



***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

***May 25, 2023***

**BETHANY COMMUNITIES AWARDED CUMMINGS GRANT  
TO ESTABLISH CLUB CONNECTION MEMORY CAFÉ**

***Haverhill Non-Profit Receives 3 Years of Funding from Cummings Foundation***

**Haverhill, MA, May 25, 2023** – Bethany Community Services is one of 150 local nonprofits that will share in \$30 million through Cummings Foundation’s major annual grants program. The Haverhill-based organization was selected from a total of 630 applicants during a competitive review process. It will receive \$75,000 over three years.

A local leader in affordable senior housing, Bethany Communities is comprised of three downtown Haverhill, MA properties including Merrivista, Mission Towers and Phoenix Row apartments. With both independent and assisted living options available, nearly 400 senior residents call a Bethany community home, and enjoy the benefits of supportive services, affordable nutritious meals and transportation and a diverse range of engaging activities and events.

“At Bethany Communities our mission has always been to provide a high-quality way of life for our residents, and to meet their needs to the best of our ability,” said Jered Stewart, President and CEO of Bethany Community Services. “With support from Cummings Foundation we will now be able to provide an added supportive service, with the Club Connection Memory Café. This memory café will provide a safe and interactive environment for our residents and allow them to continue to age in community with dignity.”

The Club Connection Memory Café will offer much needed support to Bethany residents who are struggling with age-related memory problems, and an opportunity for supportive engagement activities for them and their family members or care partners. As an additional offering of Bethany Communities supportive services menu, the program will be directed by Jeanette Martinez, Director of Wellness and coordinated by Linda Maxwell, LMHC. Maxwell, who retired from her prior role with Bethany Communities as a Resident Service Coordinator in 2022, will lead the 2-hour sessions and create programming to include hands-on activities, guest speakers and memory loss friendly events and outings. There will be no cost to participate, and the program will also be open to the

public with registration required. Bethany Communities anticipates the Club Connection Memory Café to open in late summer/early fall of this year.

The Cummings \$30 Million Grant Program primarily supports Massachusetts nonprofits that are based in and 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.

“The way the local nonprofit sector perseveres, steps up, and pivots to meet the shifting needs of the community is most impressive,” said Cummings Foundation executive director Joyce Vyriotes. “We are incredibly grateful for these tireless efforts to support people in the community and to increase equity and access to opportunities.”

The Foundation and volunteers first identified 150 organizations to receive three-year grants of up to \$225,000 each. The winners included first-time recipients as well as nonprofits that had previously received Cummings grants. Twenty-five of this latter group of repeat recipients were then selected by a volunteer panel to have their grants elevated to 10-year awards ranging from \$300,000 to \$1 million each.

This year’s grant recipients represent a wide variety of causes, including housing and food insecurity, workforce development, immigrant services, social justice, education, and mental health services. The nonprofits are spread across 46 different cities and towns.

Cummings Foundation has now awarded \$480 million to greater Boston nonprofits. The complete list of this year’s 150 grant winners, plus nearly 1,500 previous recipients, is available at [www.CummingsFoundation.org](http://www.CummingsFoundation.org).

### **About Bethany Community Services**

Since 1965, Bethany Community Services has been providing quality, affordable housing and supportive services to low and moderate-income seniors including meals, wellness and mental healthcare, activities, personal assistance, and transportation, enabling those who are aging-in-place to remain independent and within the Bethany communities as long as possible. To learn more about Bethany Communities visit [www.BethanyCommunities.org](http://www.BethanyCommunities.org)

### **About Cummings Foundation**

Woburn-based Cummings Foundation, Inc. was established in 1986 by Joyce and Bill Cummings of Winchester, MA 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).

If you would like more information about Bethany Community Services, please contact **Beth Grady** at 978.374.2160 or email at [bgrady@bethanycommunities.org](mailto:bgrady@bethanycommunities.org). (photo attached: Jered Stewart, President and CEO (standing second from right), members of Bethany Communities staff and Bethany Communities residents (seated) gathered to celebrate the Monday, May 22, 2023 announcement of receipt of the Cummings Grant.

