

# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts announces seven grants**

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**Fitchburg, Massachusetts** (August 27, 2009) – The Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts capped its recently completed fiscal year with the announcement of seven grants to local organizations.

“With this round of grants we were able to fund some unique opportunities in addition to important programs that are providing basic services in this challenging economy,” commented Phil Grzewinski, president of the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts.

Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School received a \$20,000 grant so the students can retrofit a school bus to run on biodiesel fuel. The goal is to use experience to educate fellow classmates on how to live and work efficiently, increase the school’s sustainability, reduce its carbon footprint and dependency on foreign oils by using waste cooking oil from the school to fuel the bus.

YWCA of Central Massachusetts/BWR’s \$20,000 grant will fund the expansion and additional training of their high risk response team that helps victims of domestic violence. The program, which was launched in 2008 and is based out of Ayer District Court, brings together community partners, victim services, law enforcement, probation, parole, prosecutors, health care and batterer’s intervention specialists.

A \$17,392 grant to Fitchburg-based United Neighbors of Cleghorn, Inc. will help provide civics and citizenship services for new Americans. The program includes 10 week classes four times a year, integrated with ESOL services, to prepare immigrants for the naturalization test and provide opportunities to become engaged in their local community.

House of Peace and Education, Inc’s (HOPE) \$17,000 grant provided summer camp experience for 150 low-income children at Camp Collier in Gardner, MA. Gardner-based HOPE and Project Contact Summer Camp Program collaborated to provide a holistic, academic, mentoring and recreation program.

Franklin County Home Care Corporation plans on using their \$10,000 grant to expand its fundraising initiatives, which will help sustain their Meals on Wheels program for homebound elders in the North Quabbin region.

A \$20,000 grant to Nashua River Watershed Association, Inc., Groton, MA, will cover both planning and implementation of a three credit graduate level science course for pre- and in-service teachers at Fitchburg State College.

The final grant, \$6,245, went to Associated Grant Makers Grants Resource Network, who will establish a resource center, to provide grantseeking information to nonprofits, at the Leominster Public Library.

The Foundation also announced that it 13 new funds were established during its most recent fiscal year, which concluded June 30, 2009: Boys & Girls Club of NCM Endowment Fund, Doyle Endowment for the Benefit of Doyle Field, Doyle General Endowment Fund, Sterilite Scholars Fund for Fitchburg State College, Friends of Sholan Farms Fund, Marilyn & David McKeehan Family Fund, Sterilite Scholarship and Student Success Fund for Mount Wachusett Community College, Townsend Public Library Endowment Fund, United Way of North Central Massachusetts Building Fund, Peter and Alice von Loesecke Foundation Fund, Grace Oliver Legacy Fund, Indian Hill Music Fund, Janine Holston Memorial Music Scholarship Fund

Since its inception, the foundation has awarded approximately \$12 million in grants and distributions from 100 funds that have been established by individuals, families and organizations.

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## **About**

The Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts, with over \$18 million in charitable assets, was created in 2001 to serve the charitable interest of donors in Ashburnham, Ashby, Athol, Ayer, Barre, Clinton, Devens, Erving, Fitchburg, Gardner, Groton, Harvard, Hubbardston, Lancaster, Leominster, Littleton, Lunenburg, New Salem, Orange, Pepperell, Petersham, Phillipston, Princeton, Royalston, Shirley, Sterling, Templeton, Townsend, Warwick, Wendell, Westminster and Winchendon.