

The Connection



20 years Granting Support for Success

A Quarterly Newsletter from the Highland Street Foundation

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Welcome to The Connection, a newsletter that will provide updates on the Highland Street Foundation's programs, charitable investments and non-profit resources. We will be sharing this newsletter every quarter and welcome your feedback. To learn more about these or other programs, please visit our redesigned website at www.highlandstreet.org or e-mail me at bjordan@highlandstreet.org.

Sincerely,

Blake Jordan
Executive Director

Regional Funders Commit More Than \$1.6 M

The Highland Street Foundation, along with other leading philanthropic organizations, have come together to strengthen the support network for people in distress by committing more than \$1.6 million to address the urgent needs of people affected by the economic crisis in Massachusetts.

Taking part in the collaborative effort are the Boston Foundation, Combined Jewish Philanthropies, Eos Foundation, the Highland Street Foundation, the Linde Family Foundation, United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley, and a family that asked to remain anonymous.

The Highland Street Foundation's grants were directed to the following organizations.

- **Heading Home**: Funding for housing and support services
- **HEARTH**: Funding for homelessness prevention among the elderly
- **Lawrence Community Works**: Funding for struggling families to build assets and escape poverty
- **Mass Housing & Shelter Alliance**: Funding for Home & Healthy for Good, a state-wide initiative to cut healthcare costs for the chronically homeless
- **YWCA of Southeastern Massachusetts**: Funding for temporary housing

To read more about this initiative, please click [here](#) for a Boston Globe article that appeared on Saturday, December 12.

HSF Hosts Social Media Seminar

As part of our 20th Anniversary programming, the Highland Street Foundation recently held a seminar titled "Fundraising & Stakeholder Engagement in a Digital World" to share with our non-profit partners the benefits of social media tools, including Twitter, Facebook, and blogs.

More than 200 non-profits joined the Highland Street Foundation on Thursday, October 15 at the City Year Headquarters in Boston in connection with One to One Interactive, Salera Consulting, and Dewey Square Group to learn how to use these tools to raise their profile and obtain new donors and volunteers.

The presentation and resources used in the seminar are available [here](#).



"Youth Philanthropy Initiative"

The Highland Street Youth Philanthropy Initiative seeks to engage and empower youth to collectively choose and fund nonprofit organizations that are addressing the most pressing community and societal needs. By partnering with a select number of schools and organizations to pilot this project, HSF helps youth develop the knowledge, insight and teamwork skills necessary to collaborate and make decisions regarding fund allocation to nonprofit organizations.

Students learn about community needs and nonprofit organizations, then evaluate nonprofits in their own communities by making site visits to various organizations, presenting their findings to one another, and collectively deciding how to distribute up to \$10,000 in funding.

To date, grants have been made to:

- Hyde Square Task Force
- African Community Education Program
- Dismas House of Massachusetts
- Jeremiah's Inn
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Business Empowerment Center
- South Worcester Neighborhood Center
- Southeast Asian Coalition of Central MA
- Boys & Girls Club of Middlesex County
- Community Action Agency of Somerville
- Just-A-Start Corporation
- Outdoor Explorations
- Somerville Homeless Coalition



Students at Boston University donate funds to the Hyde Square Task Force in Dorchester.

City Year Highland Street Team

The Corps members of the Highland Street Foundation Team serving at the Maurice J. Tobin School in Roxbury are looking forward to a life-changing year. The team is comprised of ten motivated young adults ages 19 to 25 whose main goal for the year is to ensure the success of the Tobin scholars through creating a positive school environment, providing excellent afterschool programming, and providing academic support in classrooms, focusing on both literacy and math. During the school day, the corps members provide classroom support and lunchtime mentoring programs with the goal of getting struggling students back on track. When school lets out, the team runs City Year's signature afterschool program called Starfish Corps for students in grades 3-5. The program provides homework help, followed by a variety of different enriching activities designed by corps members that focus on community building and promote civic engagement.



The team gives a lesson to Tobin students during afterschool programming.

The National Center for Family Philanthropy Highlights HSF

The National Center for Family Philanthropy's *Family Giving News* profiled the Highland Street Foundation and our Free Fun Fridays program in their September / October issue. To read the profile, please click [here](#).



ReadBoston and HSF Host Halloween Party

The Highland Street Foundation and ReadBoston collaborated to hold a Halloween event at the Boston Public Library on Friday, October 30th. More than 60 children from local non-profit organizations participated in the festivities.



2009 Holiday Toy Drive

The Highland Street Foundation's 2009 Holiday Toy Drive took place on Sunday, November 8th at Toys "R" Us and Barnes & Noble. In-kind donations totaled more than \$25,000 with items directed to four non-profit organizations: Toys for Tots, Italian Home for Children, ReadBoston and the Fund for Boston Neighborhoods. The McGrath Family and HSF staff were joined by three Marines to learn more about the increased need for toys around this holiday season.



HSF Received "Harvester Award"

Highland Street Foundation recently received a Harvester Award from the Worcester County Food Bank. Harvester Awards are given annually to recognize and honor special individuals and organizations that demonstrate outstanding commitment to the Food Bank's mission of feeding hungry people today while working to create hunger-free communities of tomorrow.



[About Highland Street Foundation](#)

The Highland Street Foundation is committed to addressing the needs and concerns of children and families in Massachusetts and California. We direct our efforts to provide access and opportunities in the area of education, housing, mentorship, healthcare, environment and the arts. For more information, please visit www.highlandstreet.org or e-mail bjordan@highlandstreet.org.