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First Literacy, Inc. awarded \$100,000

Boston nonprofit receives Cummings Foundation grant

Boston, June 7, 2019 – First Literacy is one of 100 local nonprofits to receive grants of \$100,000 each through Cummings Foundation’s “\$100K for 100” program. The Boston-based organization was chosen from a total of 574 applicants during a competitive review process.

At First Literacy, we understand the complex set of goals, abilities, and challenges that adult learners bring to the classroom. This uniquely positions us to be a valued partner in providing capacity-building assistance to literacy programs throughout the region.

Representing First Literacy, Executive Director Skye Morrison Kramer and Development Manager Jamie Ayer joined approximately 300 other guests at a reception at TradeCenter 128 in Woburn to celebrate the \$10 million infusion into Greater Boston’s nonprofit sector. With the conclusion of this grant cycle, Cummings Foundation has now awarded more than \$260 million to Greater Boston nonprofits alone.

“We are thrilled to have the support of The Cummings Foundation to continue our work helping adult learners and their teachers meet their goals,” said Skye Kramer.

With funding from the Cummings Foundation, First Literacy anticipates facilitating and presenting a minimum of 80-100 Professional Development Workshops for 1000 adult educators, who will collectively serve 20,000 adult learners over the four-year grant period.

The \$100K for 100 program supports nonprofits that are based in and primarily serve Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties. Through this place-based initiative, Cummings Foundation aims to give back in the area where it owns commercial buildings, all of which are managed, at no cost to the Foundation, by its affiliate Cummings Properties. Founded in 1970 by Bill Cummings, the Woburn-based commercial real estate firm leases and manages 10 million square feet of space, the majority of which exclusively benefits the Foundation.

“By having such a local focus, we aim to make a meaningful positive difference in the communities where our colleagues and leasing clients live and work,” said Joel Swets, Cummings Foundation’s executive director. “We are most grateful for the nonprofit organizations that assist and empower our neighbors, and we are proud to support their efforts.”

This year's diverse group of grant recipients represents a wide variety of causes, including homelessness prevention, affordable housing, education, violence prevention, and food insecurity. Most of the grants will be paid over two to five years.

The complete list of 100 grant winners is available at www.CummingsFoundation.org.

Cummings Foundation announced an additional \$15 million in early May through its Sustaining Grants program. Through these awards, 50 local nonprofits will receive ongoing funding of \$20,000 - \$50,000 for 10 years.

The history behind Cummings Properties and Cummings Foundation is detailed in Bill Cummings' self-written memoir, "Starting Small and Making It Big: An Entrepreneur's Journey to Billion-Dollar Philanthropist." It is available on Amazon or cummings.com/book.

About First Literacy

Founded 30 years ago, First Literacy's mission is to ensure that adults with low-literacy or limited English proficiency have high-quality educational opportunities that enable them to thrive as individuals and as family members, in their workplaces, and in their communities.

First Literacy plays a unique and critical role in adult education and literacy in Massachusetts. Our approach not only supports adults on their road to independence and success, but also strengthens the adult literacy field by focusing on literacy education providers in and around Greater Boston. For more information, visit: www.firstliteracy.org, www.facebook.com/firstliteracy, www.twitter.com/FirstLiteracy.

About Cummings Foundation

Woburn-based Cummings Foundation, Inc. was established in 1986 by Joyce and Bill Cummings. The Foundation directly operates its own charitable subsidiaries, including New Horizons retirement communities in Marlborough and Woburn. Its largest single commitment to date has been to Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University. Additional information is available at www.CummingsFoundation.org.

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