

Anne E. Borghesani Community Foundation www.inannesspirit.org

Annual Newsletter

Volume 18 January 2021

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Robert D. Putnam, Ph.D. Research Professor, Harvard Kennedy School Dear Friends,

So many thoughts and feelings swirl as we write this letter. As with Anne's death, CoVid has changed our world. There was our life before Anne's death and there is the life we have continued. Today everyone recognizes a familiar feeling of grief for the world we have lost, for those who have died alone, for moments not shared with loved ones. We empathize with parents trying to work at home amidst the needs of young children, those who live alone and feel the isolation acutely, and especially for the jobless facing eviction and food insecurity. Our country has been shaken with political strife and conflict and the democratic process has been challenged.

March of 2020, the start of the CoVid pandemic, marked the 30th anniversary of Anne's death and the 20th year since establishment of the Anne E. Borghesani Community

Foundation. Our mission has been to strive in Anne's name to help build a better community and prevent violence. We shall never understand why Anne's attacker, a stranger, sought her out on that fateful Saturday evening. We do know there are countless unmet needs in America today and too many people for whom this is not the proverbial land of opportunity. With this Foundation we have attempted to address, in a humble way, some of those needs. In this newsletter you will see what we, and you, our supporters, have been able to accomplish, even during the pandemic.



Story Teller at Franklin Summer Program on Zoom

We also are making a change in the structure of Anne's Foundation. During a recent Board retreat we faced the hard reality that maintaining the Foundation's independent, volunteer managed status into the future was not possible. The CoVid threat has reinforced the fact that we are aging and vulnerable and the decision was made to find a permanent home for the Foundation. As of early 2021, the funds in the Anne E. Borghesani Community Foundation will be transferred to a donor advised fund at the Foundation for MetroWest (foundationmw.org). Our mission remains the same; an Advisory Group comprised of Anne's family and friends will continue to review and give grants. Detailed information about this transfer and what it means for future donations is discussed in the newsletter.

Meanwhile, your contributions continue to promote the development of healthy children and families, prevent violence, and bring hope to others. These programs are a bright and optimistic spot in our distressing world. This newsletter is our only form of fund-raising. Your loyal support enables us to continue our work In Anne's Spirit.

On behalf of the Board, we thank you and hope for peace and health in 2021,

Roger and Betty Borghesani



We have frequently read the words of Ecclesiastes 3 on the faded card posted on our refrigerator for thirty years, as we've integrated Anne's violent death into our continuing family life. During the pandemic, they again seem especially meaningful. For Anne, her season was cut far too short and we will never find any purpose for that. We have laughed and shed tears, sometimes in the same breath. We have sought to preserve her memory and social spirit, by building and creating good for others.

Anne's Scholarships are well-established both at Tufts and Lexington High School, have carried on Anne's spirit and benefited many talented young people. Recognizing that the recipients of those prizes already have a step-up in life, we were motivated to create this Foundation in 2000.

This Foundation is Anne's Spirit, her indomitable spirit, still alive in our hearts. Anne lived only 23 years. She was a typical young woman - idealistic, curious, loved to travel and to learn about other cultures. She could always find humor in difficult situations and lived with hope and optimism. Anne talked of becoming a lawyer and hoped to improve social justice. She always had time to listen and enjoyed being together with family and friends. Most of all, Anne brought people together and built community.

From the despair of Anne's tragedy, we, along with you, formed this Foundation, with the goal of bringing hope to others and helping to prevent violence. *In Anne's Spirit* has

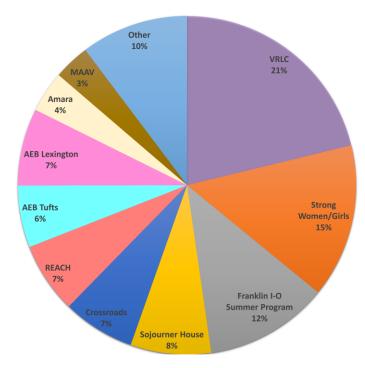
become a community success, created and supported by you, Anne's family, her many friends from Lexington and classmates from Tufts, and our friends, some of whom never knew Anne.

