



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION of Southeastern Massachusetts

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HAWTHORN MEDICAL ASSOCIATES AWARDS \$20,000 IN GRANTS TO PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN & FAMILIES

The Hawthorn Medical Associates Charitable Fund of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Mass. has awarded \$20,000 in grants to four local programs focused on women and children in need.

“Hawthorn’s focus this year was on supporting organizations that recognize the enormous impact that education and knowledge can have on the quality of life for women and children in need, “ said James Gularek, CEO of Hawthorn Medical Associates. “The organizations that are receiving support from the Hawthorn Charitable Fund will have programs in place that will make a real difference in the communities we serve.”

“We are proud to partner with Hawthorn Medical in support of women and children in our region,” said Community Foundation President John Vasconcellos. “These grants, which help organizations run programs for child abuse prevention and treatment, economic self-sufficiency, and teaching life skills to youth, are in perfect alignment with our efforts to improve the quality of life in Southeastern Massachusetts.”

Each of the following organizations was awarded a \$5,000 grant for programming related to women’s and family issues:

- **Boys and Girls Club of Greater New Bedford**, to support the addition of youth programming within the **New Bedford Wellness Initiative**, specifically, teaching life skills through basketball. The New Bedford Wellness Initiative consists of weekly programming with classes focused on diet, exercise, stress management, and smoking cessation. Other activities also include a monthly wellness walk, workshops, and movie screenings.
- **Children’s Advocacy Center of Bristol County (CAC), for Protecting Our Children from Sexual Abuse: Advice for a Sex Offender Treatment Provider**. This program will offer a series of three workshops that will educate child-serving professionals as well as parents and the general community about pedophile and sex offender behavior and techniques, with the goals of

improving investigative and prosecutorial child welfare and youth service efforts, and providing a better understanding of who pedophiles are and how they think.

- **The Women's Fund of Southeastern Mass.** was awarded a grant for its **LifeWork Project** to provide financial incentives and matching funds for women participating in the five-year program. The LifeWork Project guides women - mostly single women heads of households - on a path to economic independence, primarily through coaching on establishing and accumulating savings while earning a job with a living wage.
- **The YWCA of Southeastern Mass.** was awarded a grant for its **Financial Literacy for Women** program. The program will serve 100 low-income women in Greater New Bedford, including non-English speakers, and focus on their reaching financial self-sufficiency and stability by increasing their personal financial knowledge and understanding through workshops and training focused on budgeting, planning, and debt reduction. The program is operated by two bi-lingual program facilitators, in cooperation with local banks, investment consultants, financial planners, housing developments, schools, churches, councils on aging, and women's centers.

The availability of these grants is the result of the creation of a \$500,000 endowment by Hawthorn Medical Associates at the Community Foundation. Hawthorn Medical Associates was founded in 1970 to provide a high level of care for patients in Southeastern Massachusetts while bringing physician specialists and services to the community that were not available at the time. Hawthorn has continued to grow and now includes more than 135 of the area's most respected physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners. These providers, who represent 19 medical specialties, are supported by state-of-the-art laboratory and diagnostic imaging services including x-ray, 3D mammography, ultrasound, nuclear medicine, MRI and CT scan. Patients also have access to Hawthorn Medical's specialty services including Diabetes Management Program and Rehabilitation Services. Hawthorn Medical joined forces with the Steward Health Care System in 2012. To learn more about Hawthorn Medical, visit www.hawthornmed.com.

About the Community Foundation

The Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts is a tax-exempt public charity founded in 1995 to improve the quality of life in Southeastern Massachusetts by facilitating, advising, convening and/or responding to critical community issues. To date, CFSEMA has distributed more than \$25 million in grants and scholarships from over 250 funds to support youth programs, expand economic opportunities, increase educational attainment, promote sustainability, invest in the creative economy and, through the Women's Fund, improve the economic status of women and girls. For more information, visit www.cfsema.org.

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