

## Winning Home, Inc. Pledges \$340,833 to Programs for Local Children

*Woburn-based non-profit funds programs through organizations that serve disadvantaged youth*

**WOBURN**, Mass. (Jan. 30, 2019) **Winning Home, Inc.**, a private, non-profit charitable organization that provides services and support to economically, socially, physically, emotionally, or mentally handicapped or disadvantaged children and their families, announced today a commitment of \$340,833 in funds to organizations devoted to supporting the development and welfare of area children. Winning Home is proud to also announce it increased the number of recipient organizations from 17 to 21 in one year.

“Winning Home has been funding programs that benefit children on the North Shore since 1998, and we have been fortunate to aid valuable programs that directly enhance the lives of our local children,” said Tom Martin, president of Winning Home. “We are fortunate to close 2018 with ample dispersed funds that support many new and returning programs, and are actively seeking applications for the 2019 grant season.”

Winning Home closed 2018 by funding 21 programs. Successful applicants include:

**Challenge Unlimited, Inc. at Ironstone Farm: \$5,000** The mission of Challenge Unlimited, Inc. is to provide therapeutic, educational, and recreational opportunities using horses, the home, and the working farm environment to help achieve optimum quality of life. Horse therapy uses the unique three-dimensional movement of the horse to support improved balance, coordination, strengthening and endurance for children with Cerebral Palsy or Down syndrome. Grant monies will be used to fund more therapy sessions for children beyond their third birthdays.

**Community Harvest Project: \$3,000** The Community Harvest project farms hundreds of thousands of pounds of fruits and vegetables for donation to community members experiencing food insecurity annually. Food is processed by volunteers through a ‘neighbor-helping-neighbor’ approach. Winning Home grant monies will be used to aid in adapting and improving farming operations through the 2018 Agriculture Improvement Initiative, and will be used specifically toward irrigation improvements at three farm sites.

**Community Rowing, Inc.: \$5,000** Community Rowing, Inc.’s Para Rowing program enhances the quality of life for youth and adults with all types of disabilities by giving them the opportunity to fully participate in the sport of rowing. Funds will be used to help teach rowing basics indoors on rowing machines, and then progress through a series of increasingly more challenging boats as they gain confidence and comfort on the water. Individuals who participate in the program experience many types of disabilities including sensory impairments, spinal cord injuries, multiple sclerosis, amputees, traumatic brain injuries, social and emotional impairments, and cognitive disabilities.



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**Council of Social Concern: \$85,000** A charitable, community-based agency, Council of Social Concern requested funds to support agency programs that provide low-income children and their families with emergency and supplemental food assistance, affordable early education and childcare, parenting education classes, and support services to individuals and their families.

**Gaining Ground: \$10,000** a year for three years Gaining Ground grows organic produce for hunger relief with help from 3,000 volunteers of all ages and abilities who work and learn in the fields. This year's grant will enable partnerships with recipient organizations to increase the impact of food distribution through education, cooking classes, meal preparation, and free farmers markets.

**James L. McKeown Boys & Girls Club of Woburn: \$83,333** Winning Home has supported the Woburn Boys and Girls Club since 1998, with a 17-year commitment totaling \$1.6M in community support. Their most recent six-year grant of \$500,000 will contribute this amount through 2021. The mission of Woburn Boys and Girls Club is to inspire youth to find their greatness, through programs centered on leadership, team-building, and community enhancement.

**Lazarus House Ministries: \$20,000** Lazarus House supports families and individuals who are homeless and/or struggle with poverty. Statistically, homeless children perform below-average due to poor cognitive development and the circumstances of their homelessness, such as constant mobility. Lazarus House provides, a clean, nurturing, and safe environment for children to excel while parents work to improve their living situation. This Winning Home grant will be used towards providing life-enhancing tools to parents such as employment assistance, ESL classes, and workshops on topics such as self-esteem, conflict resolution, and budgeting.

**Life Saver Ministries, Inc.: \$10,000** My Father's House, operated by Life Saver Ministries, is a parenting program for homeless teenage mothers and their children. While living at My Father's House, mothers are required to complete high school and to continue their education or career training, and find employment. Their latest project is to extend these services to mothers who have moved on from their program to ensure a successful transition to independence.

**Lovelane Special Needs Horseback Riding Program: \$10,000** Lovelane is a therapeutic horseback riding program that provides services to 130 children with special needs such as cerebral palsy, autism spectrum disorders, visual impairments, genetic disorders, cancer, and Down syndrome. Lovelane also works in conjunction with adjunct programs at the Cotting School and Perkins School for the Blind. Funds will be used for tuition assistance.