Because of you her spirit has lived on in the work of the Foundation, for 30 years after her death. Anne would be so pleased, and honored, by what you have helped to accomplish. In Anne's name, we thank you for your incredible loyalty and support during these years.

History of Foundation

Upon the establishment of the Foundation we, as a Board, made the deliberate decision that your contributions would be applied directly as grants to programs meeting our mission goals. Because of your consistency and generosity, we have been able to give directed support to multiple programs where our funding has made a critical impact. Two of the programs, Strong Women Strong Girls and Victim Rights Law Center, were newly founded when we began our support.

Foundation Lifetime Distributions



Since 2000, we have received more than \$550,000 in donations and distributed more than \$500,000 to programs where our support has made a difference, reflected in the pie chart above. We have not worked to build an endowed fund and this is reflected in our current balance of approximately \$70,000. Expenses have been minimal, Roger and Betty and the Board have contributed time to writing and mailing of newsletters, selection of grantees, financial accounting and reporting, and building relationships with programs we have supported.

Transition of Funds to MetroWest

Recognizing that maintaining the Foundation as an independent entity into the future was not realistic, we explored other alternatives. After careful consideration, the Board made the decision to establish a donor advised fund under the umbrella of the Foundation for MetroWest (foundationmw.org), a well- respected nonprofit that works to address critical community needs. Our 501(c)3 nonprofit will be dissolved and the balance of the Anne E. Borghesani Community Foundation funds will be transferred to this donor advised fund in early 2021.

The Foundation for Metrowest will manage the fund and maintain tax filings. An Advisory Group, comprised of some present Board members, including our grandchild Andrew, will continue to review grant applications and make recommendations for dispersal through the Anne E. Borghesani Community Fund at Metrowest. Our commitment to making selected grants will continue. If in the future there is no active input from the Advisory Group, Metrowest will make dispersals to appropriate programs which meet the criteria for building community and reducing violence.

You are invited to continue to support our efforts to build community and prevent violence with donations to the Anne E. Borghesani Community Fund at the Foundation for MetroWest. Donors can make tax deductible contributions directly to Anne's fund by check or through the Foundation for MetroWest web site. All donors will be acknowledged by us. We will continue to let our donors know of grants made through our newsletter.

The Anne E. Borghesani Foundation has partnered with selected programs where our support can make a difference. Board members work closely with program directors to assure that our goals are met.

Since our last newsletter, the Foundation has continued to support programs that work to build community and reduce violence. With the transition of our funds to The Foundation for Metrowest our mission to reduce the incidence and effects of violence by promoting development of healthy children and families remains the same.

Communities for Restorative Justice

Communities for Restorative Justice (C4RJ), founded in 2000, provides an alternative to the traditional justice system for first offenders. There are countless negative consequences of a young offender serving time in detention. The goal of the restorative justice process to increase accountability in the offender and encourage restitution for their offense can lead to healing for both offender and victim. It has also been shown to reduce recidivism.

C4RJ is also involved in Criminal Justice Reform legislation. Based on her work, Erin Freeborn, Executive Director, was recently appointed by Governor Baker to one of six seats on the recently established Restorative Justice Advisory Committee.

C4RJ, originally focused on Middlesex County, has actively worked to increase services to more socio-economically, racially, and ethnically diverse towns such as Winthrop and Chelsea. They have recently begun to work with the Suffolk County DA's office to expand opportunities for social justice, especially to low-income, at-risk youth.

In May 2019, we made a second grant of \$5000 to Communities for Restorative Justice to support their continued expansion of services in Suffolk County. This will include training of volunteers, outreach to institutions and community groups, and delivery of services in Suffolk County.

For more information see www.c4rj.org

Food for Free



Food for Free provided staff and volunteer support to help Cambridge Public Schools distribute meals to families every week following the schools closing in March 2020.

