

Winning Home awards \$225,000 to Assist Children in Need

WOBURN, Mass. (February 2016) With \$225,000 in grant awards presented at the end of 2015, Winning Home, Inc. has now made more than \$3.35 million in grant awards since it decided to sell Winning Farm centered off Lexington Street at the Winchester line about a decade ago.

Recipients of this year's grants included some that have been annual applicants to some other new programs.

Winning Home, Inc. Treasurer Chip Curran outlined the 2015 award recipients at a visit this week to the Daily Times Chronicle.

Curran noted the amount awarded this year was down some from the \$300,000 in both 2013 and 2014 but that was largely due to a soft stock market compared to the previous two years. Curran reiterated the investments are very conservative but still subject to some fluctuations.

The largest grant, \$85,000, in 2015 went to Council of Social Concern in Woburn (which serves residents in Woburn and Winchester) which has now received \$948,500 in funding from Winning Home, Inc. since 2001.

The original awards began in 1998 with a grant of \$33,000 to both the Boys & Girls Club of Woburn and to the Geoffrey Foundation. The Boys & Girls Club has received closed to \$1.4 million in funding from Winning Home Inc. since the original award in 1998.

In making the awards, Curran notes the will of Henry Winning is still the focus – assisting less-fortunate children of the area.

The original application is quite detailed, but then subsequent applications are made easier, he notes.

In addition to the Council of Social Concern, some of the grants included:

- Mission of Deeds, \$10,000
- Lazarus House, \$50,000
- Children's Room, \$10,000
- Raw Art Works, \$20,000
- Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, \$10,000
- Life Saver Ministries, \$10,000
- NEADS, \$10,000
- Gaining Ground, \$10,000

- Care Dimensions, \$5,000
- Woburn Community Educational Foundation, \$5,000

In each case, the applicants needed to show a direct benefit to underprivileged children and need to file follow-up reports showing how this was being done.

Among the new groups receiving awards was Care Dimensions which requested funds to bring children bereavement services to Middlesex and Suffolk counties.

Also new was the Woburn Community Educational Foundation (WCEF) which received \$5,000 to fund projects addressing the specific needs of low income and English-language learners who might not have access to age appropriate books and learning materials at home.

A third new recipient was the Children's Room which helps provide parents age appropriate skills when dealing with their children and grief.

Life Saver Ministries was also new and it offers parenting programs for teenage mothers and their children including My Father's House, a residential parenting program for single and pregnant women up to age 21.

The new grant to Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital provides direct services to children and youth with autism, including important educational tools.

Raw Art Works, also new, assists at-risk youth in the Lynn area by offering various free programs mostly geared around art.

NEADS serves adults and children with physical disabilities, especially youngsters with autism. The application is to train dogs to provide assistance and companionship to assist children with autism.

The Lazarus House provides programs to families who are poor and sometimes homeless while the Mission of Deeds (based in Reading) assists families leaving shelters by providing them with household items and furniture including cribs and beds as they begin a new life in a new home.

The Council of Social Concern offers numerous programs to assist low-income children and their families.

Curran noted Winning Home Inc. is always looking to diversify the make up of the board. And, he noted, the board recently welcomed local attorney Joseph Tarby as a new member. He is most appropriate, Curran said, as Tarby has been working behind the scenes to help assist Winning Home Inc. but now is an actual member of the board.

Curran noted that applications are now being accepted for the 2016 grants with a deadline of Sept. 1, 2016.

Recent information released by Winning Home Inc. shows the group has nearly \$6 million in net assets.

In the late 1990s it was decided the farm and all of its parcel would be sold as it was being underutilized to the benefit of less-fortunate children (it had at one time been a thriving summer camp for children). The money from the sale of the land has been conservatively invested with annual grants ranging in size depending on the return that year.