

The METROWEST DAILY NEWS

\$800K in grants awarded to MetroWest non-profits

**By Kendall Hatch/Daily News staff
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The Cummings Foundation on Wednesday night awarded \$10 million in grants to eastern Massachusetts charitable organizations, \$800,000 of which was awarded to organizations in MetroWest.

Eight MetroWest non-profits received \$100,000 grants, part of the Cummings Foundation's \$100K for 100 program, which selected 100 organizations to receive grants of \$100,000 each.

Four of the grant recipients were from Marlborough, where Cummings operates the New Horizons retirement community, while other local grant recipients were based in Framingham, Holliston, Sudbury and Weston.

In Marlborough, the Boys & Girls Club of MetroWest, Good Shepherds Maria Droste Services, Friends of the Marlborough Seniors and Special Olympics Massachusetts were each awarded a \$100,000 grant. **Programs For People, Inc. in Framingham**, Bay State Reading Institute in Holliston, the Corwin-Russell School in Sudbury and Regis College in Weston also received \$100,000 grants.

Representatives from the local organizations that received grants said this week that they were thrilled to find out about the awards.

"We can't think of a greater honor, frankly, than having received this gift, said Iris Carroll, director of Programs for People. "It's tremendously moving. We're filled with gratitude and hope."

Programs for People, which provides services to people with mental illnesses, is self-supporting and receives meager reimbursements for the services it provides, Carroll said. That means that each year, the organization has to devote great effort to fundraising, which this year will be offset by the grant, she said.

She said the money will also pay for some long overdue repairs to the organizations facility.

"It's a wonderful, wonderful thing and gives us some breathing room," she said.

At the Boys & Girls Club of MetroWest, the money will go toward upgrades to an 18-computer technology center, said President Fran Hurley. Hurley said the organization was excited to hear about the grant and said the technology is badly in need of replacing. Some machines are almost a decade old, he said.

At the Special Olympics of Massachusetts, the money will go toward programming specifically in Middlesex County. Director of Advancement Nick Savarese said the grant is "huge" news for the organization and will go a long way to help the programming for the approximately 2,000 athletes in the county.

Barbara Gardner, executive director of the Bay State Reading Institute, based in Holliston, said the money received by that organization will be used as a local match for an Investing in Innovation grant from the U.S. Department of Education and will go toward programming in four Malden schools.

M.J. Doherty, special assistant to the president at Regis College, said the college will use the \$100,000 as seed money for a new Center for Global Connections. She said the center aims to manage and expand from the several already existing global outreach and connection programs in place at the college.

Jake O'Hara, director of development at the Corwin-Russell School in Sudbury, said the school will be investing the money in technology that will serve and augment the myriad needs and abilities of students there.

"There are so many ways students can learn through technology and from technology," O'Hara said. "We're hoping to really bring it up to a platform where everything moves as fast as they do."

Officials from the Friends of the Council on Aging and Good Shepherds Maria Droste Services could not immediately be reached for comment.

The Cummings Foundation, established in 1986, operates the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University and two New Horizons centers, in Marlborough and Framingham. Its assets exceed \$1 billion.

www.cummingsfoundation.org

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