

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Cummings Foundation Supports The Food Project's Powerful Youth Development Programs

Foundation impressed by The Food Project's programs with youth, farms, and food access.

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June 9, 2015, Lincoln, MA—The Food Project has been selected as one of 100 local nonprofits to receive grants of \$100,000 each through Cummings Foundation's "100K for 100" program. The Lincoln-based organization was chosen from more than 350 applicants during a very competitive review process. This award, over three years, will help The Food Project provide meaningful summer jobs for at least 240 young people that increase leadership, communication, and workplace skills. With these young people, The Food Project will grow and harvest more than 750,000 pounds of food, and provide 450,000 servings of fresh produce to underserved residents.

Representing The Food Project, J. Harrison, executive director, and Lisa Buchanan, foundations and corporate relations manager, joined approximately 300 other guests at a June 4 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 reached a major milestone – it has now awarded more than \$100 million in grants to local nonprofits alone.

"Seed Crew, the entry-point for all youth working with The Food Project, is an immersive six and a half week program that introduces young people to sustainable farming, community service, social justice, and food systems. This summer The Food Project will hire 90 teenaged participants representing a diversity of races, cultures, geographies, and socioeconomic statuses, young people learn how to work with, and learn from, people who are different from them," says J. Harrison, executive director. "We are grateful to be counted among the 100 organizations that the Cummings Foundation is supporting with the \$100K for 100 initiative."

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 of Winchester, the Woburn-based commercial real estate firm leases and manages more than 10 million square feet of space, the majority of which exclusively benefits the Foundation.

"The Foundation is incredibly grateful to nonprofits like The Food Project that are working diligently for the benefit of the communities where the staff and clients of the Cummings organization live and work," said Joel Swets, Cummings Foundation's executive director.

This year's diverse group of grant recipients represents a wide variety of causes, including mental health, STEM education, veteran's services, healthcare, hunger relief, and homelessness prevention. 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.



To find out how you can support The Food Project's mission to build a thoughtful and productive community of youth and adults from diverse backgrounds who work together to build a sustainable food system [click here!](#)

[The Food Project](#) is one of the largest regional farming and food access organizations in Massachusetts. Since 1991, more than 1,400 youth have participated in our leadership development programs. We farm approximately 70 acres on three suburban farms, four urban farms, and two greenhouses throughout Massachusetts, and distribute our produce through farmers markets, subsidized farm shares, and to hunger relief organizations.

