

JF&CS Receives \$10,000 Grant for Enriching Early Childhood Development

Grant provided by Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation will support the professional development and training of child care center staff in Greater Boston

Waltham, October, 2019 – Jewish Family & Children’s Service (JF&CS), a nonprofit that cares for individuals and families by providing exceptional human services, guided by Jewish traditions of social responsibility, compassion, and respect for all members of the community, announced today that it has received a \$10,000 Grant for Good from **Eastern Bank**, America’s oldest and largest mutual bank. The grant is part of a \$1 million commitment Eastern has made to local nonprofit organizations strengthening options for children and families across Eastern’s New England footprint. The grant will provide professional development and training to child care center staff that serve low-income families in Greater Boston. Using the evidence-based *Circle of Security model*, JF&CS will staff childcare centers who are serving vulnerable, low-income families and build on their partnerships with Horizons for Homeless Children, the Dimock Center, and Epiphany Early Learning Center. This grant will better equip staff to serve children and provide follow-up consultations to each site in order to effectively implement techniques and discuss challenges.

“Through our work with childcare centers, we have identified the need to strengthen educators’ capacity to support the social-emotional development of children in their care. We are excited to establish additional partnerships to expand our reach to vulnerable families with young children,” shared Carl Zack, JF&CS Interim CEO.

Persistent gaps in the quality of and access to early childhood development programs, as well as in parent engagement, are known to cause disparities in opportunities to succeed throughout life. Without engaging, safe, and stable environments during the first three years of life, children are likely to enter school already behind. Students who cannot read at grade level by third grade are four times more likely to drop out of school before high school graduation. And lacking a high school diploma significantly impacts future employment and earnings opportunities. Eastern is awarding grants to organizations focused on strengthening socioemotional and cognitive skills development among children in the communities it serves. Grants are intended to ensure children and their families have more equitable access to the resources needed early in life for healthy development, while funding a sector that receives a staggeringly small proportion of all philanthropy.

“Providing every child with an equal opportunity for a bright future is a basic right,” said Bob Rivers, Chair and CEO of Eastern Bank. “By supporting organizations that assist parents and caregivers and prepare children to be ready to learn and succeed, we are helping to create the foundation children need to thrive. On behalf of everyone at Eastern, we congratulate the grant recipients and thank them for their dedication to the children in our communities.”

As part of Eastern’s \$1 million commitment to support enriching early childhood development, JF&CS is among 50 organizations that provide leading early childhood development programs across Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island and are each receiving a \$10,000 Grant for Good. These grants are focused on providing support in four critical areas: achieving early learning quality standards, strengthening parent engagement, supporting professional development for educators, and upgrading early learning facilities and supplies.

About Eastern Bank

Founded in 1818, Boston-based Eastern Bank is America's oldest and largest mutual bank, with over \$11 billion in assets and more than 115 locations serving communities in eastern Massachusetts, southern and coastal New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. Eastern provides exceptional access to fairly priced banking, investment and insurance products and services for consumers and businesses of all sizes. Eastern Bank, which includes Eastern Wealth Management and Eastern Insurance, is known for its outspoken advocacy and community support that has exceeded more than \$140 million in charitable giving since 1999. An inclusive company, Eastern employs 1,900+ deeply committed professionals who value relationships with their customers, colleagues, and communities. Join us for good at www.easternbank.com and follow Eastern on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

About JF&CS

For more than 150 years, Jewish Family & Children's Service has been helping individuals and families build a strong foundation for resilience and well-being across the lifespan. Through an integrated portfolio of more than 40 programs reaching communities throughout Eastern and Central Massachusetts, JF&CS focuses on meeting the needs of new parents and their children, older adults and family caregivers, children and adults with disabilities, and people experiencing poverty, hunger, or domestic abuse.

The JF&CS Center for Early Relationship Support[®] empowers parents to develop healthy, responsive relationships with their babies – the essential foundation for lifelong resilience and wellbeing.

Media Contact

Mali Reimer
Senior Director of Marketing and Communications
Jewish Family & Children's Service
781-647-5327
mreimer@jfcsboston.org

###