



2022 Annual Report

Winning Home Announces New Grants totaling \$362,000

Woburn-based foundation supports both well-established and start-up organizations that help children in need

WOBURN, Mass. Dec. 28, 2022—Winning Home, Inc., announced today this year's grants to area organizations supporting the needs of children. One notable grant went to Connors Kindness Project, founded by 12-year-old Connor Wright to cheer children who were sick or isolating during the pandemic. Winning Home's grant of \$5,000 will help this new organization expand its work with "Kindness Kits" full of Legos, Rubik's Cubes, crayons, coloring books, Play-Doh, foldable microscopes and other small toys to lift the spirits of children in crisis.

Founded in 2021, the Kindness Project is one of Winning Home's newest grantees. At the other end of the spectrum is the James L. McKeown Boys and Girls Club, a recipient since 1997, that this year received \$100,000 as part of a three-year grant totaling \$300,000. "Supporting both established organizations and brand new ones is our way of ensuring the continuation of what works while also encouraging innovation," said Albert (Chip) Curran, treasurer of Winning Home.

The foundation has been providing grants to area organizations for 25 years with a mission to support children in need. Its broad range of grantees includes organizations such as Strongwater Farm Therapeutic Equestrian Center and Lovelane Special Needs Horseback Riding Program, which provide varieties of equine therapy (yes, horses are remarkable healers). It also supports Gaining Ground, in Concord, where thousands of volunteers, including many children, help grow organic food on a farm that gives every tomato, pepper, bean and potato to local food banks—to help other kids and their families. Children benefit at both ends of this equation, some learning about weeds, potato bugs and team effort and others receiving the much needed nourishment of fresh, organic food.

Winning Home's grants reflect a broad understanding of children's needs. The Children's Room, which received \$15,000 this year, helps young people cope with the grief of losing a parent or sibling, and Wildflower, Inc., received \$5,000 to help families suffering traumatic loss. Another recipient, Raw Art Works, received \$20,000 for its work in helping young people form healthy identities based on learning and mastering art forms. A colorful gallery of art works in the

organization's warehouse building in downtown Lynn provides ample proof of the exciting opportunities for creativity the organization offers the city's youth.

Continuing its deep commitment to local education, Winning Home provided \$20,000, part of a three-year grant of \$60,000, to Woburn Community Educational Foundation, which is dedicated to increasing private investment in the city's public school system. Winning Home also supported Pathways for Children with a grant of \$15,000 for its School-Age Care Program, and \$5,000 to Raising a Reader to equip parents to be their child's first teacher.

Recognizing the rising cost of living in a difficult economic moment, Winning Home provided \$25,000 to the Open Door to support a large food pantry and year-round nutrition programs; \$100,000 to the Council of Social Concern for its food assistance, parenting education classes, and support services for individuals and families; \$5,000 to the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Woburn for its food pantry, which will deliver to families without transportation; \$5,000 to the Mission of Deeds to provide new beds and cribs for families leaving shelters to set up homes; and \$5,000 to the Wish Project to help low-income children with basic needs. In addition, Winning Home gave \$10,000 to REACH Beyond Domestic Violence, a long-established organization that helps more than 8,000 people a year through its 24/7 hotline and emergency shelter.

Finally, a \$5,000 grant went to a unique organization that builds leadership while helping to solve social problems: Social Capital, Inc. This organization sets up a competition among youth groups to pitch ideas that deal with mental health issues and then awards grants to those with the best presentation. The winning group then implements the program and ultimately reports on its effectiveness.

Winning Home, Inc., is a private, nonprofit organization based in Woburn, Mass., that provides services and support to economically, socially, physically, emotionally or mentally handicapped or disadvantaged children and their families through grants to nonprofit organizations. For more information on Winning Home, Inc., or to apply for a 2023 grant, visit winninghome.org.