



Grant of \$100,000 to Help People with Epilepsy Get and Keep Jobs

May 23, 2017

(Wilmington, MA) Epilepsy Foundation New England (EFNE) is one of 100 local nonprofits to receive grants of \$100,000 each through Cummings Foundation's "\$100K for 100" program. The Foundation was chosen from a total of 549 applicants during a competitive review process.

EFNE is a nonprofit organization that provides Help for Today and Hope for Tomorrow for the 1 in 26 people who develop epilepsy during their lifetime. Employment is a significant determinate of overall quality of life for any person, and so too for people with epilepsy. However, people with epilepsy often have difficulty finding and maintaining employment and have higher rates of unemployment and underemployment than the general population. EFNE's Employment Services program aims to support people their journey towards gratifying, competitive employment. "Finding work in a competitive job market can be challenging, to say the least. Finding work that is gratifying, pays well, and fits the transportation and accommodation requirements that many people with epilepsy require, is even more challenging – but not impossible. We are doing it," said EFNE's Director of Employment Services, Franky Descoteaux.

EFNE's President and CEO, Susan Linn, and Board Member, Jeff Glidden, will join approximately 300 other guests at a reception at TradeCenter 128 in Woburn to celebrate the \$10 million infusion into Greater Boston's nonprofit sector. With the conclusion of this grant cycle, Cummings Foundation has now awarded more than \$170 million to local nonprofits alone. "This investment will allow us to provide more individualized coaching and job support for people with epilepsy, making a difference for hundreds of people who will get to work because of the Cummings Foundation's support. We are very grateful," said Linn.

The \$100K for 100 program supports nonprofits that are not only based in but also primarily serve Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties. This year, the program is benefiting 35 different cities and towns within the Commonwealth.

Through this place-based initiative, Cummings Foundation aims to give back in the area where it owns commercial buildings, all of which are managed, at no cost to the Foundation, by its affiliate Cummings Properties. Founded in 1970 by Bill Cummings of Winchester, the Woburn-based commercial real estate firm leases and manages more than 10 million square feet of space, most which exclusively benefits the Foundation.

"Nonprofit organizations like Epilepsy Foundation New England are vital to the local communities where our colleagues and clients live and work," said Joel Swets, Cummings Foundation's executive director. "We are delighted to invest in their efforts."

This year's diverse group of grant recipients represents a wide variety of causes, including homelessness prevention and affordable housing, education, violence prevention, and food insecurity. The complete list of 100 grant winners is available at www.CummingsFoundation.org.

About [Epilepsy Foundation New England](#)

Epilepsy Foundation New England is leading the fight to overcome the challenges of living with epilepsy and to accelerate therapies to stop seizures, find cures, and save lives. The Foundation's services are critical for the 1 in 26 people that develop epilepsy at some point in their lifetime. An independent nonprofit organization, we have been making a difference for people with epilepsy and their families for more than 30 years through epilepsy awareness and educational programs, support networks, and advocacy.

Epilepsy is characterized by unpredictable seizures that are like electrical storms in the brain. Epilepsy is a spectrum condition with a wide range of seizure types and control mechanisms varying from person-to-person. The many faces of epilepsy include epilepsy that begins in infancy to onset in older adulthood, and from those almost completely disabled by their seizures to those whose seizures are almost fully controlled and who live typical lives. There are an estimated 20,000 people with epilepsy in Suffolk and Middlesex Counties.

About [Cummings Foundation](#)

Woburn-based Cummings Foundation, Inc. was established in 1986 by Joyce and Bill Cummings of Winchester. With assets exceeding \$1.4 billion, it is one of the largest foundations in New England. The Foundation directly operates its own charitable subsidiaries, including two New Horizons retirement communities, in Marlborough and Woburn. Its largest single commitment to date was \$50 million to Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University.

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