused on either gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered youth or HIV/AIDS prevention, education and treatment.

Applications, which are available at the CFSEMA website, are due in our office at 63 Union Street, New Bedford, by March 31, 2011. Please visit [www.cfsema.org](http://www.cfsema.org) to download the application form.

The Lipsky-Whittaker Fund, created by the John J. Lipsky Charitable Trust, believes strongly in making strategic investments for the well-being of the Greater New Bedford gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered (GLBT) community and in combating HIV/AIDS through prevention and education. The Fund encourages collaboration among individuals, groups and organizations interested in ending bigotry, violence and discrimination towards GLBT individuals and families, as well as promoting respect and inclusion as fundamental to the Greater New Bedford community's values and actions.

Projects must be focused within the following geographic area: Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Marion, Mattapoissett, New Bedford, Rochester, Wareham, and Westport.

The fund was named for John Lipsky and George Whittaker, who lived together for 52 years in a committed, loving relationship. They died just eight weeks apart in 2005. George was born and raised in New Bedford, and became a costume designer to the stars in Hollywood. John, a Rhode Island native, was a television executive. When they retired in 1980 they returned to Greater New Bedford to spend summers with family and friends.

Throughout their lives, they faced a world that was hostile to gay men and lesbians, and also witnessed the devastation of the AIDS epidemic, as so many of their close friends and colleagues died of the disease. Their wish was to use their resources to help end the epidemic of AIDS and the climate of fear, hostility and rejection they had experienced. To that end, the Lipsky-Whittaker Fund was launched at CFSEMA to help realize John and George's dream.

### **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. Over the past five years, the Community Foundation has distributed more than \$9 million from 130 funds to humanitarian, educational and cultural organizations in the region. . More information about the Foundation can be found at [www.cfsema.org](http://www.cfsema.org).