

# center news

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## Brown Rudnick Partner and Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation President Jeff Jonas awarded the Childhelp Caring Award

Jeff Jonas was honored on April 22nd at the Childhelp National Day of Hope Congressional Luncheon held in at the Capitol in Washington D.C. Close to 5 children die every day as the result of child abuse. Childhelp's mission is to meet the needs of abused, neglected and at-risk children by focusing programs on prevention, intervention, treatment, and community outreach. The principal theme across all of their programs is to provide the children they serve with an environment of compassion and kindness.



A Brown Rudnick legal team, headed by Jeff, has been providing pro bono representation as Childhelp works to address critical structural and financial challenges. At the Capitol event, hosted in the Dirkson Senate Office Building by Senators McCain and Feinstein, Jeff was presented with the Childhelp Caring Award. (Above photo L to R: Brian Corsini, Vice President of Childhelp Board pictured with Jeff Jonas. Left photo: Jeff Jonas and his family attend the award event).



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## Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Awards 13 New Relationship Grants for 2015-2016 Academic Year (...continued on page 2)

 READY TO LEARN PROVIDENCE				
				
				

## Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Awards 13 New Relationship Grants for 2015-16 Academic Year

(continued from cover)

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Corp. announced the recipients of its 2015-16 Relationship Grants program. The Foundation awarded 13 grants totaling over \$200,000 dollars to non-profit organizations in Boston; Harford; Orange County, California; Providence; London, U.K.; New York City; and Washington, D.C. These 12 month academic year grants commence on September first and support inner-city education programs.

For over a decade, the Foundation has been awarding annual *Relationship Grants* to tax-exempt organizations for programs designed to improve inner-city education in a cities where Brown Rudnick has offices. These annual grants seek to improve inner-city education by forming a relationship with a tax-exempt organization. While financial support is the gateway to the relationship, the Foundation is also interested in ways in which the mission and work of the organizations may capture the interest and energy of the Foundation Board and of the Brown Rudnick lawyers and staff.

The Foundation Grants Committee, chaired by Brown Rudnick Orange County Partner, Catherine Castaldi, received more than 80 letters of interest from qualified organizations looking to apply for this year's grants. Two dozen of them were invited to submit full proposals, and final selections were made by the Foundation Board of Directors in June.

First-time *Relationship Grant* recipients include: 1) The **Hartford Public Library** in Connecticut for the *Leap Into Learning Child Care Program*, which will provide early literacy training and resources to home daycare centers; and 2) **Century High School** in Santa Ana, California to support economically disadvantaged children with college and college placement test preparations.

The Foundation also awarded new one-year grants to a number of previous grant recipients including:



- **East Boston High School** (Boston) to increase scientific literacy at East Boston High School through curriculum enhancements and inter-school programming.
- **Thompson Island Outward Bound** (Boston) to support the *Connections* science education program for Boston public school students.
- **College Bound Dorchester** (Boston) to support the *Maritime Apprentice Program* serving older, high-risk population through a work & education program. (This program was previously operated by Hull Lifesaving Museum.)
- **Arts & Business Council of Greater Boston** (Boston) to continue the Brown Rudnick Holiday Art Contest & Teen Art Law program in Boston public schools and, to continue for a second year, the Corporate Art Lending Program where public school student art is loaned to businesses.
- **The Mark Twain House & Museum** (Hartford) to continue a summer reading and writing program at the museum for 10th graders in conjunction with Capital Prep High School's 6-week summer academy.
- **The NYC Urban Debate League** (New York) to support the award-winning debate program for NYC students, specifically the Brown Rudnick Travel Team. Brown Rudnick also provides general counsel representation to the organization on a pro bono basis.

- **Ready to Learn Providence/Providence Plan** (Providence) to support AmeriCorps Volunteers working on the early-learning child literacy program, Ready2Learn. Brown Rudnick also provides general counsel representation to the Providence Plan on a pro bono basis.
- **United States Capitol Historical Society** (Washington, D.C.) to support the *We, the People* Constitutional program which educates D.C. public middle school students through historical tours and classroom lessons, and to continue the Constitutional Challenge essay contest that Brown Rudnick helped to create through this relationship.
- **LIFEBeat** (London) for group mentoring and summer camp program that support the charity's transformational learning programs for inner-city teenagers.
- **Mousetrap Theatre Projects** (London) a theater education charity, for educating and connecting disadvantaged youth to the arts.
- **University Of California, Irvine** (Orange County) to support a portion of the Saturday Academy of Law, a program offered to disadvantaged, high-achieving 9th grade students from Santa Ana, CA school district.



