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**Wellesley Hills Junior Women's Club Announces Record-Breaking Year in Charitable Giving**

**\$165,200 to be Awarded in Grants and Scholarships in 2019, Including 75th Anniversary Grants to Local Capital Campaigns**

WELLESLEY, MA, May 31, 2019 -- The Wellesley Hills Junior Women's Club (WHJWC) announced today that in its 75th year of service to the community it will be giving away a record \$170,000. Grants totaling more than \$100,000 will be given to 36 non-profits that are making a positive impact in the community and \$65,200 will be given in scholarships to deserving local students. The WHJWC awards scholarships and grants each year, but this year's grants include two significant contributions to capital campaigns in honor of the 75th anniversary of WHJWC.

The WHJWC will be contributing \$25,000 to the Wellesley A Better Chance (ABC) "A Home of Our Own" capital campaign. For almost 50 years, the Wellesley ABC program has provided academically talented and promising students from underserved communities "a better chance" to achieve their potential through enrollment at Wellesley High School for four years, while they live together in a house donated by Wellesley College. When the need to purchase their own home arose, ABC applied for a grant from WHJWC. Wellesley Hills Juniors Women's Club will be donating funds raised at the WHJWC 75th Anniversary Gala, which gathered current and former Juniors together to celebrate the milestone. WHJWC has a long-standing relationship with ABC, having funded their tutoring program since 1991 and volunteered with them for several years.

"WHJWC has been a valued partner to us for a long time, and we are extremely grateful for their contribution toward our effort to buy a permanent home for the program. The fact that it comes from the generosity of generations of Juniors makes it even more special," said ABC spokesperson Catherine Ward, Wellesley ABC Co-president.

The other capital grant request was for monies to "even the playing field" so to speak, so that the fields where the softball athletes in grades kindergarten through high school play will be comparable to that of the boys' baseball fields. The WHJWC will award \$10,000 towards the construction of new fields, following on \$9,000 already granted to the effort in recent years. The Wellesley Community Preservation Committee recently voted to fund half of the \$1,000,000 construction costs, but much of the costs will need to be raised privately.

The WHJWC gives grants annually to programs that support seniors, education, healthcare and the civic life of the community. Other grants given this year include:

- \$5,000 to Springwell, Inc., which provides home-delivered meals to homebound seniors in Wellesley, 39% of whom are living in poverty and 20% of whom are at high risk of malnutrition
- \$2,500 to Dignity Matters, which provides free feminine hygiene products to girls who are homeless or otherwise in need
- \$1,000 to Adriana's Mobile Library, a reading program started by a Wellesley High School student that provides free books to early readers in Waltham

WHJWC also gives annual college scholarships to both graduating high school seniors and college undergraduates who need financial support to make college dreams possible. This year, \$65,200 will be awarded to 27 Wellesley students in the form of scholarships ranging from \$200 to \$4,000.

“This was a very special year celebrating Wellesley Hills Juniors Women’s Club 75 years of making a meaningful difference in our community,” said Torrey DiPietro, president of WHJWC. “Our history shows that women working together can do incredible things and the lives we’re going to change with the money we raised this year is no exception.”

The WHJWC raises money each year through three annual fundraisers, Wellesley Marketplace, Wellesley Kitchen and Home Tour and the Wonder Run 5K and Kids Fun Run. This year, there was also a 75th Anniversary Gala and Auction. The WHJWC’s fundraising efforts are supported by corporate sponsors including Brendon Properties, Needham Bank and The Teri Adler Group of Pinnacle Residential Properties and community partner, Roche Bros.

## **ABOUT THE WELLESLEY HILLS JUNIOR WOMEN’S CLUB (WHJWC)**

The Wellesley Hills Junior Women’s Club is a group of women who work side-by-side to make a meaningful difference in our community by raising money and giving time to help those in need.

We create dynamic fundraising events that celebrate our community and tap into the generosity of those around us. With the money raised, we give scholarships to deserving high school students and we fund programs that make a positive impact in the community, such as an anti-bullying campaign for middle school students. We also volunteer with organizations that are making a real difference, giving our time to help children with special needs, the elderly and families in crisis.

The work that we do helps address some of the biggest challenges facing our society: mental health, hunger, access to education, poverty and domestic violence. And along the way, lasting friendships are created while we work side-by-side. In a world where problems are complex and the news is often bad, we’re making a measurable difference where we can -- right here at home. For more information about our annual fundraisers and charitable giving, please go to [www.whjwc.com](http://www.whjwc.com).