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Brigham Trust awards grants

Ten recipients receive total of more than \$25K

Posted January 21, 2014

The trustees of the Marlborough Brigham Family Trust recently announced the awarding of ten grants totaling \$25,266 for the trust's inaugural grant cycle. The trust received more than \$70,000 in grant applications in the fall of 2013.

MAIN STREET **OURNAL**

In his will, Marlborough resident Ronald H. Brigham envisioned his estate be used to "promote the general good and the community welfare of the Marlborough Middlesex County area ... it being my intention that my entire estate is to be used for charitable purposes within the community that has been good to me and to my parents." After a prolonged period required to address legal issues, the first group of grant awards were announced this month.

Trustees were encouraged by the depth and range of the applications, all of which detailed valuable services to the community. The trustees met as a group, aligned the grants with the language in Ronald H. Brigham's will regarding the spirit of the trust, and deliberated the applications. As a result, the following organizations have been awarded grants, which will be presented during their respective upcoming meetings.

Marlborough Public Schools has been awarded \$3,900 toward the anti-bullying presentation Ryan's Story. The father of Ryan Halligan, a 13-year-old who was bullied so cruelly and systematically that he committed suicide, will speak to middle school students, teachers, parents and community youth workers. Halligan's appearance correlates with the district's MC3: Marlborough: Creating a Caring Community bullying prevention curriculum.

The Marlborough Historical Society has been selected for a \$3,900 grant for its storage/structural program. Over the years the society has accumulated historical records, artifacts, photographs, and other objects that require storage, and the current structure is unstable and inadequate. The society will use the grant to help build a storage shed on the society's Homestead site to store and protect these items.

Maria Mihopoulos, Jaworek Elementary School, has been awarded \$1,300 toward the purchase of three iPads and instructional applications. Jaworek Elementary has more than one-hundred-fifty English language learners (ELLs) who benefit from the school's very limited supply of ELL iPads that introduce them to technology, help them learn to read and increase their vocabulary, do math drills, provide language lab technology, allow them to research and translate words, and more. The grant will help expand the resources so more ELL students have access to this learning tool.

Employment Options was chosen for a \$3,900 grant for its Cleaning Options Program. Employment Options serves adults with mental illness, empowering them and their families to recover and thrive in the community. Supports include overcoming barriers to employment through a "life coaching" approach. The newly developed Cleaning Options trains and employs disadvantaged, unemployed citizens by helping them overcome obstacles to employment.

Friends of the Marlborough Seniors have been awarded \$3,250 toward a pilot transportation program. The program will help transport Marlborough Council on Aging/Senior Center members to Senior Center activities, the grocery store, the pharmacy, personal appointments, and more. The program will operate in cooperation with the

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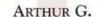






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MetroWest Regional Transit Authority and Employment Options.

The Friends of the Marlborough Public Library have been awarded \$1,300 toward their 2013-2014 program season. The Friends offer a wide variety of programs and events designed to enrich and educate the Marlborough community and support the performing arts. The grant will help ensure the Friends will be able to continue to present free admission programs for the season.

Marlborough Downtown Village Association has received \$3,250 toward an outdoor community mural. The mural will depict various elements of Marlborough's heritage and will include works from both experienced mural artists and members of the community. The project is designed to create a feeling of ownership in the Downtown Cultural District and provide an avenue for future artists.

Ghost Light Players has been awarded \$1,950 toward a summer youth theater program. The program will run for five mornings a week for five weeks this summer, and it will include classes in auditions, performance and stage etiquette. The program will conclude with a performance. The goal is eventually to create an ongoing, self-sustaining summer program.

Art teacher Linda Ostaski and Jaworek Elementary have been awarded \$400 toward a document camera. Ostaski will integrate the document camera with her classroom projector to project three-dimensional art lessons and demonstrations to all students in a class at one time. Lessons can be recorded and shared so that students can view and review them as needed.

The Cottage Children's Center was selected for a \$2,116 grant for tables, chairs and storage. The center, located on the Marlborough Hospital campus, serves one-hundred and five children. The center's large room not only serves as a space for the center's activities, it also serves as a community room for other organizations. The center currently rents tables and chairs as needed; securing their own and building a small storage shed will allow the center to increase the use of the space for community groups and center activities.

Shown below are Friends of Marlborough Seniors board members, including Barbara McGuire (center, right), who is receiving a check from Brigham Family Trust board member Beth Wagner (center, left).









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