### Another Big Win for Debate Education!

Relationship Grantee, The New York City Urban Debate League (NYCUDL), won top honors in every division of the New York State Debate Championships, and as a result, student debaters Dante de Blasio and Sam Eluto were featured in the *New York Times* and the *New York Daily News*. NYCUDL Additionally, Program Director Aubrey Semple received the PASE award and was honored as one of the top after-school educators in NYC for leadership in building the city's debate league into one of the largest and most successful debate leagues in the nation.



### Finding Nemo on an Aquarium Field Trip

Brown Rudnick's Kellie Cahill, Amy Simmons and Boston Summer Interns Amber Garcia and Thomas Vu assisted with East Boston High School's New England Aquarium field trip this month, in which East Boston High School students chaperoned third-grade students from the Umana Academy. East Boston High School is a current Relationship Grant recipient, and our grant dollars help fund this field trip.

### Lively Visits to the London Office

Relationship Grantee LIFEbeat visited the London office this spring for an afternoon of team building and experiential exercises with Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Board Director, Christian Toms, Brown Rudnick staff and attorneys, and LIFEbeat students (pictured right).



Relationship Grantee Mousetrap held their annual staff training day in June at Brown Rudnick's London office.



### Cesar Chavez Prep Charter School Receives "We the People Challenge Award"

Grantees Capital Historical Society and the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation several years ago created the *We the People Challenge Award* as a way of applauding and encouraging the 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students who participated in the curriculum-based *We the People* learning experience. Through onsite visits and classroom learning, this program familiarizes Washington, D.C. public school students with their city and their government.

Diana Nelson of Brown Rudnick's D.C. office helped with judging and attended one of the award ceremonies. Diana reports: *"The history teacher who received the We the People Challenge award, with her students who work on the school newspaper ...did an article on the [We the People] field trip. It was the 8th grade graduation ceremony at Cesar Chavez Prep Charter School so we presented [the award] during the ceremony.... the Chavez Schools are model charter schools in DC. These 8th grade students will be attending Capitol Hill High School or staying at this school which is expanding into the high school grades. Capitol Hill High School is ranked nationally and all the students are expected to pursue college. I was very impressed! Let's hear it for the team!"*



## community grant recipients

### Bringing Science within Reach for Brooklyn, NY Families



The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation awarded a Community Grant to Kiddie Science, a Brooklyn-based non-profit organization aimed at presenting science to young children. The grant will help fund the organization's Family Science program to ensure the program is free of charge for all participants.

Carmen Castillo-Barrett, Kiddie Science Executive Director and Science Teacher, said, "The goal of the Family Science program is to engage families in exploring science together. By bringing parents and caregivers in as participants alongside their children, we hope to not only reach the young scientists, but to engage and empower their grown-ups to actively support their children's learning process. Thanks to the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation grant, we can continue to offer this program at no cost to families in Brooklyn."



### Supporting Arts Education in the Bronx, NY

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation awarded a Community Grant to the Bronx Charter School for Better Learning to help purchase art supplies for a fifth-grade arts program.

According to Adam Silver, Bronx Charter School for Better Learning Art Teacher and grant applicant, "The program will introduce students to the Impressionism art movement. Students will select an Impressionist artist to research and will write an analysis of one of that artist's works of art. Students will learn about the Impressionist painters' use of color and how it connected to early 19th Century scientific theories about color. They will explore combinations of primary and secondary colors, experiment with creating secondary and tertiary colors, and create a landscape painting using complementary colors."

### New Books for Lunchtime Reading Program in Hartford, CT



The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation awarded a Community Grant to "Read To A Child" in Hartford, Connecticut. Specifically, the grant will help purchase new books for the lunchtime reading program. Read To A Child will recognize the Foundation's support with a bookplate in the front of each new book.

Sophie Webb, Read To A Child School Coordinator and grant applicant, commented, "We are excited to improve our library in support of the Lunchtime Reading Program. The funding for new books will provide new learning opportunities for the children in the lunchtime reading program. It will also help them progress to grade-level reading and beyond. We are grateful for the support of the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation."



### Helping to Seed Indoor Garden Program

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation awarded a Community Grant to Children's Friend in Providence, RI to support an indoor garden station at the Friendship Center. Specifically, the grant will help purchase indoor greenhouses for each classroom, along with books, pots, seeds, tools and soil.