We have supported Food for Free's innovative food distribution programs targeted to alleviate hunger in Cambridge school children for five years. Our last grant in 2018 was directed to expanding the school-based community markets to a fifth school in 2019.

This year we quickly responded to Executive Director Sasha Purpura's urgent call for support to the Food for Free program in Cambridge. With the abrupt shut-down of the public schools and many food pantries, residents were experiencing the same food scarcity felt across the country, especially among school children and economically challenged populations.

In the Food for Free Annual Report, Ms. Purpura writes of their accomplishments:

People in Cambridge, Somerville, Chelsea, East Boston, Revere, Waltham, and many other municipalities were able to access fresh, healthy food, even as hunger was increasing, thanks to you. Thousands upon thousands of 25 pound boxes of fresh, regional produce was distributed to families struggling throughout Greater Boston. In March through June alone, we distributed 1.7 million pounds of food. That's compared with .7 million during those same three months in 2019!

These are extraordinary times and as we work to contain the spread of CoVid-19, we must not forget the needs of those most impacted by school closures and quarantines. *In Anne's Spirit* sent a donation of \$2500 in March 2020, to help support food programs for the children and families of the Cambridge and Somerville communities.

For more information see www.foodforfree.org

Strong Women Strong Girls

In Anne's Spirit has supported Strong Women Strong Girls (SWSG) since its founding in 2001as an after-school program provided by Harvard College women students who act as mentors for 3rd through 5th grade inner-city girls. The mentors endeavor to increase the self-esteem of the girls through studies of contemporary and historical female role models while working on building social and educational skills. During these years, the program has grown to include college women from 6 Boston universities who provide programming to more than 500 girls in under-resourced Boston neighborhoods, as well as a thriving Pittsburgh chapter.



Jump students & college mentors

Recently SWSG instituted the Junior Mentor Program (JUMP) to extend support and leadership skill-building tools to selected girls as they transition into middle school. These girls, who function as a near-peer mentor attend workshops together and assist the college mentors in creating lesson plans and leading group meetings.

At a pre-CoVid JUMP mentor training hosted by Boston College mentors, Betty joined their pizza supper and discussion about famine, food shortages, and the relationship between uneven food distribution and poverty in preparation for a planned Oxfam hunger banquet.

Our grant of \$7000 in 2019 was directed to supporting the continued delivery, improvement, and growth of the JUMP program.

For more information see www.swsg.org

Crossroads

In Anne's Spirit continued its dynamic partnership with Crossroads in 2019 by providing a \$5000 grant to support a Trauma Training Initiative. One of Crossroads three camps,

Camp Mitton in Brewster, MA, focuses on young people who need a more intimate and structured environment to step out of their comfort zones and engage in Crossroads social and emotional learning. Many of these campers have suffered or witnessed trauma in their young lives.



Camp Mitton prides itself on providing trauma informed programming and camp leaders needed access to professional trauma training. This year's Foundation grant ultimately

strengthened Crossroads trauma-informed culture through train-the-trainer workshops and professional development programs for senior leaders responsible for staff training, programming, and operations.

Although Camp Mitton did not open last summer due to the State's COVID-19 restrictions, the camp's leadership team participated in a number of training sessions prior to the crisis. Crossroads is confident that these trainings provided their team with tools to increase their capacity to support young people who have been exposed to violence. Crossroads looks forward to welcoming campers back to their campsites this summer. The Camp Mitton staff are eager to continue their work to ensure that deserving youth are able to lead meaningful, healthy, happy lives. The Borghesani grant supports various programming needs that might otherwise be challenging to fund.

For more information see www.crossroads4kids.org

One Can Help

"I know places to go for food, used clothing or furniture. But I don't know anyplace else that listens to what the individual needs right now and gets exactly that. Often our poorest children and families have nowhere else to turn and this assistance can make such a difference to them- and to the professionals trying to help them!"