**Mission of Deeds: \$5,000** Mission of Deeds, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization dedicated to assisting families or individuals transitioning to a new home after leaving a shelter. Funds will be used to purchase furniture and other necessities to establish a stable home

environment so they can begin to rebuild their lives and integrate successfully into their community.

**NEADS: \$10,000** NEADS provides service dogs to adults and children with physical difficulties, deafness, and autism. 2018 grant monies from Winning Home will be used to train and place dogs as assistants and companions to children on the autism spectrum.

**Pathways for Children: \$12,000** This grant will fund Pathways for Children's School Age Care program, which provides 'out of school time' education for 70 K-12 students in the Gloucester center. This year, the goal is to add programming that supports locally-inspired health and nutrition, science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), history, geography, drama and arts programs. They also provide robust social service support for children and families who require additional assistance.

**Raw Art Works: \$20,000** Supporting 500 at-risk youth in Lynn, Raw Art Works offers a continuum of more than 20 free programs in the arts, including film, visual and expressive art groups, single gender groups, mentoring, and programming for at-risk elementary and middle school youth.

**Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital: \$10,000** Part of the Partners organization, Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital delivers healthcare to individuals recovering from or learning to live with illness, injury, and disability. The \$10,000 grant will help launch a communication and sensory exploration clinic to serve children with low vision and complex medical needs, and to help improve their communication skills so they may find their voice and increase independence.

**Strongwater Farm Therapeutic Equestrian Center: \$5,000** The mission of Strongwater is to enhance and enrich lives by providing education, social opportunities and emotional support through equine assisted activities and therapies, and serves children and adults throughout Northeast Massachusetts and the Merrimack Valley. The \$5,000 grant from Winning Home will support its program for children and at-risk youth, which involves a summer program co-hosted with the Boys and Girls Club of Lawrence, and several programs in conjunction with local residential programs for children with behavioral and mental health challenges. Part of the funds are intended to pilot two high school programs for students in need of therapeutic services.

**The Children's Room: \$10,000** The "Parenting While Grieving" educational series, hosted by The Children's Room, teaches parenting skills and education on how children of different ages experience and express grief. Research has consistently shown children are better able to cope with a death when they believe their surviving parent understands how they feel, and when their parent is supported around their own grief experience. Winning Home funds will be used to underwrite this program.



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**The Haven Project, Inc.: \$7,500** The Haven Project addresses the unmet needs of unaccompanied homeless young adults in Lynn and surrounding communities through a drop-in center that is open four days a week, a social enterprise, Land of a Thousand Hills Cafe that serves as a job training center, and an apartment building for homeless unaccompanied females. Funds will be used to hire a program development staff member who will be responsible for ensuring all clients have a short-term plan to improve basic employability skills, and a long-term plan that includes full-time employment and a career-training or college program.

**The Open Door: \$10,000** The mission of The Open Door is to alleviate the impact of hunger on individuals on Cape Ann and in Ipswich, Mass. by providing nutrient-dense food that promotes wellness and a healthy lifestyle. The \$10,000 grant will help support three critical school-based Mobile Markets (free farmers' markets) serving low income children and their families. Mobile Markets offered in school settings make it easier for children and families to access fresh fruits and vegetables along with other nutritious foods.

**UTEC: \$10,000** UTEC is a newly-licensed center of early education focused on proven-risk adults and their young children. The Winning Home grant will be used for the Two-Generation Program (2Gen), the goal of which is to break the cycle of poverty and violence for vulnerable young families by providing education and child care to parents while also providing high-quality early education to their children.

**Wildflower, Inc. \$5,000** The Wildflower Camp Foundation is dedicated to serving bereaved children who have experienced the loss of a parent, and their families who support them. Early loss puts children at risk for long-term emotional health and behavioral problems, and early intervention is critical to the healing process. Camp and enrichment opportunities offer healing experiences aimed at strengthening resilience and creating positive opportunities for the future. The Winning Home grant will enable outreach to grow from 68 children in 2018 to 80 children in 2019.

**Woburn Community Educational Foundation, Inc.: \$5,000** The mission of the Woburn Community Educational Foundation is to increase private investment and community involvement in the Woburn Public Schools with a goal to support educational programs and initiatives that empower teacher creativity and drive innovation. Winning Home funds will be used to provide resources for the Educator Grant Program, which invites professionals from the Woburn Public Schools to apply for funds to support creative ideas for educational programs not funded by the regular school budget.

To apply for a Winning Home Grant, please visit [LINK](#).

**About Winning Home** Winning Home's mission is to help local children and families in need. The Winning Home property was put into trust more than 100 years ago to be used as an



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orphanage and for the support of needy children. Since its conversion from a landowner to a charitable trust, Winning Home has granted more than \$4 million to area charitable organizations.