



Press Release

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BROWN RUDNICK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION EXPANDS SUPPORT OF INNER-CITY EDUCATION

2004 Relationship Grants Further Commitment to Non-Profit Organizations in Boston, Hartford and Providence; Grants Extended to New York City

Boston, MA, February 25, 2004 – The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation is pleased to announce the award of another \$151,000 in *Relationship Grants* to eight non-profit, inner-city education organizations in Boston, Hartford, New York City and Providence. The Foundation is a non-profit entity established four years ago by many of the partners of Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels, a premier international law firm. The Foundation's mission is supported without charge by volunteers and staff of the Firm. Through its *Relationship Grants* program, the Brown Rudnick Foundation strives to make a meaningful impact on the improvement of inner-city education -- donating monetary funds to non-profit organizations working to improve inner-city education. Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels augments this mission through the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest, actively providing volunteer support and pro bono legal counsel to the Foundation's grant recipients.

From its inception in 2000, almost half a million dollars in grants have been contributed by the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation directly to non-profit organizations to improve inner-city education. Additionally, since the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest was launched in 2001, countless volunteer hours and the equivalent of \$5.8 million in free legal representation have been provided to needy non-profit organizations and indigent individuals. The Foundation is part of the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest, the umbrella entity coordinating the Firm's pro bono legal work, charitable giving, community involvement and public interest efforts.

During February and March, Brown Rudnick will host the recipients of 2004 *Relationship Grants* in each of the four cities to celebrate their efforts and to recruit additional volunteers.

“Our *Relationship Grants* program has met with great success, providing non-profit groups with the funds to support ongoing projects and jump start new educational initiatives. This year’s recipients are focusing their efforts on causes such as promoting increased literacy, staging mock trials to educate youths about the justice system and infusing arts into academics,” said Al Wallis, executive director, Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest. “The *Relationship Grants* speak to the Foundation’s mission to improve inner-city education and to one of the Firm’s important goals – to foster mutually beneficial relationships that positively impact the community and lead to more fulfilling careers enriched by volunteerism and service for Brown Rudnick attorneys and staff.”

Another major milestone for the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation was achieved in 2004 with expansion of the Foundation’s service area to New York City. This year, as part of an inter-city *Relationship Grant* that spans Boston, Hartford, New York City and Providence, Brown Rudnick has partnered with Reach Out & Read (ROR) to purchase thousands of books for children. ROR programs strive to make early literacy a standard part of pediatric primary care. In addition to monetary donations and pro bono legal representation, Brown Rudnick attorneys and staff will volunteer for a range of activities from reading to children in doctors’ offices to conducting book drives.

In addition to Reach Out & Read, the 2004 *Relationship Grant* recipients include:

- Citizen Schools & Discovering Justice: James D. St. Clair Court Education Project – Grant to support expansion of mock trial program in conjunction with students from Citizens Schools in Boston and the Federal Court Public Education Project.
- Community Solutions – Grant for continuation of a program initiated by the Foundation last year in which socially disadvantaged and at risk juveniles in the care of Community Solutions, based in Hartford, participate in a mock trial.
- Facing History and Ourselves – Grant for advancement of “Race & Membership in American History” project in Boston classrooms and the community to support an examination of racism, prejudice and anti-Semitism toward a more humane and informed citizenry.
- Neighborhood House Charter School – Grant for continuation of a prior three-year *Relationship Grant* in support of an eighth grade high school placement initiative for the benefit of Boston children with limited public educational opportunities.
- Providence Plan/Ready to Learn Providence – Grant for creation of two new HeadsUp! professional development courses for child care providers and educators

as part of the “Ready to Learn Providence” effort, a broad-based community coalition working to ensure the literacy of all Providence children.

- Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts of Massachusetts – Grant in support of “Gaining the Arts Advantage” educational program, which engages the arts to enhance curriculum in Boston public schools.
- VSA Arts of Massachusetts – Grant to stimulate student interest in arts in Boston public schools through a holiday card design competition.

About Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP

Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP is a full-service, international corporate law firm with offices in the United States and Europe. The firm has over 200 attorneys who provide representation across five broad areas of the law: Banking & Finance, Corporate, Government Law & Strategies, Real Estate and Litigation. Combining a dedication to excellence with the implementation of sophisticated technologies, Brown Rudnick provides clients, ranging in size from entrepreneurial start-ups to Fortune 500 companies, with a breadth and depth of expertise uniquely suited to their legal needs.

The Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest is a testament of the Firm’s strong commitment to the community and to the legal profession. It serves as an umbrella entity to encompass all of the Firm’s pro bono legal work, charitable giving, community involvement and public interest efforts.