Jessica Iiams, Children's Friend Head Start teacher and grant applicant, said, "One of the most significant differences between the education of rural and urban children is the lack of experience with nature for those living in the inner city. Many educators believe that making connections to the natural world is important to the education and well-being of children, which is why we think it is important to create this garden station. Thanks to the Foundation's support, our teachers will be able to create year-long growing projects in which all domains of learning would occur."

### Helping to Launch a Bilingual Soccer Program for Brooklyn, NY Students

The Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation awarded a Community Grant to Brooklyn Arbor Elementary School to support a 10-week bilingual soccer program for children in South Williamsburg, Brooklyn, NY.

According to Emily Pryor, Brooklyn Arbor Elementary School teacher and grant applicant, commented, "In our area, there is a shortage of enrichment and recreational programs for children. We will launch a 10-week bilingual soccer program, that will look to provide a safe and rich environment for children in 1st- and 2nd-grade bilingual classrooms, using soccer as a vehicle for much needed play, character development, and bilingual support Spanish/English. The goal is to extend this program into a year-long recreational bilingual soccer enrichment organization supporting children from immigrant families who are struggling with poverty and socio-cultural isolation."





**Relationship Grantee Highlight: Mousetrap:** Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Relationship Grantee, Mousetrap coordinated a StageXchange drama project at the North London YMCA, working with homeless young people. Photos show project participants performing original spoken word and musical material to residents and local community figures at the YMCA. Thank you to Mousetrap’s Amber Melvin and Gayle Bryans for submitting these photos!

## Calling All Grant Recipients! Send Us Your Photos!

There’s nothing better than seeing how our Relationship Grants and Community Grants are helping educators and nonprofit organizations improve inner-city education and create positive social change. We want to celebrate and share your successes. Send us your digital photos highlighting how a Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation grant has been put into action by your organization. Your photo may appear in our upcoming newsletter, 2016 calendar or other Center report.

To participate, send your digital photo (with proper photo credit and a brief caption) to Kellie Cahill at [KeCahill@brownrudnick.com](mailto:KeCahill@brownrudnick.com).

(By submitting your photo you agree that you are responsible for ensuring that you have the right to submit the photos, including authorization for the photos use from anyone appearing in the photo.)



### Brown Rudnick Donates Over \$36,000 to GlobalGiving’s Nepal Earthquake Disaster Relief Fund

Brown Rudnick made a \$36,210 donation through the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest to GlobalGiving’s Nepal Earthquake Disaster Relief Fund in support of emergency disaster relief efforts in the aftermath of last month’s Nepal earthquake. The donation came together as a result of a Firm-wide effort in which \$25,000 was donated directly by the law firm. The remainder was raised through individual contributions from Firm partners and staff. Participants from all the Firm’s offices – Boston, Hartford, London, New York, Orange County, Providence and Washington, DC – took part in this initiative. Brown Rudnick’s CEO, Joseph F. Ryan said of the Firm’s contribution, “I am very proud that together we have reached out to Nepalese victims stricken by the recent earthquake and its effects, so that families will be sheltered, children will be fed and lives will be saved.”

### Brown Rudnick Has a Heart

Brown Rudnick Associate Tia Wallach reports:



Recently, a group of 11 Brown Rudnick folks, including all of our Boston Summer Associates, ran in the *8th Annual Lawyers Have Heart 5k Road Race*. The event surpassed last year’s fundraising total, raising over \$300,000 to support the **American Heart Association** and its mission to fight cardiovascular diseases and stroke. In total, about 1,400 people participated in the event. The Brown Rudnick team finished strong and continued to build on our impressive running credentials. Some of the highlights from the race include: Brown Rudnick placed 17th out of 92 registered teams in a tight team competition, while fielding a smaller team than last year. Our top five finishers each ran under 7 minute miles with Dan Palmer taking the top honors for the team (20:12), followed closely by Dan Riley (20:22), Tia Wallach (20:31), Mark O’Leary (running for Andy Strehle at 21:01) and Keith Schultz (21:03). Steve Pohl, Will Cushing and Samantha Miller added to our impressive finish, each running at under a 7:30 minute mile. We hope to build on this success next year, but have our eyes on the next prize - the Thompson Island 4k Trail Run in September!



