

Winning Home Makes Grants of \$377,500 to Children’s Organizations

Woburn-based organization marks 125 years with big party, new history and ongoing support for nonprofits

WOBURN, Mass., Jan. 13, 2025— The James L. McKeown Boys & Girls Club of Woburn topped the list of Winning Home’s annual recipients, with a grant of \$100,000, part of a major three-year, \$300,000 grant. With its popular before- and after-school programs, the Boys & Girls Club is a home-away-from home for many Woburn young people— and a major recipient of Winning Home funding for nearly three decades.

“We are thrilled to provide continuing support for the Boys & Girls Club, a long-time partner of ours in working with the young people of Woburn,” said Albert F. (Chip) Curran Jr., treasurer of Winning Home, Inc. “Their work in supporting the lives and aspirations of so many young people is invaluable to this community.”

Another long-time grantee, Woburn’s Council of Social Concern, received a grant of \$95,000, for its work in providing local families with day care, early education and emergency food assistance. The Woburn Community Education Foundation, which offers support directly to classroom teachers, received \$20,000. The St. Vincent de Paul Society of Woburn netted \$5,000 for providing basic necessities for low-income families.

Based in Woburn, Winning Home is proud to offer assistance to these and other local organizations. But Winning Home’s reach now extends well beyond the city’s borders, with grants to organizations such as Gaining Ground, an organic farm in Concord that gives food banks tons of fresh vegetables grown with the help of young volunteers; Raw Art Works, which offers training in the arts to young people in a converted four-story warehouse in Lynn; the Open Door, a big, busy food bank in Gloucester; Strongwater farm in Tewksbury and Lovelane horseback riding program in Lincoln, which provide equestrian therapy for children with special needs; Cambridge Camping Association, which offers summer and year-round camping opportunities; REACH Beyond Domestic Violence, based in Waltham with a hotline serving 27 nearby communities; the Mission of Deeds in Reading, meeting household needs to help families emerge from homelessness; and the Children’s Room in Arlington, where programs support children who have lost a parent or sibling.

As Winning Home’s reach has extended across several north shore cities and towns, its concern with new and creative approaches to meeting children’s needs has deepened. Funding for Social Capital, Inc., Connor’s Kindness Project, Inc., and Raising a Reader reflect Winning Home’s ongoing support for innovation. Social Capital provides opportunities for young people to identify needs in their communities and create

programs to meet them. Raising a Reader strengthens family ties through adults and children reading together on a regular basis. Connor's Kindness Project grew out of one 12-year-old Lynnfield boy's experience of isolation during the pandemic. The project, now a nonprofit organization, delivers "Kindness Kits" to children in hospitals and shelters, with such items as Legos, Etch-a-Sketch, crayons, coloring books, and (maybe best of all) slime.

In all, Winning Home made grants last year ranging from \$5,000 to \$100,000 to 19 nonprofits that enhance the lives of children. And there was more.

"In addition to making some of our largest grants ever," said Curran, "we threw a party with the Boys & Girls Club of Woburn to celebrate their 60th anniversary and our 125th. Hundreds of kids and their families came from all over the north shore." The event, on a warm sunny day in September, hosted merry-go-round rides, a fun house, a rock-climbing wall, a gigantic slide, a petting zoo with chickens and ferrets, music, games and pony rides. Free eats included cotton candy and fried dough, plus burgers and hot dogs prepared on site by the Woburn Host Lions Club, the Woburn Kiwanis Club, and the Intrepid Keystone Club.

"We also published the first full-length history of our organization, telling Winning Home's story as the legacy of a Woburn dairy farmer 125 years ago, its subsequent century as a summer camp, and its ultimate incarnation today as a modern grant-making organization," said Curran. "It's quite a tale." Copies are available through Winning Home's website.

To apply for a 2025 Winning Home grant, visit <https://winninghome.org/grants/apply/>. Winning Home is a private, nonprofit, charitable organization based in Woburn, Massachusetts, 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 visit winninghome.org.