

Arlington nonprofit The Children's Room awarded \$300,000

The Children's Room is one of the local nonprofits sharing in Cummings Foundation's \$25 million grant program in 2019.

The Arlington-based organization has been awarded a \$300,000 Sustaining Grant, to be disbursed over 10 years.

Executive Director Liz Cohen and Philanthropy Director Kim Cayer represented the nonprofit at the May 2 awards night at TradeCenter 128 in Woburn.

The Children's Room is an independent nonprofit child bereavement center in the state of Massachusetts, creating safe, supportive communities so that no child, teen or family has to grieve alone. The group's free of charge direct grief support services are for families with children ages 3 1/2 to 18 who have experienced the death of a parent or sibling: peer-based support groups offered at the group's Arlington center and in schools and community centers; programs exclusively for teens; Parenting While Grieving, an educational series for grieving parents and caregivers; monthly arts-based Family Nights; and private consultations.

Cohen shares: "We are beyond thrilled to be awarded a Sustaining Grant. Not only does it allow us to plan for the future, but it also reenforces our position as an important part of the nonprofit community. This gift will help us reach more of 77,000 grieving children in Massachusetts."

The Children's Room plans to use this funding to maintain, expand and develop programs offered free of charge to children and teens and their caregivers grieving the death of a parent or sibling.

The Sustaining Grants initiative builds on Cummings Foundation's \$100K for 100 program. First offered in 2012, \$100K for 100 annually awards \$10 million through multi-year grants of \$100,000 each to 100 nonprofits that are based in and primarily serve Essex, Middlesex and Suffolk counties. Grant recipients that received their final grant disbursements in 2018 were automatically considered for \$15 million in Sustaining Grants.

“We introduced Sustaining Grants to help alleviate the constant burden of fundraising so nonprofit professionals can spend more of their limited time and resources on actually providing services,” said Christina Berthelsen, grants manager at Cummings Foundation.

Cummings Foundation has awarded nearly \$250 million to date in Greater Boston alone. Funds are generated through commercial properties that are owned by, and operated for the sole benefit of, Cummings Foundation. All of its buildings are managed pro bono by Woburn commercial real estate firm Cummings Properties.

Sustaining Grants winners were selected primarily by a 33-member volunteer committee, which included former state legislators, CEOs of local companies, and a retired justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, among many others. Committee members met with each other nonprofit twice to learn how the \$100K for 100 funds helped to advance its mission, and how it might put a 10-year grant to use.