## A Summer Tradition

In June, as part of the Center for the Public Interest's Summer Associate Program, Boston Summer Associates and Center Coordinator Kellie Cahill volunteered at Rosie's Place to help serve and prepare lunch to over 110 women and children (pictured left). Rosie's, a long-time Firm pro bono client, offers emergency and long-term assistance to Boston's homeless women. Rosie's accepts no government funds, and relies instead on committed volunteers and private supporters to accomplish its effective and innovative work.

## Summer Associate Program

Each summer, the Center works with the Firm's Summer Committee, to provide a menu of activities which expose the Summer Associates to pro bono legal work, charitable giving and community service activities. These include such things as:

- Legal research and writing as part of the Anti-Defamation Leagues' Summer Associate Research Project. ADL Director Seth Marnin visited the Brown Rudnick New York office to discuss the impact the research program has on the ADL. Summer Associates from the NY, Boston, DC and Orange County offices participated.
- Representation of unemployed individuals contesting the denial of unemployment benefits.
- Volunteering to feed homeless women at Rosie's Place Shelter; to do service work on Thompson Island in Boston; and to judge debate contests at the free summer debate camps run by Foundation grantee New York Urban Debate League.



## Summer Associates Volunteer with the New York Urban Debate League

Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest coordinated an event with Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Relationship Grantee the *New York Urban Debate League* during which New York Summer Associates and Center Executive Director Al Wallis, volunteered to judge debate tournaments held during the Harlem Debate Institute at Teacher's College (students pictured debating above). The Relationship Grant supports the New York Urban Debate League's free summer debate camp for New York City public school students.



## Summer Associates in Support of Legal Services

Summer Associates in the New York, Boston, Orange County and Washington, D.C. offices participated in the annual SAILS lunch in which Summer Associates meet to discuss funding for legal services over a "brown bag" lunch and the Firm donates what it would have spent on the lunch to a Legal Aid or Public Interest Organization chosen by the Summer Associates. This year, the donations were directed to the Political Asylum Immigration Representation Project in Boston, the Legal Aid Society of Orange County, the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless in Washington, DC and the Civil Legal Aid and Resource Office in New York City.



### **Brown Rudnick Gives Back on Thompson Island**

The Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest led what has become an annual summer event; the Thompson Island/Outward Bound Brown Rudnick Corporate Volunteer Day. Thompson Island receives a Relationship Grant from the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation to support the *Connections Program*. *Connections* allows thousands of Boston's students to visit Thompson Island and to participate in academic achievement and character building programming. Our team this year volunteered to help paint a Thompson Island utilities building and provide island maintenance. Brown Rudnick participants included: the Boston Summer Associates, Partners Gordon Penman and Sunni Beville, Associates Dan Palmer and Samantha Miller, Associate Development and Training Manager Lauren Addesa, Accounting Clerk James Wangia, Client Services Coordinator Brendan Reaney, Graphic Design Specialist Cristina Staltare, Legal Executive Assistant Adam Ulchak, Center Executive Director Al Wallis, Center Coordinator Kellie Cahill, and Boston Summer Clerks Amber Garcia and Thomas Vu (pictured above).

### **Relationship Grantee Connections: College Bound Dorchester**

Boston Summer Associates, Center Executive Director Al Wallis, and Center Coordinator Kellie Cahill, visited with Relationship Grantee College Bound Dorchester at their Maritime Apprenticeship Workshop (formerly the Hull Lifesaving Museum). This organization takes cases from the Massachusetts Department of Youth Services, enrolling the individuals in a Boston Maritime Apprenticeship Program (MAP)(supported by our grant) where they receive a stipend, learn wood working and boat building skills, and enroll in a GED or degree granting program.



### **Accepting Applications for Community Grants**

Each month the Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation accepts applications for educational grants to support inner-city educators through its *Community Grant Program*. Created to support front-line educators who often do not have a voice in funding decisions, the *Community Grants* subsidize small, concrete projects, which will improve inner-city education within Boston, Hartford, London, Providence, New York, Washington, DC, or Orange County, California within the coming year. The grant applications and an explanation of the program can be found at <http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com/foundation/community-grant>.



**Pro Bono Accolades in London**

Brown Rudnick Charitable Foundation Board Directors, Christian Toms and Omega Poole, presented accolades to Peter Wozny and Emma-Jane Price in the Brown Rudnick London office in recognition of their admirable initiative, leadership, and diligence in the Center's efforts in establishing meaningful relationships with the Foundation's London Relationship Grantees, LIFEbeat and Mousetrap (pictured L to R Christian Toms, Peter Wozny, Emma Jane Price and Omega Poole).

