



Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance

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SEEAL AWARDS \$68,000 IN GRANTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS AND GREEN JOBS TRAINING

SEEAL (Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance), under the auspices of the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts, has awarded \$68,000 in grants to environmental education, stewardship, and sustainability-related projects in the New Bedford area.

Grants have been awarded as part of “Sustainable New Bedford,” a two-year project funded for 2008 and 2009 by the Environmental Protection Agency. SEEAL is the subcontractor of the award and will carry out project goals for the City of New Bedford. The grants were awarded to:

Buttonwood Park Zoological Society - \$700

Rain Garden at Buttonwood Park Zoo

The rain garden will serve as a vehicle to reduce the amount of stormwater run-off, which carries surface contaminants from the park into Buttonwood Brook.

Buttonwood Park Zoological Society - \$4,300

Kettlepond Hydroponic Wall

The grant will be used to create a “green wall” in the Zoo’s Kettlepond Exhibit, which will improve water quality, animal health and exhibit aesthetics. This is a partnership with the GNB-Voc Tech Environmental Sciences and Technology Dept.

Cove Street Neighborhood Association and South End Civic Association - \$5,000

Installation of artesian well to sustain Victory Park Pond

A pump will be installed to pump fresh water into the pond when needed to keep the water level safe and sustain native fish, waterfowl, wading birds, and other wildlife.

The Friends of Buttonwood Park, Inc. - \$3,650

Greenhouse West Area Buffer Creation and Wetlands Enhancement Project

In Buttonwood Park, invasive species will be cleared of the central wetlands and area-appropriate trees and shrubs will be planted; educational components will be created.

NorthStar Learning Centers - \$5,000

Urban Agriculture Apprenticeship

The apprentice will act as a resource and educator for community gardens administered by a collaborative summer youth initiative co-sponsored by NorthStar Learning Centers.

Our Sisters’ School - \$250

“Let Us Grow” - OSS Community Garden

The project will introduce middle school students at Our Sisters’ School to seedling planting. Students will start seedlings and donate them to established community gardening projects in New Bedford.

Positive Action Against Chemical Addiction, Inc. - \$2,800

Braz/Bean Community Garden

A community garden at the Agnes Braz/Hope Bean Memorial Community Center, located in a low-income area of the North End, will be developed and maintained by the young people and adults in programs held at the center.

Treatment On Demand Inc. / The Spiritual Warrior Society - \$5,000

Sacred Green Space

The purpose of the "Sacred Green Space" at Chancery and Kempton streets will be to honor, respect, and beautify the land and the people by integrating environmental harmony, indigenous values, social justice, and spirituality in one space.

Trips For Kids - \$3,000

Explore Your Environment (EYE)

This project will encourage recycling, and will foster environmental awareness and stewardship by providing City youth with an opportunity to explore their natural environment while interacting with good teachers, mentors, peer leaders, and role models.

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Office of Campus and Community Sustainability - \$5,000

Sustainability Teacher Training and Community Training

A two-day intensive teacher training for New Bedford teachers will focus on how to incorporate sustainability concepts into K-12 curriculum. A separate evening presentation will focus on incorporating edible schoolyard gardens at New Bedford schools.

United Front Homes/Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH) - \$5,000

Community Recycling Initiative

This community education program will focus on increasing recycling and promoting urban environmental stewardship at United Front Homes. This project will support a 6-member youth "Green Team" to conduct individual outreach and environmental education for resident households..

PACE / YouthBuild - \$28,300

Weatherization Exploration Training Project

This project will be provided for twelve WIB-eligible young people, ages 18-24. It will include classroom and field experience to teach participants to perform energy audits and retrofits.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Marshall, jmarshall@seeal.org, 508-493-4343.

About SEEAL

SEEAL, a Community Foundation program, was formed in 1997. SEEAL's mission is to support member organizations in their capacity to provide quality environmental education and stewardship in Southeastern Massachusetts.

Some of SEEAL's active educational and institutional partners who are present and provide programs in New Bedford include New Bedford Public Schools, Global Learning Charter School, New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School, UMass Dartmouth, and SMAST. Present and/or active SEEAL non-profit partner organizations that deliver programs and resources to the City of New Bedford include The Trustees of Reservations, Lloyd Center for the Environment, Schooner Ernestina, Buttonwood Park Zoo, YouthBuild, and 3rd Eye Unlimited.

About the Community Foundation

Since 1995, area residents have been turning to the Community Foundation to make their philanthropic giving as effective as possible. CFSEMA is a public charity serving thousands of people who share a common concern – improving the quality of life in Southeastern Massachusetts.

While the Foundation’s primary grantmaking focus is on the SouthCoast communities of Greater New Bedford, Greater Fall River, and Greater Plymouth County, CFSEMA is a regional foundation serving 41 cities and towns. To date, has distributed more than \$7 million from 110 funds to humanitarian, educational and cultural organizations in the region. To learn more about the Foundation, visit www.cfsema.org.

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