



FOUNDATION FOR METROWEST

April 2017

April News



Dear Friends,

A community is built and strengthened by those who put the common good above their own personal interests.

Our MetroWest communities are amazing places to live and work because of people who give what they can, whether it's their time, resources, or talent, to others. That is what it means to be a part of a community. We are simultaneously members of multiple communities, from our town, our schools, our sports teams, our places of worship, or any other group we belong to.

All of these communities are supported by generous people- those who go to a town meeting when they feel like staying home, by caregivers and volunteers who put others' needs first. This sense of community brings to mind the somewhat old-fashioned but illustrative term "common weal." It means the happiness, health, and safety of all of the people of a community or nation.

This month, let us think about how we can be better neighbors to those around us, a more involved member in any one of our multiple communities. What can you do to improve our common weal?

Sincerely,

Judith G. Salerno

Executive Director

Spring Inspiration Breakfast May 4

Our Community Philanthropist Honoree, Stephanie Lawrence of Lexington, epitomizes what it means to be a good neighbor and an active community member. Come to the Spring Inspiration Breakfast to hear what giving back means to her.

In addition to hearing from Stephanie, our keynote speaker Harvard psychologist Richard Weissbourd will speak about the important role parents play in their children's lives. A founder of [Making Caring Common](#), Richard will focus on the important job adults- as teachers, parents, coaches, and mentors- have in helping children discover their role in the greater community.

[Join us May 4 for an inspirational morning!](#)

This event supports the [Youth in Philanthropy](#) program,



which helps children become strong community members now and in the future.

Reserve your seat!

Grantee Highlight: Project Citizenship



Project Citizenship received \$10,000 from the Foundation for MetroWest in 2016. Project Citizenship is a nonprofit agency that provides free high quality services to legal permanent residents to help them become US citizens. Although based in Boston, their workshops reach communities across Massachusetts and beyond.

The grant from the Foundation was used to support their third annual large citizenship workshop in Framingham, benefiting immigrants living and working in the MetroWest area. At these workshops, Project Citizenship provides screening, advice, legal guidance, referrals, and materials needed to successfully complete the citizenship application.

We are proud to support Project Citizenship's work assisting members of our community on their path to citizenship.

It Takes a Suburb...

The New York Times recently published a story about extreme performance anxiety in Lexington public schools and how the community is coming together to help mitigate student stress. The work of Dr. Hua Wang, a community board member of the **Community Endowment of Lexington**, was highlighted, as he is one of the community leaders focusing the public conversation on teen stress and cultural differences.

The Foundation for MetroWest recognizes that this issue affects many families throughout MetroWest, and we applaud those in our community who seek new ways to address the health and well-being of all residents. We look forward to supporting initiatives that can make a difference in this space.

Bringing the community together to address a common yet sensitive issue is an important step in creating a supportive, resilient community.

Register Today: Summer Institute for Youth Leadership

"I was really shocked by the need that exists. We are such an affluent town...you don't realize we have



hungry neighbors.”- High School Participant

The [Summer Institute for Youth Leadership](#) is designed for teenagers who want to make an impact in their community. This four-day summer program introduces students to the importance of active community involvement. Along the way, participants discover a keen awareness of their own potential and develop the skills necessary to become successful leaders, all while ultimately choosing a local

organization to receive a grant.

This summer, the Foundation will run two concurrent sessions June 26-29 at Framingham State University- one session for middle school students and another for high school students.

Register today, as space is limited!

[Register](#)

Spirit of Philanthropy: The Concord Common Weal Fund



Many Massachusetts residents know that Massachusetts is officially a commonwealth, not a state, although the designations are equal before federal law.* So what is so special about being a member of a commonwealth?

"Commonwealth" is a British term for a political community established for the common good. It is based on the idea that a community's main purpose is to work towards the public welfare (or public good) as opposed to the top-down approach of the British monarchy. The governing philosophy of a "commonwealth" is that the welfare of the people, or

the "common weal," comes first. The designation puts into perspective the values of the Massachusetts government- that the people govern for the betterment of the community itself, not for individual gain.

The Concord Common Weal Fund was established in 2006 at the Foundation for MetroWest by anonymous donors who put community first. The fund established Youth in Philanthropy programs at multiple Concord schools. Youth in Philanthropy is a program that teaches students the importance of giving back to their communities, of putting the "common weal" first.

[Learn more about Youth in Philanthropy.](#)

* Massachusetts is one of only four states to use "commonwealth" in its official name.

Center for Philanthropy Education

The Foundation hosted local nonprofit board chairs for a night of networking and a panel discussion with Chuck Gordon of [The New Kensington Group](#). Bringing together nonprofit community leaders helps to strengthen their work as they learn from both each other and from outside experts.

"My sincere thanks to the Foundation for putting on such a great program last night. The presentation, panel discussion and networking opportunities were all of great and equal value. I look forward to participating in future events."- Mark Manning, Board Chair, Dedham Community House



The Foundation is proud to offer free professional development workshops for MetroWest nonprofit staff, board members, and volunteers!

Upcoming topics include: best practices in major gift and planned giving programs, leadership advice for board chairs and executive directors, and an introduction to public speaking.

[View the full workshop schedule](#)

What We Are Reading



Consider the coconut: Moana and Family Philanthropy

Moana isn't any typical "coming of age" story! What makes her unique also makes her a great model for intergenerational philanthropy.

[Read more](#)
www.ncfp.org

[Give Now](#)

