

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nashoba Community Health Care Fund awards grants to improve the health of local communities

Ayer, Mass. (March 16, 2012) – The Nashoba Valley Community Healthcare Fund recently awarded \$150,300 in grants for programs to help improve the health of residents in 13 communities in the region.

“These grants will make a difference in the quality of life for many residents in the Nashoba Valley region” said Phil Grzewinski, president of the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts, which awarded the grants in partnership with the Greater Lowell Community Foundation.

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry, Inc., received \$20,000 for its Face of Hunger program, which provides food and referral services to area residents.

College interns will be trained to provide respite care to area families through a \$20,000 grant to Seven Hills Family Services, Inc.

An \$18,000 grant will assist L.U.K. Crisis Center, Inc., in creating documented practices for trauma preparedness among schools in the Nashoba Valley region.

Townsend Fire-EMS received \$18,000 to purchase equipment to assist in off-road rescue operations.

A \$15,000 grant to The SHINE Initiative for the Mental Health First Aid Program will be used to train school personnel in Nashoba Valley to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders.

Nashua River Watershed Association’s Outdoor Wellness Walking program received \$15,000 to encourage area residents to exercise.

Pathways for Change, Inc.’s \$12,000 grant will provide sexual violence education to area adolescents through their Sexual Assault Youth (SAYE) program.

A \$10,000 grant to Littleton Elder and Human Services will be used to hire a part-time person to coordinate health and wellness services for town senior citizens.

A \$6,500 grant to Growing Places Garden Project, Inc. will establish a sustainable community garden for residents of Lancaster.

A \$5,800 grant to the Townsend Council on Aging will be used to expand its senior meal program.

Shirley Seniors Friendship Fund's \$5,000 grant will be used to provide access to food pantries for housebound seniors.

The Boys & Girls Club of Lunenburg, Inc. received a \$5,000 grant to provide healthy food and exercise programs at the center.

The Foundations also approved grants to Mount Wachusett Community College, Fitchburg State University, Middlesex Community College and UMass Lowell to provide scholarships to area students in the health field.

The Nashoba Valley Community Healthcare Fund was created in 2006, from proceeds of the 2003 sale of Deaconess-Nashoba Hospital to Essent Healthcare, creating Nashoba Valley Medical Center.

The fund provides annual distributions to nonprofit organizations, municipalities and other agencies, to advance the community health of residents in 13 communities originally served by the hospital, including Ashby, Ayer, Bolton, Dunstable, Groton, Harvard, Lancaster, Littleton, Lunenburg, Pepperell, Shirley, Townsend and Westford.

Recipients of the grants were selected by the Fund Advisory Committee, comprised of local leaders in business, health care and education.

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About

The Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts, www.cfncm.org, with over \$25 million in charitable assets, was created in 2001 to serve the charitable interest of donors in Ashburnham, Ashby, Athol, Ayer, Barre, Bolton, 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. For more information, see www.cfncm.org.

The Greater Lowell Community Foundation, with assets of \$22 million, has served the Greater Lowell and Merrimack Valley area since 1997. For more information, see www.glcfoundation.org.