



# Brookline Community Fund

40 WEBSTER PLACE • BROOKLINE • MASSACHUSETTS 02445

*Betsy DeWitt Executive Director*

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A young, working poor couple living with two children in an overcrowded, one-bedroom apartment had an opportunity to move into a larger apartment, but could not afford the cost of moving and first month's rent in the new unit. The Brookline Safety Net helped with moving assistance and first month's rent so the family could move into an affordable, two-bedroom apartment.

A single, disabled mother with two teenage children took the teenage son of a friend enrolled in a drug treatment program into her home. The mother had no income to help with expenses and the family could not support a third teenager on their fixed income. The Brookline Safety Net helped with food and one month's rent until teenager could return to live with his mother.

An elderly woman, living on Social Security benefits of \$645 per month, had her rent raised from \$240 to \$440 for a small studio apartment, and faced eviction. While she was eligible for a unit with the Brookline Housing Authority, none were available. The Brookline Safety Net helped with half of the rent for two months, until an affordable apartment became available.

Dear Brookline Neighbor,

As you probably know, the Brookline Community Fund recently became a community foundation. Since 1984 the Community Fund has made small grants totaling \$360,000 for more than 100 projects in the areas of Arts & Culture, Youth Services, Environment, Education, and Health & Social Services.

**As a community foundation**, the we now can play an increasingly important role in our community, not only making grants for programs and services but also maintaining a pool of endowment funds given by many donors to benefit the entire community .

A key Community Fund Program is the **Brookline Safety Net**, which has provided emergency assistance to families and individuals in crisis each year since 1989. In 1999, the Brookline Safety Net provided rent, food or utility assistance to 62 households (155 individuals). Of these, 39% were in single parent households, 42% were individuals living alone, and 57% were children under age 18.

The average amount, including all types of emergency assistance, provided to one household was \$367, a 40% increase since 1997, mainly due to the increase in rent since the end of rent control.

**In order to maintain our special status** as a community foundation, the Community Fund must attract gifts and demonstrate public support. Right now, our greatest need is for unrestricted donations and for gifts to the **Brookline Safety Net**. As the holiday giving season approaches, we hope you will take a moment to make a generous donation using the included donation form.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Carla Benka*

*Holly Burnes*

*John L. Christian*

*Suzanne David-Dreyfus*

*Betsy DeWitt*

*Caroline Fozzini*

*Brenda G. Lery*

*Gloria Oldman*

*Michael A. Sandman*

*Judith Alger Smith*

*Michael Robbins*

*Barton H. Tayer*

The Board of Directors and Staff of the Brookline Community Fund