

### **Winning Home Announces \$350,000 in Grants to Support Children in Need**

Funds go to a farm, a summer camp, a program where the therapists are horses, a group established by a 12-year-old youth, and more

CONCORD, Mass., Jan. 18, 2024—Winning Home, Inc., today announced grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$100,000 to 19 organizations devoted to helping children. As in several recent years, Winning Home made its largest single grant to the James L. McKeown Boys and Girls Club of Woburn, providing the organization with \$100,000 of a three-year commitment of \$300,000.

“The Boys and Girls Club was our first grantee, back in the 1990s, when we became a grant-making organization,” said Albert (Chip) Curran Jr., treasurer of Winning Home, Inc. “We have sustained our support of this outstanding organization for children over a quarter-century now.”

Winning Home began as a summer camp on a 19th century farm overlapping parts of Woburn, Winchester and Lexington. As a grant-making institution Winning Home has extended its support well beyond the old farm’s borders, helping children across a dozen communities in some basic—and some unexpected—ways. One grantee, Social Capital Inc., introduces teams of young people to the world of nonprofit fundraising by helping them identify a need in their community, develop a program to respond to it, and pitch their idea to a panel of judges. The winners get the opportunity—and the funds—to put their idea into practice.

Winning Home also provided support this year to an organic farm in Concord called Gaining Ground, where volunteers including young children help grow fresh vegetables for a dozen hunger-relief organizations in the region. Winning Home’s current grant of \$10,000 will help Gaining Ground bring five new acres of land under cultivation, an expansion that will translate into hundreds of pounds of vegetables every week in the summer for families in need.

Another grantee, RAW Art Works in Lynn, helps young people create healthy identities through engaging in the arts. Like the Boys and Girls Club, RAW Art Works, which received \$20,000 this year, is a home-away-from-home for many young people—a safe and friendly place to go after school, meet friends, have fun, and engage in creative projects.

Long-time residents of Woburn may remember Winning Farm as a place where family events often featured pony rides for children. Today, research shows that therapeutic horseback riding can have a dramatic impact on the physical and cognitive development of children with special needs. To support this work, Winning Home provided grants of \$5,000 each to Lovelane Special

Needs Horseback Riding Program in Lincoln and Strongwater Farm Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Tewksbury.

To help meet early education and childcare needs in the Woburn area, Winning Home has long provided major support for Woburn's Council of Social Concern, which this year received a grant of \$90,000. The Council also relies on Winning Home for its new Helping Hands program, which assists families in danger of eviction, utility shut-offs, and other urgent problems.

Winning Home's grants extend as far as Gloucester, where the recently expanded Open Door food pantry on Emerson Avenue buzzes with activity as numerous volunteers load baskets of food for community residents. Open Door, which received a grant of \$20,000, even delivers to those who are housebound. Just across the street is another Winning Home grantee, Pathways for Children, whose School Age Care program received a grant of \$10,000 from Winning Home this year.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of Woburn, part of a worldwide organization dating back to 1833, received a grant of \$5,000 to help families transition out of homelessness by providing security deposits and funding for the first and last month's rent. Another Winning Home grantee, the Wish Project, received \$5,000 to provide home goods to people exiting homelessness.

Winning Home supported education in Woburn with a grant of \$20,000 to the Woburn Community Educational Foundation that is part of a \$60,000, three-year commitment. A grant of \$5,000 went to Raising A Reader, which helps parents become their child's first teacher. A grant of \$5,000 to St. Charles School will assist children whose families experience financial hardships.

Grants of \$15,000 to The Children's Room and \$5,000 to Wildflower, Inc., will help children dealing with the loss of a parent or sibling. A \$10,000 grant to REACH will support children suffering from domestic abuse.

A \$5,000 grant this year went to Connor's Kindness Project, Inc., which was launched during the Covid pandemic by a 12-year old boy from Lynnfield named Connor Wright, with a little help from his mother and grandmother, both Woburn natives. The idea was to deliver a "Kindness Kit," containing such items as Legos, Rubik's Cubes, crayons, a coloring book, Play-Doh, and a foldable microscope, to children isolating in hospitals and shelters. Connor's idea is now an official 501(c)3 nonprofit organization delivering Kindness Kits to children dealing with serious medical issues, mental health conditions, family crises or homelessness.

Honoring its own history as a summer camp, Winning Home awarded \$10,000 this year to the Jewish Community Center of Greater Boston to support Camp Grossman, which occupies 75 acres of forest on the Hale Reservation in Dover, Mass. Now over 50 years old, Camp Grossman is one of the largest camps in New England serving children with disabilities.

Winning Home, Inc., is a private, nonprofit charitable organization that provides services and support to children who are economically, socially, physically, emotionally or mentally handicapped or disadvantaged. For more information on Winning Home, Inc., or to apply for a 2024 grant, visit [winninghome.org](http://winninghome.org).