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Waltham Partnership for Youth awarded Cummings Grant

Waltham nonprofit receives Cummings Foundation grant

Waltham, May 29, 2020 – Waltham Partnership for Youth is one of 130 local nonprofits to receive grants of \$100,000 to \$500,000 each through Cummings Foundation’s **\$20 Million Grant Program**. The Waltham-based organization was chosen from a total of 738 applicants during a competitive review process.

WPY takes an asset-based approach to addressing local needs, leveraging existing talent and resources to improve outcomes and opportunities for youth. Their aim is to ensure that *all* teens have access to the wealth of resources and opportunities in and around Waltham, so that they may be empowered to effect change in their own lives and communities.

“As a small nonprofit, a lot of time and energy is spent on fundraising efforts,” said WPY’s Executive Director, Kaytie Dowcett. “Knowing we have Cummings’ support for 5 years allows us to spend less time worrying about funding and instead focus on the more important work of supporting youth and families.”

The Cummings grant will be used to support the position of Assistant Youth Employment Coordinator, a brand new position that will allow the organization to expand its Career Exploration and Training Efforts, including its High School Summer Internship Program, Interpretation & Translation Apprenticeship Program, and Teaching for Social Justice - a newer program developed in partnership with Waltham High School to encourage students of color and multilingual students to consider a career in education.

The **Cummings \$20 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 area where it owns commercial buildings, all of which are managed, at no cost to the Foundation, by its affiliate, Cummings Properties. Founded in 1970 by Bill Cummings, the Woburn-based commercial real estate firm leases and manages 10 million square feet of debt-free space, the majority of which exclusively benefits the Foundation.

“We have been impressed, but not surprised, by the myriad ways in which these 130 grant winners are serving their communities, despite the challenges presented by COVID-19,” said Joel Swets, Cummings Foundation’s executive director. “Their ability to adapt and work with their constituents in new and meaningful ways has an enormous impact in the communities where our colleagues and leasing clients live and work.”

Cummings Foundation has now awarded more than \$280 million to greater Boston nonprofits.

Social distancing requirements will prevent Foundation and grant winner representatives from convening for a reception at TradeCenter 128 in Woburn, as planned, to celebrate the \$20 million infusion into greater Boston’s nonprofit sector. Instead, Cummings Foundation expects hundreds of individuals to gather virtually for a modified celebration in mid-June.

The **Cummings \$20 Million Grant Program** resulted from a merger of the Foundation’s two flagship grant programs, **\$100K for 100** and **Sustaining Grants**.

The Foundation and its volunteers first identified 130 organizations to receive grants of at least \$100,000 each. Among the winners are first-time recipients as well as nonprofits that have previously received Cummings Foundation grants. A limited number of this latter group of repeat recipients will be invited to make in-person presentations in the fall, when public health related circumstances allow, proposing that their grants be elevated to long-term awards. Thirty such requests will be granted in the form of 10-year awards ranging from \$200,000 to \$500,000 each.

This year's diverse group of grant recipients represents a wide variety of causes, including homelessness prevention, affordable housing, education, violence prevention, and food insecurity. The nonprofits are spread across 40 different cities and towns, and most will receive their grants over two to five years.

The complete list of 130 grant winners is available at www.CummingsFoundation.org.

A great deal more information about Cummings Foundation is detailed in Bill Cummings' self-written business book, "Starting Small and Making It Big: Hands-On Lessons in Entrepreneurship and Philanthropy." The brand-new, and significantly updated, 6th edition is available on Amazon or cummings.com/book.

About Waltham Partnership for Youth

Waltham Partnership for Youth takes an asset-based, student-centered approach to addressing local needs, leveraging existing talent and resources to improve outcomes and opportunities for youth. Our aim is to ensure that *all* teens have access to the wealth of resources in and around Waltham, so that they may be empowered to effect change in their own lives and communities. This philosophy is exemplified in our efforts to address economic inequality, language barriers, and the lack of educator diversity through our innovative Career Exploration and Training initiatives. The philosophy also guides our WPY Coalition, focused on youth mental health and substance use prevention, and our new Wraparound Waltham Collaborative focused supporting immigrant youth on a pathway to high school graduation. Youth voice, choice, and leadership are deeply embedded in all of our initiatives.

About Cummings Foundation

Woburn-based Cummings Foundation, Inc. was established in 1986 by Joyce and Bill Cummings. The Foundation directly operates its own charitable subsidiaries, including New Horizons retirement communities in Marlborough and Woburn, and Veterinary School at Tufts, LLC in North Grafton. Additional information is available at www.CummingsFoundation.org.

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Graduates of the 2019 High School Summer Internship Program



Students training to become Community Interpreters