**GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT: HEARTplay® TEEN MENTORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

We recognized Aiden Chitkara, a senior at Wayland High School, and Daly Johnson, a senior at Needham High School, for their commitment to the children at HEARTplay. Located in Wayland, Mass., HEARTplay is a children’s bereavement support program funded by The Parmenter Foundation. As teen mentors, Aiden and Daly play an integral role in the program as the link between the licensed therapeutic facilitators and the participating bereaved children.

Jennifer Wiles, HEARTplay Executive Director, is so thankful for the dimension that the teens bring to the program, “It’s not just another helper. It’s somebody who has been through it too and can really speak to their experience.”

Aiden attended HEARTplay when he was five years old after he experienced the loss of his brother. He remembers HEARTplay as a nurturing place that “gave [him] lots of support and made the transition of learning to live with the loss of a loved one easier.” Daly learned of HEARTplay after attending Camp Erin® Boston, a grief camp for kids. Daly’s brother died in 2010 when she was eight years old. A few years later Daly attended Camp Erin. Through the process of sharing stories, meeting other kids like her who were coping with grief, and participating in the therapeutic art-based activities, she and other campers learned new ways to cope with the loss of a loved one. Both Aiden and Daly are generous with their time and experience, providing compassion to children who need an understanding counselor and mentor.

**GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT: WELCOME CAMP CASCO**

This past summer The Parmenter Foundation granted $10,000 to Camp Casco headquartered in Sudbury, Mass. to further its work with children affected by a cancer diagnosis. Cancer remains the leading cause of death for children with 15,780 children in the U.S. diagnosed with cancer each year. Camp Casco addresses the physical and psychosocial impact on children diagnosed with cancer, providing a camp for them and their families at no cost. The camp experience focuses on reducing anxiety, improving self-image, increasing independence and building social skills. For children ages five to seventeen, Camp Casco offers both a free weeklong day camp in Wellesley, Mass. and a free weeklong overnight camp in Yarmouth Port, Mass.

Beyond the summer experience, Camp Casco works hard to maintain the friendships and support network created at camp throughout the year for campers and their families by hosting family socials. Erin Fletcher Sterns, Chief Executive Officer of Camp Casco, emphasizes that “the struggles with childhood cancer don’t end when treatment does, and families of survivors will continue to cope with the long-term challenges cancer creates. It’s so important that children who have been diagnosed with cancer and their families have the opportunity to create bonds with others who have been through similar experiences, creating peer support networks.”

For more information about Camp Casco and all our grantees, visit our website at [www.parmenterfoundation.org](http://www.parmenterfoundation.org).
In October, our Board of Trustees awarded for the first time two extraordinary volunteers, Laraine Marthinsen of Natick, Mass. and Ginny Berzin of Cambridge, Mass., with this year’s Grace Johnson Volunteer Appreciation Award. Established in 2005, the Foundation annually recognizes an outstanding volunteer from an organization that we fund in honor of Grace Johnson, a Wayland resident and tireless advocate for her community.

Almost two decades ago Laraine Marthinsen, Family Promise Metrowest volunteer, began her vigorous campaign to prevent homelessness. Through extensive research, she found the Family Promise national model and worked tirelessly to bring the program to MetroWest. As a result of her hard work, Family Promise Metrowest opened in 2008. From day one, Laraine has served as the lead coordinator for Christ Lutheran Church in Natick, Mass. organizing more than fifty volunteers to convert church space into a warm, safe shelter. She is the embodiment of generous hospitality; she knows the guests by name, she plays with children for countless hours, she is kind and compassionate and creates a temporary community of respect for the most vulnerable families. Regarding Laraine’s contribution to Family Promise Metrowest, Sue Crossley, Executive Director emphasizes, “Family Promise had a model, but without Laraine’s leadership, passion, community mobilization and belief in the program, Family Promise Metrowest never would have happened.”

As a CareGroup Parmenter Home Care and Hospice volunteer, Ginny Berzin provides family assistance for patients at the Miriam Boyd Parlin Hospice Residence. Oftentimes, beyond general hospice support, Ginny sits vigil at the bedside of actively dying patients. It is her kind way and calm presence that so many families appreciate, providing patients with dignity, peace and comfort. A recent patient's family member wrote, “Ginny is an angel…she calmly sat with our mother for hours and listened to a million stories from all of us about our mom smiling, nodding, and allowing us to remember all our good past times together. When our mother passed, we were ready. She helped prepare us and brought us peace. We are forever grateful for her kindness and attention at a tough time.” Ginny embraces her volunteer role with clarity, compassion and expertise. She has sat vigil for over 700 patients at their time of death, ensuring they were not alone. Ginny is a great advocate for patients and their families and a wonderful resource for the nurses and staff.

**THE 2019 GRACE JOHNSON VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION AWARD**

Donations may be made online at [www.parmenterfoundation.org](http://www.parmenterfoundation.org). Thank you for your continued support!

The Parmenter Foundation is a nonprofit organization exempt from taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code.

**COMMUNITY FUN-RAISERS**

**MAY:** In two consecutive events, Mike Scafidi raised more than $4,000 for Camp Erin® Boston by donating and auctioning off Bruins playoff tickets for a great cause.

**SEPTEMBER:** Camp Erin Boston volunteers, including Michelle Iguarta and Stewart McKenzie, held the second annual Camp Erin® Boston 5K Run/Walk raising over $4,000.

**JUNE:** The Rokes family held the Friends of The Parmenter Foundation’s 3rd Annual Golf Tournament and with 60 charitable golfers raised over $8,000.

**NOVEMBER:** Amy’s Sweet Solutions in Wayland, Mass. donated 50 dozen cupcakes—a value of $1,250—for the Parmenter Food Pantry Thanksgiving food distribution. Customers who purchased turkey cake pops in advance made this donation possible.

**ALTERNATE SATURDAYS, SEPTEMBER-MAY:** The Villa Restaurant in Wayland, Mass. donated more than $5,000 from its bi-monthly Turkey Shoot fundraisers to support the Miriam Boyd Parlin Residence subsidized bed grant. Visit our website for upcoming dates, times and further details.