

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Wildflower awarded \$350,000 Cummings grant**

*Lexington nonprofit receives 10 years of funding from Cummings Foundation*

Lexington, June 1, 2022 – Wildflower, Inc. was selected from a total of 580 applicants during a competitive review process to receive a \$350,000 grant from the Cummings Foundation. The Lexington-based organization is one of 140 local nonprofits to receive a Cummings grant.



Wildflower is dedicated to serving children and families who have experienced the death of a parent. We provide the gifts of camp, enriching experiences, and consistent, long-term support to help families strengthen their resilience and create positive opportunities for the future.

Wildflower will use this sustaining grant in direct support of our bereaved children and families, with particular emphasis on providing our core programs of camp and year-round support. "This vote of confidence by the Cummings Foundation makes it possible for Wildflower to increase the number of children and families we serve. It is transformational for every part of our organization," says Audrey Loria, Executive Director.

The Cummings Foundation's \$25 Million Grant Program supports Massachusetts nonprofits that are based in and primarily serve Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties.

Through this place-based initiative, Cummings Foundation aims to give back in the areas where it owns commercial property. Its buildings are all managed, at no cost to the Foundation, by its affiliate, Cummings Properties. This Woburn-based commercial real estate firm leases and manages 11 million square feet of debt-free space, the majority of which exclusively benefits the Foundation.

“We are so fortunate in greater Boston to have such effective nonprofits, plus a wealth of talented, dedicated professionals and volunteers to run them,” said Cummings Foundation executive director Joyce Vyriotes. “We are indebted to them for the work they do each day to provide for basic needs, break down barriers to education and health resources, and work toward a more equitable society.”

With the help of about 90 volunteers, the Foundation first identified 140 organizations to receive grants of at least \$100,000 each. Among the winners were first-time recipients as well as nonprofits that had previously received Cummings Foundation grants. Forty of this latter group of repeat recipients were then selected to have their grants elevated to 10-year awards ranging from \$200,000 to \$500,000 each.

“Our volunteers bring diverse backgrounds and perspectives, which is so critical to our grant selection process,” said Vyriotes. “Through this democratized approach to philanthropy, they decide more than half the grants every year.”

This year’s grant recipients represent a wide variety of causes, including food insecurity, immigrant and refugee services, social justice, education, and mental health services. The nonprofits are spread across 45 different cities and towns.

The complete list of 140 grant winners, plus more than 900 previous recipients, is available at [www.CummingsFoundation.org](http://www.CummingsFoundation.org).

Cummings Foundation has now awarded more than \$375 million to greater Boston nonprofits.

#### **About Wildflower**

Wildflower, Inc. was founded in 2004 and provided camp scholarships for five children the following year. This year, Wildflower is supporting 105 children with summer camp opportunities, year-round support from a team of dedicated volunteers, college transition support, as well as other needed services. To date, Wildflower and its partners have provided over \$2.8 million in tuition relief to our community of bereaved families. To learn more about our work, please visit our website: [www.wildflowerforkids.org](http://www.wildflowerforkids.org).

#### **About Cummings Foundation**

Woburn-based Cummings Foundation, Inc. was established in 1986 by Joyce and Bill Cummings and has grown to be one of the largest private foundations in New England. The Foundation directly operates its own charitable subsidiaries, including New Horizons retirement communities, in Marlborough and Woburn, and Cummings Health Sciences, LLC. Additional information is available at [www.CummingsFoundation.org](http://www.CummingsFoundation.org).

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