These words written by a Juvenile Court attorney, give testament to the effectiveness of One Can Help, founded by juvenile court attorneys and social workers, which provides resources to at-risk foster children and their families across the state. At a May 2019 visit with our Board, founder and director, Anne Bader-Martin informed us these needs include laptops, transportation passes, emergency rent, camp fees.

Children and families seen in juvenile court have limited resources and many needs not met by traditional social supports. One Can Help provides emergency resource for attorneys and social workers representing these families. In Ms. Bader-Ginsburg words:

One Can Help has provided unique resources to more than 5,000 children and families since 2006. Our outcome surveys demonstrate that this targeted assistance improves lives, keeps more families together, reduces the need for foster care, decreases homelessness and helps our juvenile court and child welfare systems be more supportive, effective, and equitable for all.

A Boston University student led/faculty advised group recently analyzed OCH's 2017 data and concluded that not only does this innovative approach reduce the need for foster care, keep more families together, help families avoid homelessness, and support vulnerable children, it also likely helped save the state between 9-11 million dollars in 2017.

In the spring of 2019, the Anne. E. Borghesani Foundation granted \$5000 to support the efforts of One Can Help.

For more information see www.onecanhelp.org

Franklin I-O Summer Urban Program

First identified by long-time Board member Helen Carr in 2006, The Franklin Summer Program is a community-based day camp supported by college students from Phillips Brooks at Harvard University and serving at risk Dorchester youth. Helen and Betty met yearly during their planning session, visited the camp in action, and watched several campers grow to become junior counsellors in the program.



Camp Counsellors

In June 2019 a Borghesani grant of \$5000 was made to support Restorative Justice programming for the campers and a stipend for the senior counsellor in training. An important collaboration is with another Dorchester based camp and neighborhood rivals, the Boston Refugee Youth Enrichment program (BYRE).

This spring we were happy to learn that, recognizing the chronic 'summer slide' drop in learning experienced by so many inner-city students that was exacerbated by the effect of COVID on schooling, the directors of the Franklin program were quickly pivoting to an online experience for their campers. A highlighted component was their unit on restorative justice, especially critical given recent evidence of police brutality and social injustice.

Betty joined one of their Zoom sessions where invited guest and professional storyteller, Valerie Steven, joined the group. As a "Jamaican-American and staunch Bostonian" for many years, Ms. Stephens sang a song of welcome to a rapt audience and then told the legend of life in Africa when people could fly on their own - a symbol of freedom. During the Middle Passage they lost their ability to fly.



Ms. Stevens concluded by asking the question: "What is freedom? Is freedom real?" The answers to her questions quickly appeared via Chat at the end.

A grant of \$4350 was made in June 2020, to provide supplies and facilitate their online programming.

For more information see www.pbha.org

Anne E. Borghesani Memorial Prize Tufts University

Since the establishment in 1991 by Anne's friends, family, and co-workers, the Anne E. Borghesani Prize at Tufts has granted yearly awards to enable Tufts students to conduct independent research projects, participate in internships, or study internationally and then present their experiences at the Fall Borghesani Symposium. In November 2019, four recipients spoke at the dinner symposium hosted by Professor Kelly Greenhill, Director of the International Relations Program.



Maya Lubeck-Schricker journeyed to Mumbai where she looked at *Disparities in Access to Water in an Urban Slum Community*. Brendan Foley spent time in Nepal studying rural health education and access. Having spent a semester abroad improving her Arabic in Amman, Jordan,

Lubeck-Schricker, Foley, Goldberg Ilana Goldberg extended her stay to study *The Challenges of Syrian Refugees in Pursuing Higher Education*. Joining us by Skype, **Laura Karina Aguilar** spoke of her continuing research on child malnutrition in Antigua, Guatemala.

Goals of the Borghesani Prize are to promote personal growth while increasing understanding of diverse cultures and encouraging commitment to the world community. Recipients have explored cultures on every continent. The pandemic of 2020 has prevented travel and the IR Program explored alternative means of participating in international research and internships at the recent Borghesani Symposium held by Zoom. This would enable 2020 recipients to complete their projects, perhaps remotely.

