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The Wily Network Awarded \$100,000 Cummings Foundation Grant

Local Boston non-profit receives Cummings Foundation grant to help young college students in the Greater Boston area

West Roxbury, Mass., May 22, 2020 –[The Wily Network](#) is one of 130 local nonprofits to receive grants through Cummings Foundation’s \$20 Million Grant Program. The Boston-based organization was chosen from a total of 738 applicants during a competitive review process.

The Wily Network currently works with 55 students on college campuses across New England who are seeking support as they navigate through college. Wily Scholars are promising students who are experiencing life challenges such as homelessness or foster care, or whose parents may be dealing with addiction, mental health issues, or incarceration. The Wily Network is able to help these students by providing a safety net.

“College campuses closed to reduce risk of COVID-19 spread but for students with no safe place to go and transition to remote learning, like Wily Scholars, the campus closings took away their only form of stable housing,” said Founder and Executive Director Judi Aplerin King. “This grant will have a significant impact on our ability to provide for our scholars, and allow us to continue to grow and serve more deserving college students. We are so grateful to the Cummings Foundation for recognizing and supporting our work toward improving the lives of young students.”

The Cummings \$20 Million Grant Program supports Massachusetts nonprofits that are based in and primarily serve Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties. Through this initiative, Cummings Foundation aims to give back to the area where it owns commercial buildings. Founded in 1970 by Bill Cummings, the Woburn-based commercial real estate firm leases and manages 10 million square feet of debt-free space, the majority of which exclusively benefits the Foundation.

“We have been impressed, but not surprised, by the myriad ways in which these 130 grant winners are serving their communities, despite the challenges presented by COVID-19,” said Joel Swets, Cummings Foundation’s executive director. “Their ability to adapt and work with their constituents in new and meaningful ways has an enormous impact in the communities where our colleagues and leasing clients live and work.”

Social distancing requirements, due to the coronavirus, will prevent Foundation and grant winner representatives, from convening for a traditional reception. Instead, Cummings Foundation expects hundreds of individuals to gather virtually for a modified celebration in mid-June.

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.

The nonprofits are spread across 40 different cities and towns, and most will receive their grants over two to five years. The complete list of 130 grant winners is available at www.CummingsFoundation.org.

About The Wily Network

The Wily Network was founded in 2015 with the vision of providing a critical safety net for students attending college in the Greater Boston area who lack the necessary support systems. The Wily program offers weekly clinical coaching, financial assistance, community-building support, and networking opportunities to help scholars move from surviving to thriving. At Wily, we are committed to creating a dynamic network of support for scholars to ensure their success in college and beyond.

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, and Veterinary School at Tufts, LLC in North Grafton. Additional information is available at www.CummingsFoundation.org.