

Winning Home Announces New Grants Totaling \$396,333

Woburn-based foundation helps meet acute food and shelter needs during the ongoing pandemic while supporting a range of continuing services for children in need

WOBURN, Mass., Nov. 30, 2021—Winning Home, Inc., announced today its 2021 commitment of \$396,333 in grant funding to organizations devoted to the education, health, and well-being of area children. A total of 20 nonprofit organizations received grants this year, with the largest going to the Council of Social Concern and the Boys and Girls Club of Woburn.

"Winning Home is proud and pleased to provide funding this year to nonprofit organizations that offer important services to children in Woburn and across the North Shore of Massachusetts," said Albert F. (Chip) Curran, treasurer of Winning Home. "Every year we look for new ways to help—and this year's grantees reflect our long-term commitments as well as exciting new approaches to supporting children. As always, we are actively seeking applications for the coming year."

Winning Home has provided funds this year ranging from single-year grants of \$5,000 to multiple-year grants totaling \$500,000 over six years. Grants from the foundation support organizations that provide educational and recreational programming for youth, help for homeless young adults, nonprofit farms dedicated to hunger relief, therapeutic rowing and horseback riding for children with disabilities, arts programs, and more.

Significant support has gone to organizations meeting the need for such basic necessities as food during this second year of the pandemic. The Council of Social Concern supplies low-income children and their families with emergency supplemental food as well as affordable early education and childcare. Two farms that grow and donate healthful food—Gaining Ground and Community Harvest—are receiving support for their vital contributions at a time of increasing hunger among children and their families. The Open Door in Gloucester is receiving support for its Healthy Food for Kids project. Another grantee, Our Neighbor's Table, helps 1,200 food-insecure children and their families in Essex County.

The ongoing hardship of homelessness has worsened as people lost jobs and income during the pandemic. Winning Home is helping The Haven Project in Lynn and the Lazarus House Ministries in Lawrence who work with families and individuals that have lost their homes. Winning Home is also helping the Mission of Deeds in Reading, Mass., which gathers donated furniture for families leaving a shelter. Winning Home is supporting the Mission of Deeds' Beds for Kids Campaign this year.

In addition, Winning Home is providing support for The Wish Project's special drives to supply backpacks for students and toys for children at the holidays. It is also supporting Strongwater

Farm's equestrian therapy, as well as the Children's Room and the Wildflower Camp Foundation's grief support programs for children who have lost a parent.

To apply for a 2022 Winning Home grant, visit www.winninghome.org/apply_grant.html.

Winning Home, Inc., is a private, non-profit charitable 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. visit www.winninghome.org.

The attached backgrounder provides further detail on this year's grants.

Council of Social Concern - \$110,000 Winning Home's grant will provide low-income children and their families with emergency and supplemental food assistance, affordable early education and childcare, parenting education classes, and support services.

Boys and Girls Club of Woburn - \$83,333 - (Part of six-year grant totaling \$500,000) Winning Home has supported the Woburn Boys and Girls Club since 1998, with a 17-year commitment totaling \$1.6M.

Pathways for Children - \$15,000 Pathways for Children has been caring for children and families on Cape Ann for nearly 50 years. The grant will support Pathways' Positive Youth Development program.

The Children's Room - \$15,000 The Children's Room provides free peer-based grief support for families with children and teens. The grant will cover the entire cost of the peer support program for ten children over the course of a year.

Woburn Community Educational Foundation, Inc. - \$15,000 Woburn Community Educational Foundation promotes private investment and community involvement in the community's public schools. Winning Home grants since 2015 have helped launch 27 new projects benefitting low-income and English language learner students at every elementary and both middle schools. This year's grant will help support the Educator Grant Program and a new program to provide learning opportunities such as excursions to Boston museums and historic sites.