The Anne E. Borghesani Community Foundation made a \$2000 contribution to the Borghesani Prize at Tufts this year.

For more information: http://ase.tufts.edu/ir/about/index.htm

Anne E. Borghesani Memorial Prize Lexington High School (LHS)

The Anne E. Borghesani Memorial Prize at Lexington High School (LHS) was established by Anne's classmates in 1991 to be given to a female graduate who shares in Anne's commitment to family, friends, and community. The Borghesani Prize Committee comprised of her classmates, reviews applications and selects the recipient each year.



According to Stephen Volante, current chair of the Borghesani Prize Committee, "the Prize honors Anne's memory and celebrates the achievements of a young woman graduate from LHS." Since

Potter, Volante, Benson, Michelson, O'Sullivan Jennifer Trodella received the first prize of \$500 in 1991, the Prize has awarded over \$50,000 to LHS graduates. The 2019 recipient, Anna Benson, in picture above with Committee members, was awarded \$2,500 and is a sophomore at Gettysburg College, studying social justice.

Stephen continues: 'This year the group used e-mail and a video call to select LHS 2020 graduate Marisa Boni as the thirtieth prize

winner. She will receive \$2,500 to help pay for her first year Bentley University. The prize recognizes Marisa's diligence and devotion building relationships with friends, basketball teammates, Special Olympics athletes, and classmates. Marisa's record of working to strengthen the community around her and to sustain strong friendships have made her an excellent representative of Anne Borghesani's legacy."



Zoom meeting with Marisa Boni and parents (lower left)

The Anne. E. Borghesani Prize at LHS is separate from the Borghesani Foundation and is managed by the Lexington Trustees of Public Trusts. We encourage you to help build the endowment. Donations should be made to The Anne E. Borghesani Memorial Scholarship, Trustees of Public Trusts, 1625 Massachusetts Ave., Lexington, MA 02420.

Thank You to Our Board

We give heartfelt thanks to all whom have served on our Board since its inception in 2000. We could not have done it without the imagination, dedication, knowledge, insight, and experience of you who have been at our sides during these years. Many recommendations for programs supported have come from the Board.

Some members have been with us since the start – Phil and Linda, Sheila, Paul and Gabrielle, Kristin O'Sullivan, Lisa Dobberteen, Jack and Helen Carr. Others, such as Caryl and Mike Dundorf, Margaret Counts-Klebe, Julia Potter, Bob and Eileen Merlino, were critical to our beginning and along the way. Pam Fleming, John McSorley, Betsy Linderman, Jackie Neel, Michelle Seligson, Megan Walton, and Andrew Borghesani joined more recently.

We will always remember the camaraderie of Board meetings, the inspiring evenings when directors of supported programs passionately discussed their mission, the hours writing addresses and stuffing envelopes together, site visits with various board members and Pam's cookies. We have special gratitude for the many hours Helen Carr gave to making site visits to grantees, supporting Betty in creating the newsletter and sharing her quiet wisdom. All of you have given of yourselves and helped build community with us. For your love and many hours of work, we shall always be grateful.

A special thanks to Ray Ciccolo, Jay Kaufman, and Robert Putnam who have lent their names to our Advisory Board and helped with special events.



Future of Anne's Spirit

To make contributions to the Anne. E. Borghesani Community Fund at Foundation for MetroWest

Checks should be made payable to the **Foundation for Metrowest and Anne E. Borghesani Community Fund** written on the memo line. Mail donation sto:

Foundation for MetroWest 3 Eliot Street, Natick, MA 01760

Electronic contributions can be made on the Metrowest website (www.foundationmw.org).

- Go to the Donate button.
- Under Give Online go to drop down menu under Fund and select "Other" (the last option).
- Type "Anne E. Borghesani Community Fund" in the Other Fund name. Complete rest of form.
- We will be notified of your generosity.