

# FraminghamTAB

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## Charitable Foundation Announces Grants

Special to Tab

The Middlesex Savings Charitable Foundation recently completed its eleventh year of community-based philanthropy with a second round of nine grants totaling \$109,300.



Executive Director Christine Tibor (left) and teacher Claudia Calderon (center) thank Middlesex Savings Charitable Foundation President Dana Neshe for the foundation's \$5,000 grant that will support a two-semester English class for 19 students.

Representatives of 20 organizations that received funding from the foundation in 2011 attended a reception at Morse Institute Library in Natick, where Middlesex Savings Bank CEO John Heerwagen and Charitable Foundation President Dana Neshe thanked them for their work in improving the lives of individuals and families of MetroWest.

Jewish Family Service of Metrowest and the Metrowest YMCA, both based in Framingham, received grants of \$15,000. Framingham Adult ESL Plus was awarded \$5,000.

Over the course of 2011, the foundation made 60 grants totaling \$233,300. The foundation also addressed the persistent need for basic necessities with an additional \$29,000 in direct contributions to local food pantries, and

made scholarships totaling \$36,000 to 32 college-bound students. Since its establishment in June of 2000, the foundation has contributed over \$2 million to 145 non-profit organizations that deliver a variety of community services.

Neshe, who also serves as executive vice president of Middlesex Savings Bank, remarked that bringing the leaders of local charitable institutions together has frequently resulted in new connections and the exchange of ideas that led to improved services and creative initiatives. She also pointed out that the foundation's mission went beyond the disbursement of money to devising additional ways to make philanthropic investments. One such example in 2011 was "Building a Board that Works," a series of training sessions held in five communities that helped to strengthen local charitable agencies and enabled them to be more efficient and effective.

Heerwagen emphasized the long-standing commitment by Middlesex Savings Bank to the work of the foundation and to support local businesses and community organizations. He announced that the bank would contribute \$1 million to the foundation's endowment, the largest single such gift since 2002.

The following were Middlesex Savings Charitable Foundation Grant Recipients, November 2011:

- Employment Options, Inc., Marlborough - \$10,000 for Furnishing Options program, which provides furniture and household goods to those making the transition to stable housing.
- Framingham Adult ESL Plus - \$5,000 to support provision of a two-semester, intermediate English class for 19 students.
- Hockomock YMCA; Franklin, Foxboro, Mansfield, and North Attleboro - \$15,000 to support the Y's Healthy Futures Lunch and Learns, a series of seminars to help individuals and families make better nutritional choices.
- Household Goods Recycling of Massachusetts, Acton - \$15,000 for operating support of HGRM's collection and distribution of gently used household goods to individuals and families in need.

- Jewish Family Services of Metrowest, Framingham - \$15,000 for the "Reducing Achievement Gaps" program, comprising hunger relief and academic support, at the Woodrow Wilson School in Framingham.
- Medway Community Farm, Inc., Medway - \$9,800 for the summer 2012 Farmer's Apprentice Program that will instruct interns in the operation of an organic farm and will assist in development of additional programming.
- Metrowest YMCA, Framingham and Hopkinton - \$15,000 to support the High Flight Program, which provides leadership, counseling, and support services to youths aged 12-17.
- Minuteman Senior Services, Burlington - \$15,000 to support the Meals-on-Wheels program for low-income senior citizens
- Open Table, Maynard - \$9,500 for purchase of increased amounts of fresh food in support of Open Table's mission of addressing hunger and social isolation in the community.