



BMA TENPOINT awarded \$150,000 Cummings Grant

ROXBURY nonprofit receives 3 years of funding from Cummings Foundation

ROXBURY, JUNE 15, 2023 – BMA TENPOINT is one of 150 local nonprofits that will share \$30 million through the Cummings Foundation’s major annual grants program. The foundation selected this Roxbury-based organization from 630 applicants during a competitive review process. It will receive \$150,000 over three years.

Through Black churches and community organizations, BMA TenPoint provides critical services to the youth and families of Boston’s underserved neighborhoods. Resources include financial support for food pantries and after-school and Saturday tutoring programs that help youth achieve academic grade levels after the educational losses caused by the Pandemic. In addition, it provides summer enrichment activities for youth and teens.

“This incredible grant from Cummings Foundation will allow Victory Generation, a program of BMA TenPoint, to give low-income students of color in Boston, grades 2-6 instruction and enrichment in English Language Arts (ELA), Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) and Social Emotional Empowerment through our Saturday Remote Learning Academy. It will expand learning opportunities for students by building their confidence and helping to mitigate pandemic learning loss,” stated Victory Generation Director of Education Rochelle Jones.

“We are very grateful to have the resources to provide our children with additional support as they continue to make great gains coming out of the Pandemic,” shared David Wright, Executive Director of BMA TenPoint.

“This program is truly amazing; my son can interact with his friends while learning about himself and others (social-emotional). His communication skills have increased at home as well as in school. He was shy and is now raising his hand and talking in class. We look forward to this program every Saturday,” said parent Vanessa Taylor.

BMA TenPoint will use the funds from the foundation to offer up to 60 elementary students coaching in ELA, STEM education, social-emotional awareness, and enrichment. Weekly sessions will also allow students self-expression through writing and gain social and emotional support through well-being topics in a sharing community. By removing the financial burden and technological barriers for families participating in this learning initiative, the anticipated outcomes for students are increased academic confidence, improved math, reading, and ELA skills, and an introduction to basic STEM concepts and practice of basic electrical circuitry.

The Cummings \$30 Million Grant Program primarily supports Massachusetts nonprofits based in and serving Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties. Through this place-based initiative, Cummings Foundation aims to give back in the areas where it owns commercial property. Its buildings are all managed, at no cost to the foundation, by its affiliate, Cummings Properties. This Woburn-based

commercial real estate firm leases and manages 11 million square feet of debt-free space, most of which exclusively benefits the foundation.

“The way the local nonprofit sector perseveres, steps up, and pivots to meet the shifting needs of the community is most impressive,” said Cummings Foundation executive director Joyce Vyriotes. “We are incredibly grateful for these tireless efforts to support people in the community and to increase equity and access to opportunities.”

About 90 volunteers made most of the grant decisions. They worked across various committees to review and discuss the proposals and determine funding. Volunteers were:

- Business and nonprofit leaders
- Mayors
- College presidents
- Experts in finance and DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion)

“It would not be possible for the Foundation to hire the diversity and depth of expertise and insights that our volunteers bring to the process,” said Vyriotes. “We appreciate the substantial time and thought they dedicated to ensuring that our democratized version of philanthropy results in equitable outcomes that will move the needle on important issues in local communities.”

The foundation and volunteers first identified 150 organizations to receive three-year grants of up to \$225,000 each. The winners included first-time recipients and nonprofits that had previously received Cummings grants. Twenty-five of this latter group of repeat recipients were selected by a volunteer panel to have their grants elevated to 10-year awards ranging from \$300,000 to \$1 million each.

This year’s grant recipients represent various causes, including housing and food insecurity, workforce development, immigrant services, social justice, education, and mental health services—the nonprofits from 46 different cities and towns.

Cummings Foundation has now awarded \$480 million to greater Boston nonprofits. The complete list of this year’s 150 grant winners, plus nearly 1,500 previous recipients, is available at www.CummingsFoundation.org.

Woburn-based Cummings Foundation, Inc. was established in 1986 by Joyce and Bill Cummings of Winchester, MA, and has grown to be one of the largest private foundations in New England. The foundation directly operates its charitable subsidiaries, including New Horizons retirement communities, in Marlborough and Woburn and Cummings Health Sciences, LLC.

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