**Challenging Due Process Denial in Awarding Child Custody without Providing a Hearing for Both Parents**

Brown Rudnick is representing the Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project in filing an Amicus Brief with the New York State Appeals Court. In the underlying case, the court awarded custody of a couple's child to the father without providing a hearing in which the mother could make her case for custody being awarded to her. The appeal will address issues related to the appropriate due process requirements in child custody cases. Partner Sig Wisner-Gross leads this effort.

**BBA Thurgood Marshal Award**

At its annual Law Day Dinner in May, the Boston Bar Association presented its Thurgood Marshall Award to Center Executive Director Al Wallis (pictured left) for his extraordinary leadership in the public interest and corporate social responsibility communities, and especially, for his work directing the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest.



Photo taken by Gabrielle Guarracino of the BBA.

**THE AMERICAN LAWYER**

Brown Rudnick ranked 26 in AmLaw's "International Pro Bono" survey (which ranks firms based on the pro bono work performed by their non-U.S. lawyers). There were 55 firms in the survey.



**Legal Services New York Pro Bono Leadership Award**

Legal Services New York honored Brown Rudnick with its Pro Bono Leadership Award for being one of the organization's top 25 pro bono partners over the past year. The award was presented on June 4 at Legal Services New York's 2015 Jazz for Justice event held at Gotham Hall in New York City. The event was attended by Brown Rudnick New York attorneys May Orenstein, Howard Steel, Aaron Lauchheimer, and Center Executive Director, Al Wallis.

*"We are delighted to inform you that at Legal Services NYC's Jazz for Justice event, Brown Rudnick will receive our Pro Bono Leadership Award for being one of LSNYC's top 25 pro bono partners over the past year. We are very grateful to you for all that you have helped us to achieve on behalf of the neediest New Yorkers. Pro bono support enables LSNYC to leverage our limited resources, and ultimately results in tangible, meaningful relief for our clients: food, shelter, safety, and subsistence income. We are particularly grateful to Brown Rudnick for your work over the years on unemployment insurance cases with our Manhattan office, and for your participation in our Bankruptcy Assistance Project."*  
- Raun Rasmussen, NYLS Executive Director & Adam Heintz, NYLS Director of Pro Bono Services

**Jessica Lu Selected for PILP by Boston Bar Association**

Jessica Lu, nominated by Brown Rudnick, was selected by the Boston Bar Association as one of 16 attorneys forming the 2015-6 class of the Public Interest Leadership Program (PILP). PILP promotes civic engagement and public service by advancing the leadership role of lawyers in service to their community, their profession and the Commonwealth.



This selective and competitive program attracts a diverse group of talented, motivated attorneys who will collectively connect with prominent community leaders at meetings and events, learn about the challenges confronting local organizations and take part in efforts to address specific community needs. Jessica's participation in PILP will be a benefit to Brown Rudnick and to the legal community for years to come.



## Diana.

*For most of us working in Brown Rudnick's Boston office, Firm co-director of Research Services & Libraries Diana Pierce has always been present, a key element in the fabric of the Firm. Smart, spirited, inclusive, warm, kind and passionate, she flipped the stodgy, reserved, tired stereotype image of "the librarian" cartwheeling on its head. She embodied and emboldened a treasured character of the Firm. Her nature created a library environment that was helpful, affirming -- not only a solid resource for legal research but also a humane refuge where one could find a welcoming smile and a helpful hand.*



*She was a great supporter of the Center as well, using the library to host the much anticipated annual "Making Strides" bake sale (featuring my favorite - her homemade biscotti's) to raise money for cancer research, or as a location to drop off a children's book for donation to "Reach Out and Read". In fact, in celebration of her community and philanthropic work, she and co-library Director Kathleen Gerwatowski were the 2009 recipients of one of Brown Rudnick's highest honors, the Center's M. Robert Dushman Community Service Award.*

*We lost Diana to cancer a couple of months ago. She came into work pretty much right up to the end, her spirit unbroken and still gracing us with her smile bright. I will still receive the warmth of that smile as a gift with every frequent thought of her. I think most of us in Boston will.*

*- Al Wallis  
 Center for the Public Interest  
 Executive Director*

Please contact Al Wallis or Kellie Cahill to discuss any matters regarding the Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest. Thanks especially to Lisa Murray, Kellie Cahill, and Kate Souza for their assistance with this newsletter. And finally, apologies for any errors or unintentional omissions, which may from time-to-time occur in the Center Quarterly - maybe even this one. - Al Wallis