



Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts

1500 Main Street Springfield, MA 01103 Telephone 413-732-2858 Fax 413-733-8565

***For Immediate Release
Thursday, July 13, 2006***

Contact: Mary Jenewin-Caplin
(413) 732-2858/ (413) 785-5958
mjcaplin@communityfoundation.org

Community Foundation Announces Grant Awards Targeting Child Poverty

The Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts announces \$587,500 in grant awards to 11 nonprofit organizations to fund projects that address the root causes of the poverty of children age five and younger and their families in the Pioneer Valley. These are the first awards of the 5 & Under Initiative: Access to Opportunity for Children in Poverty and they represent the first of the Foundation's financial commitment of almost \$1.5 million over the next three years.

24 nonprofit organizations submitted proposals. Each proposal was reviewed individually, and comparatively including visits with applicant organizations by eight teams of volunteers. This multi-layered analysis provides confidence that the projects selected for funding will best fulfill the objectives of the initiative.

Eleven Pioneer Valley organizations will receive awards for the first year of the initiative.

Carson Center for Human Services, Inc. Rooting Out Poverty in the Quaboag Valley	\$44,400
Community Adolescent Resource and Education Center Opening Doors to Higher Education	\$25,000
Franklin Community Action Corporation Connecting Through Literacy	\$62,100
Holyoke Chicopee Springfield Head Start, Inc. Initiative to Prevent and Address Challenging Behaviors in the Classroom	\$74,800
The Literacy Project, Inc. NEXT STEPS Transitions Program	\$50,000
The Salvation Army Enrichment	\$65,000
Springfield Day Nursery Corporation Connections for Families and Children	\$65,000
Springfield School Volunteers, Inc. The Boland School Adult ESOL Family Literacy Program	\$45,000
United ARC of Franklin and Hampshire Counties, Inc. Positive Parenting	\$21,200
Valley Opportunity Council, Inc. Family Life Skills Program	\$12,500
YMCA of Greater Springfield Devoted Families...Enriching Lives	\$122,500

The Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts is committed to supporting the charitable work in our region by providing the vital connection between donors and organizations in Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin counties.

For more information about the Community Foundation, call or visit www.communityfoundation.org