NATICK — Foundation for MetroWest announced on Friday that it has awarded grants totaling $228,000 to organizations throughout MetroWest as part of its 2013 Competitive Grant Program. The announcement was part of an event held at The Center for the Arts in Natick (TCAN).

In a press release, the foundation said the 2013 distributions were focused on three key service areas — Arts & Culture, Environment, and Family Support. Recipients this year will be using the funding to support a variety of activities, including support for families at risk of becoming homeless, workforce training and job placement programs, improving access to the arts for underserved populations, the removal of invasive species from local watersheds, and resources to the elderly and victims of domestic abuse.

"During this time of unprecedented financial need, Foundation for MetroWest is proud to support organizations throughout the region," said Judith Salerno, executive director of Foundation for MetroWest, in the release. "By distributing these much needed funds, we are doing our part to ensure that the MetroWest region remains vital and strong."

SEE $228K, A8

The Foundation has distributed more than $8 million in grants to the MetroWest community since its inception in 1995. For more information see www.foundationformetrowest.org.

2013 Foundation for MetroWest Grant Recipients
■ Family Support
■ Advocates, Inc., Framingham
■ Bethany Hill School, Framingham
■ COMPASS for Kids, Lexington
■ Cooperative Elder Services, Inc., Lexington
■ Employment Options, Inc., Marlborough
■ Framingham Adult ESL, Natick
■ Household Goods Recycling of Massachusetts, Acton
■ Jewish Family and Children’s Service, Waltham
■ Jewish Family Service of MetroWest, Framingham
■ LVM Literacy Unlimited, Framingham
■ MetroWest Legal Services, Inc., Framingham
■ MetroWest Mediation Services, Framingham
■ Minuteman Senior Services, Bedford
■ Natick Service Council, Inc., Natick
■ New Hope, Inc., Attleboro
■ Newton Community Service Center, West Newton
■ REACH Beyond Domestic Violence, Waltham
■ SMOC - Voices Against Violence, Framingham
■ Waltham Partnership for Youth, Waltham
■ WATCH, Inc., Waltham
■ Arts & Culture
■ Assabet Valley Mestersingers, Inc., Northborough
■ The Center for the Arts in Natick (TCAN), Natick
■ Danforth Art, Museum\School, Framingham
■ Framingham History Center, Framingham
■ Gore Place, Waltham
■ Medway Friends of Elders, Medway
■ Music Access Group, Dedham
■ New Repertory Theatre, Watertown
■ North Hill, Needham
■ Plugged In, Needham
■ Environment
■ Charles River Watershed Association, Weston
■ Lake Cochituate Watershed Council, Inc., Natick
■ Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions, Belmont
■ Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln
■ OARS, Concord
■ Waltham Land Trust, Waltham