

Bank of America Gives \$450K to 12 Greater Boston Nonprofits

December 2, 2010 — Bank of America Charitable Foundation recently announced that it has given \$450,000 to 12 greater Boston nonprofits through its Neighborhood Excellence Initiative, which aims to help recipients improve their long-term viability, build leadership strength, retain and hire new staff, and extend the depth and reach of their services.

The latest contribution through the program to arts, anti-violence, and education nonprofits brings the bank's total commitment in the Boston area to \$3.15 million since 2004.

Receiving \$200,000 in unrestricted grant funding were:

- **Artists for Humanity**, Boston, which provides urban youth with the keys to self-sufficiency through paid employment in the arts.
- **Cradles to Crayons**, Boston, which equips homeless and disadvantaged children with the basic essentials to feel safe, warm, valued, and ready to learn.

"Through our Neighborhood Excellence Initiative, we are helping to generate meaningful and cumulative economic and social impact at the local level where it's needed most," said Bob Gallery, Massachusetts president, Bank of America. "In Greater Boston and across the country, we are leveraging the combined strength of our philanthropy and lending and investing initiatives to help set opportunity in motion for organizations, families, individuals and entire neighborhoods."

The Neighborhood Excellence Initiative honors two other categories of community leaders: Local Heroes and Student Leaders/

Local Heroes contribute significantly to the health of their neighborhood through volunteer service and civic engagement. With this recognition, they will direct a \$5,000 donation from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation to an eligible nonprofit of their choice.

The 2010 Boston Local Heroes are:

- Clementina Chery, of Boston, will direct her grant to **Louis D. Brown Peace Institute**, Dorchester.
- Van Chey, of Lowell, will direct her grant to **Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence**, Boston.
- Paul Corcoran, of Waltham, will direct his grant to **Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston**.
- Jason Cruz, of Lynn, will direct his grant to **RAW Artworks**, Lynn.
- Jasmine Fiandaca, of Saugus, will direct her grant to **Grace Ministries North Shore**, Saugus.

Student Leaders, who are exemplary teens with a passion for improving their communities, participated in paid, eight-week internships at Boston area nonprofits this summer (at the height of the teen unemployment rate) and gathered in Washington, D.C. for a weeklong summit to learn how service creates positive change in communities and to gain tools and resources to help them continue to make a difference in their local communities.

The 2010 Boston Student Leaders are:

- Francely Acosta, a Lawrence resident and senior at the Presentation of Mary Academy, interned at **Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence**.
- Matthew Dias, a Boston resident and recent graduate of The English High School, interned at **United Way of New England**, Boston.
- Sheyna Baez, a Hyde Park resident and senior at Brighton High School, interned at **United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley**, Boston.
- Sandy Liang, a Brighton resident and senior at Boston Latin School, interned at **Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston**.
- Melissa Oquendo, a Boston resident and a recent graduate of Boston Latin Academy, interned at **Camp Harbor View**, Boston.

All 2010 Boston recipients will be honored at an event this fall.