



FOUNDATION FOR METROWEST

# Impact Report

## Winter 2021/Spring 2022

The Foundation for MetroWest is continuing to turn inspiration into impact and improve the quality of life in our MetroWest communities, thanks to your help. This report summarizes the key initiatives we have been focusing on these past six months.

### Emergency Relief Grants Provide Critical Assistance

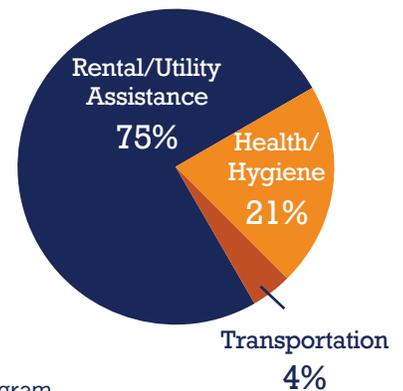
Since March 2020 the Foundation has granted over \$6M for pandemic emergency relief. We understand the unique needs of our region and are dedicated to addressing them through our grant programs.

The Foundation was proud to receive another grant of \$365,146 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development to provide emergency cash assistance to residents in the region who continue to face hardships due to the pandemic. This was awarded based on the Commonwealth's confidence in our knowledge of the region and our ability to effectively distribute the funding throughout MetroWest.

#### EOHD Grant Recipients:

- Acton-Boxborough United Way
- Brazilian American Center (BRACE)
- Catholic Charities of Worcester County, Greater Milford Office
- Dignity Matters
- Hope and Comfort
- Jewish Family Service of Metrowest
- Latino Health Insurance Program
- Mass Alliance of Portuguese Speakers (MAPS)
- Middlesex Human Service Agency (MHSA)
- Natick Service Council
- WATCH CDC
- Waltham Boys & Girls Club

EOHED Funding by Type of Need



### New Initiatives Launched in 2022

In 2020 we were excited to launch Impact MetroWest, a comprehensive community needs assessment. This interactive resource enables the community to focus its efforts based on data. Impact MetroWest increases awareness around the strengths and challenges facing the cities and towns that comprise our MetroWest community. Two of the significant needs identified from Impact MetroWest are being addressed in our Action Projects.

Action Projects address a particular issue in our region and are identified through a combination of data and collaborative conversations with local nonprofit partners, educators, and civic leaders. The Foundation is focusing on two Actions Projects this year:

Our **Racial Equity in Education Project** was launched in 2021 thanks to the support of MathWorks, Literations, and JFS of Metrowest. The primary goal of this project is to increase literacy rates for students of color in grades 1-4 and address math performance outcomes for middle school students of color in Framingham.

The **MetroWest Workforce Development Project** focuses on income inequality that persists in the MetroWest, and provides a path to financial stability for under resourced youth and underemployed or unemployed adults. Currently we are working towards raising \$600,000 for this project, with a goal of supporting various workforce development related projects in the building trades, medical trades, and the life science industry across the region.

## Youth in Philanthropy (YIP) Program Trains Next Generation of Philanthropists

During the 2021-2022 school year, the Foundation's Youth in Philanthropy programs continued, engaging 178 middle and high school students from 24 different communities. Weekly meetings were held where the groups discussed and evaluated the needs in their region—and identified how they could make a difference during these unprecedented times. Each class reviewed and assessed the current needs of local youth-serving nonprofits and were responsible for granting \$10,000. Our YIP classes granted \$95,000 to over 20 nonprofits.

### YIP Grantees

- |                                      |                       |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| REACH Beyond Domestic Violence, Inc. | Dignity Matters       |
| Circle of Hope                       | Hope and Comfort      |
| The Children's Room                  | Plugged In Band       |
| MetroWest Mediation Services, Inc.   | Waypoint Adventures   |
| A Place To Turn                      | Rise Above Foundation |
| Eliot Community Human Services       | Milford Teen Center   |
| Household Goods                      | Samaritans            |
| SmileMass                            | Save A Dog            |



## Guidance for Donor Directed Funds

The Foundation has 70 donor directed funds, as well as four Town Funds (Lexington, Sherborn, Southborough and Wellesley). We consult with and advise many of our fundholders about the areas of greatest need in MetroWest, to ensure that the fundholder's giving aligns with their values. Our strong relationships with our nonprofit partners and knowledge about the region's data from Impact MetroWest enable us to guide decision making.



- Areas receiving the greatest amount of funding
- Hunger relief
  - Arts, culture and historic preservation
  - Youth programs focusing on education, mental health and LGBTQ support

## Making a Difference Together

The needs in our community are significant. As we reflect on the past months, we are grateful for your support. We look forward to continuing to be a resource and improving the quality of life in our MetroWest communities. Together we can make a difference.



FOUNDATION FOR METROWEST

3 Eliot Street | Natick, MA 01760  
508.647.2260 | foundationmw.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Renee F. Quinn, Director of Development  
rquinn@foundationformetrowest.org