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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Local Youth Grant \$86,831 Through the Foundation for MetroWest’s Youth In Philanthropy Program**

**June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 (Natick, MA)** — The Foundation for MetroWest announced today that one hundred and fifty-nine students from across the MetroWest region recently distributed \$86,831 in grants to area organizations as part of the Foundation’s Youth in Philanthropy program.

Launched in 1997, Youth in Philanthropy (YIP) provides local youth the knowledge to become leaders in our community through a unique real world approach. YIP teaches the importance of philanthropy and the needs that exist in our backyard while also helping students develop a number of valuable 21<sup>st</sup> century skills including critical thinking, decision making, understanding budgets, reaching consensus, and public speaking. Key to the future success of our region, we are proud to offer one of the largest youth philanthropy education programs in the country that has educated over 1,000 teens who have granted \$850,000 to over 140 youth development organizations in MetroWest.

“We are committed to educating our youth about the importance of philanthropy,” said Judith Salerno, executive director of the Foundation for MetroWest. “Through the Youth in Philanthropy program they learn valuable skills that will lay the groundwork for sustaining our communities in the future.”

The Foundation offered nine school and community-based programs during the 2014/2015 school year, and added the Summer Institute for Youth Leadership to provide year round opportunities to engage youth in philanthropy. Participating students from the Nashoba Brooks School, Concord-Carlisle High School, Concord Academy, The Fenn School, Middlesex School, and The Meadowbrook School in addition to students participating in regional programs located in Sudbury, Natick and Wellesley reviewed grant proposals, conducted site visits, and made final decisions on grant distributions. The following is a breakdown of grant recipients chosen by each program:

**Nashoba Brooks School** – Household Goods (\$4,000) and COMPASS for kids (\$3,500)

**Concord-Carlisle High School** – John Andrew Mazie Memorial Foundation (\$5,000) and Minute Man ARC for Human Services (\$4,313)

**Concord Academy** – Boys & Girls Club of Assabet Valley (\$3,500), Open Table (\$2,000) and Wildflower Camp Foundation (\$5,000)

**The Fenn School** – Learning Center for the Deaf (\$3,250), Rediscovery at JRI (\$3,250), Artists for Humanity (\$1,500) and The Food Project (\$1,000)

**Middlesex School** – Doc Wayne Youth Services, Inc. (\$5,000), Read to a Child (\$2,000) and Friends of Resiliency for Life (\$4,200)

**Sudbury Regional Program** – Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress (\$3,000), More Than Words (\$2,000) and OUT MetroWest, Inc. (\$5,000)

**Natick Regional Program** – Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central MA/MetroWest (\$5,000) and Horace Mann Educational Associates (\$5,000)

**The Meadowbrook School** – Buddy Dog Humane Society (\$2,000) and Rediscovery at JRI (\$3,000)

**Wellesley Regional Program** – OUT MetroWest, Inc. (\$4,500), Plugged In Teen Band Program (\$2,500) and A Path in the Woods (\$2,500)

**Summer Institute for Youth Leadership Session #1** – REACH Beyond Domestic Violence (\$2,500)

**Summer Institute for Youth Leadership Session #2** – The Nature Connection (\$2,500)

#### Interested in Getting Involved?

The Foundation for MetroWest is currently accepting applications for the Summer Institute for Youth Leadership, a condensed three-day program as part of the Youth in Philanthropy program. In addition to learning about the importance of civic engagement and philanthropy, Summer Institute students will enhance their leadership skills, improve their ability to speak in public and develop their financial literacy skills. The Foundation is offering two sessions this summer, June 29<sup>th</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup> and July 27<sup>th</sup> to July 29<sup>th</sup>. Both sessions are held at the Foundation's office at 3 Eliot Street in Natick and run from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM. For more information or to apply to the Summer Institute, please visit our website at: <http://bit.ly/SummerInstituteApp>.

#### 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. We promote philanthropy in the region, help donors maximize the impact of their local giving, serve as a resource for local nonprofits and enhance the quality of life for all our residents. Since inception, the Foundation has granted \$10 million to charitable organizations and currently stewards more than \$15 million in charitable assets for current needs and future impact. To learn more, please visit [www.foundationformetrowest.org](http://www.foundationformetrowest.org) or call 508-647-2260.

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