

Cummings Foundation announces \$400,000 in Lawrence grants

Four Lawrence nonprofits receive \$100,000 each

Four Lawrence organizations have received grants of \$100,000 each from Cummings Foundation through its new \$100K for 100 program. Along with 96 other greater Boston nonprofits, they were selected from more than 370 applicants during a competitive review process.

The Lawrence-based grant recipients are: Beyond Soccer, Lawrence Family Development Charter School, Lazarus House, and Merrimack Valley Hospice.

Ray Joyce, director of development at Lazarus House, commented, "We are so grateful to receive this very generous grant from Cummings Foundation. In addition to inspiring other donors, these funds will help us empower people in dire need to break the cycle of poverty and become self-sufficient contributing members of the community."

More than 250 people, including staff and board members from nearly all 100 recipient organizations, gathered at the Foundation's first annual Grantee Reception on June 19 at TradeCenter 128 in Woburn. The elated attendees accepted their official award letters, posed for photos with Foundation representatives, networked with their peers, and celebrated the \$10 million

infusion of funding into greater Boston's nonprofit sector.

Beyond Soccer board member Michael McArdle said, "With support from Cummings Foundation, we are able to bring our soccer, mentoring, and wellness initiatives into the Lawrence Public Schools. The grant will allow us to more confidently pursue our growing off-the-field work around academics, leadership, and health that makes such a difference in the lives of many deserving, but underserved, kids and families living in Lawrence."

All of the selected charities serve local communities, with 50 percent of the grants being awarded in Middlesex County, 30 percent in Suffolk County (including Jamaica Plain, Dorchester, and Roxbury), and 20 percent in Essex County. Joel Swets, Cummings Foundation's executive director and a Winchester resident, noted that the narrow geographic priority area reflects a desire to give back in the areas where the grant funds were derived.

Swets explained, "As the primary beneficiary of commercial real estate firm Cummings Properties, the Foundation is very committed to the 10 communities in



Beyond Soccer: Cummings Properties HR manager Caryn Goulet (left) with Stephanie McArdle and Paul Wennick of Beyond Soccer



Merrimack Valley Hospice: (left to right) Cummings Foundation executive director Joel Swets, Donna Deveau of Merrimack Valley Hospice, and Cummings Properties senior admin Margie Duggan

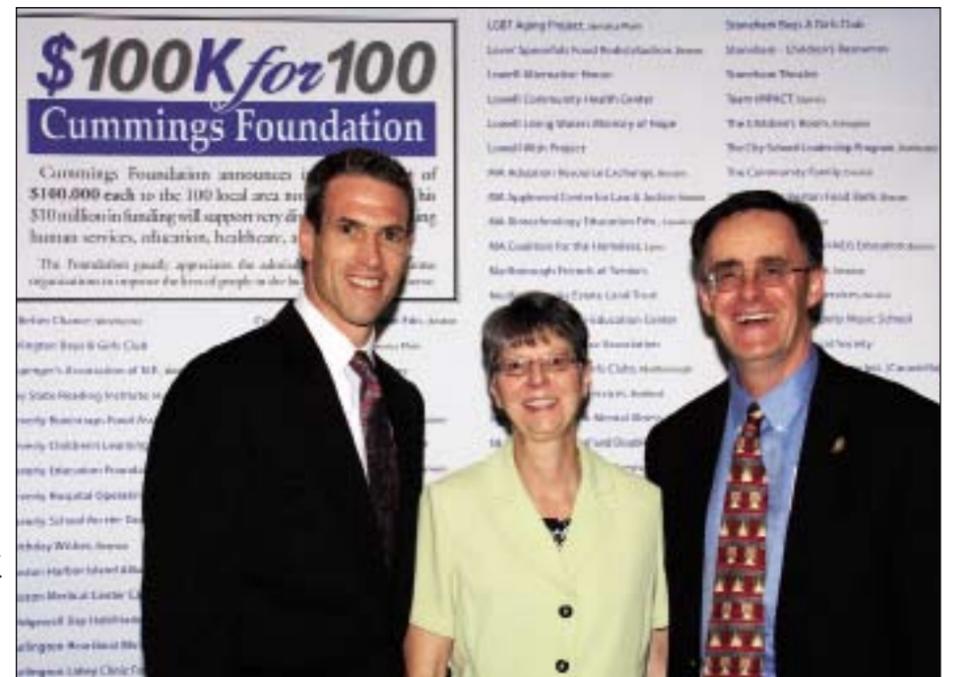


Lawrence Family Development Charter School: (left to right) Ralph Carrero of Lawrence Family Development Charter School, Cummings Foundation executive director Joel Swets, Judy Marley of Lawrence Family Development Charter School, and Cummings Properties site services supervisor Beilis Soto

which the firm manages buildings, as well as the hometowns of its 350 staff members. We are delighted to support these six very worthy nonprofits in their admirable work in Winchester and surrounding communities."

The diverse group of grant recipients

represents a wide variety of causes, including underserved populations, education, healthcare, homelessness, and social justice. Many of the grants will be paid over two to five years.



Lazarus House: Cummings Properties president and CEO Dennis Clarke (left) with Sue Newton and Ray Joyce of Lazarus House

Help for Elders

Elder Services is currently recruiting & training more volunteers to help the elderly remain safely in their homes for as long as possible; the volunteers will help with:

- With door to door Transportation to medical appointments.
- With an advocate, to accompany the elder into the medical appointment.
- With food shopping & picking up prescriptions.
- With companionship, someone they can just talk with.

Request - This is a wonderful program for our elders who have no one to help them. However, Elder Services needs many more volunteers throughout the Merrimack Valley to answer all the calls for help we are receiving. We hope the folks who are reading this Ad can put a few hours aside each month and help support this critical need.

Contact: Gerry at, 978-946-1445