Gaining Ground, Inc. - \$12,000 (Part of \$36,000 over 3 years) Gaining Ground grows organic produce for hunger relief with help from 3,000 volunteers, including many children. Past grants have helped Gaining Ground increase production. The new grant will increase the farm's impact in novel ways. At House of Hope, a family shelter in Lowell, for example, the produce is used in a 16-week cooking program that helps feed the shelter's families while training participants to work in the food services industry.

UTEC, Inc. - \$10,000 With help from Winning Home, this early education center will form a foundation offering wraparound supports for young adults and their young children, with the goal of breaking the cycle of poverty and violence for vulnerable young families.

Mission of Deeds, Inc. - \$5,000 This nonprofit organization helps families leaving a shelter by providing beds, donated furniture, and household items. Winning Home's grant will support the Beds for Kids Campaign to help economically disadvantaged children in Woburn, Winchester, Lexington and surrounding communities.

Raw Art Works, Inc. - \$25,000 Raw Art Works offers an award-winning film school, visual and expressive arts groups, mentoring and leadership development programs, community arts, summer programs, and free arts programming for at-risk elementary and middle-school youth in Lynn.

The Open Door - \$30,000 The Open Door works to alleviate hunger on Cape Ann and in Ipswich. The grant will help support Healthy Food for Kids, which connects vulnerable children and their families to free, healthy food through food pantries and year-round nutrition programs.

Strongwater Farm Therapeutic Equestrian Center - \$5,000 Winning Home's grant will help Strongwater Farm's provide equine-assisted activities and therapies to children and adults with cognitive, physical, behavioral and emotional challenges.

Lazarus House Ministries, Inc. - \$15,000 Through Lazarus House, Winning Home's grant will assist families and individuals in Lawrence, where homelessness and poverty have been greatly exacerbated by the pandemic. Lazarus House provides much needed help through its soup kitchen, food pantry, shelter, and transitional housing, along with skilled advocacy services.

Lovelane Special Needs Horseback Riding Programs - \$10,000 Lovelane is a therapeutic horseback riding program serving children with special needs, including cerebral palsy, autism spectrum disorders, visual impairments, genetic disorders, cancer and Down Syndrome. Winning Home's grant will go to Lovelane's Tuition Assistance Program.

The Haven Project - \$5,000 Winning Home's grant will help the Haven Project provide a safety net for homeless young adults in Lynn and surrounding communities. The project offers resume prep, job readiness workshops, coaching and short-term work with a stipend.

Wildflower, Inc. - \$5,000 The Wildflower Camp Foundation helps children who have experienced the loss of a parent by providing camp and enrichment opportunities for them and respite for their families. The camp experience is recognized by bereavement and child development professionals as extremely valuable in helping children heal from traumatic loss.

Community Rowing - \$5,000 The Para Rowing program of Community Rowing gives youth and adults with disabilities the opportunity to participate fully in the sport of rowing. Participants improve their physical fitness and overall health, make new friends, and become part of a

welcoming community. Funding will support coaching and the fabrication of specialized safety equipment.

The Wish Project, Inc. - \$5,000 The Wish Project provides new and like-new goods to people exiting homelessness, at risk of homelessness, or struggling to make it. Funding from Winning Home will support special collection drives for backpacks for students returning to school, toys for children at holiday time, educational toys for toddlers, and newborn needs.

Our Neighbor's Table - \$10,000 Established by a group of local residents to help their neighbors, Our Neighbor's Table now serves over 5,000 people including 1200 children in northeastern Essex County. Funds from Winning Home will help provide extra groceries during the summer months when schools are not in session.

Community Harvest Project - \$5,000 In 2020, the Community Harvest Project helped feed 413,053 food-insecure families in central and eastern Massachusetts. The Winning Home grant will go toward supporting the organization's work through another challenging year.

St. Charles School - \$11,000 St. Charles School enrolls students of all faiths and backgrounds from Woburn and surrounding communities. Winning Home's grant will help provide Chromebooks to kindergartners, replace laptops for teachers, and assist families that have experienced unemployment during the pandemic.

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