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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Endowment of Lexington Distributes \$29,000 to Local Nonprofits

Grants will aid Health & Human Services, Ecological Well-Being, and Community Building Initiatives

June 14, 2017, Lexington, MA- The Community Endowment of Lexington (CEL), an endowed fund of Foundation for MetroWest, recently hosted its fourth annual Grant Award Ceremony at the Lexington Community Center where they distributed over \$29,000 to seven local nonprofit organizations in the areas of Health & Human Services, Ecological Well-Being, and Community Building. To date, CEL has granted more than \$100,000 to 20 nonprofit organizations serving the Lexington community. Stephanie Lawrence, CEL Board Co-chair, explains, *“The CEL works to create solutions to our community’s needs and improve the quality of life for all residents, and this mission has become even more critical during these uncertain times and with government funding cuts looming. This is a significant year for the Endowment as we celebrate our five-year anniversary and work to raise the additional \$200K that will take us to the \$1million fundraising mark by December 31st, at which point the CEL will attain permanent endowment status and become a financial resource not just for us, but for all future generations of Lexington residents.”*

2017 Grantees:

FRIENDS OF MINUTE MAN NATIONAL PARK- This grant will support the construction of the Parker’s Revenge Battle Site Trail Loop Project, a 1500-foot educational trail loop that will protect the area’s archaeological and ecological sensitivity.

LEXINGTON RECREATION AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT- This grant will support two CPR/First Aid/AED certification courses for Lexington residents, including one train-the-trainer course. This program will ultimately provide a safer community environment.

LEXINGTON YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES- This grant will help implement “Balancing on the Hyphen,” a six-part multicultural community education initiative designed to address generational and cultural divide issues. This program will be in concert with The Korean Organization of Lexington and a Multicultural Sponsoring Board.

MUNROE CENTER FOR THE ARTS (MCA)- This grant will support the MCA’s The Refugee Diaspora project, an artistic collaboration intended to educate Lexington residents about the refugee experience. Through the arts and this program, the MCA hopes to promote local engagement.

NEIGHBOR BRIGADE - This grant will support volunteer growth and diversification in Neighbor Brigade’s Lexington chapter. By increasing volunteer engagement and diversity of volunteers in the areas of age, gender and ethnicity, the organization will better meet the needs of Lexington’s growing and diverse population, including all residents whom are facing temporary crises.

SUPPORTIVE LIVING, INC. (SLI)- This grant will support the SLI Total Health Summer Camp in bringing together disabled and nondisabled Lexington residents in wellness programs.

THE CHILDREN’S ROOM- This grant will support the operations of a school-based peer support group for grieving teens on site at Lexington High School.

About the Community Endowment of Lexington: The Community Endowment of Lexington, an endowed fund of the Foundation for MetroWest, promotes a spirit of philanthropic giving to help enhance the quality of life for all Lexington residents now, and for the future. CEL is a permanent grantmaking source of funding to support our community needs and opportunities, and provide ways for donors to give back or leave a legacy to our community. For more information, visit lexingtonendowment.org.

About Foundation for MetroWest: Established in 1995, the Foundation for MetroWest is the only community foundation serving the 33 cities and towns in the region. The Foundation promotes philanthropy in the region, helps donors maximize the impact of their local giving, serves as a resource for local nonprofits and enhances the quality of life for all our residents. The Foundation has granted over \$14 million to charitable organizations and currently stewards more than \$18 million in charitable assets for current needs and future impact. To learn more, please visit foundationformetrowest.org.

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