In its second year of significant grant making, Cummings Foundation awarded 100 grants of $100,000 each to charities in Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties in Massachusetts. Named $100K for 100, the program aims to support nonprofits in the communities where the employees and clients of Cummings Properties live. The 2013 recipients underwent a competitive review process that narrowed a field of more than 370 applicants to 100.

The awards were announced on June 19, 2013 at a reception held in the atrium of TradeCenter 128 in Woburn. Paid mostly over one to five years, the grants benefit a wide variety of causes, including healthcare, education, social justice, and underserved populations. (See page 3 inset for a complete list of grant recipients.)

Executive Director Joel Swets noted, “These local charities are doing so much for their communities, many of them with very limited staff and resources. Judging by the comments received from grant recipients, as well as their level of excitement, we believe these funds will have a meaningful impact on the organizations and the people they serve.”

In 2014 alone, Cummings Foundation will award a total of $20 million to greater Boston nonprofits, with $10 million being distributed through the $100K for 100 program, and another $10 million through 10 grants of $1 million each.

Sharing Their Story

Several notable local organizations recognized Joyce and Bill Cummings this past year for their leadership in business and philanthropy. In the spring, Bill spoke at Essex County Community Foundation’s Institute for Trustees. Shortly afterward, he and Joyce jointly gave the commencement address at Salem State University, where they were awarded honorary Doctorates of Humane Letters.

The second half of the year brought more opportunities for Joyce and Bill to share their personal ideals and charitable activities with audiences of up to 1,000 people. On November 7, they accepted the Edward H. Linde Public Service Award from NAIOP, the leading commercial real estate association in Massachusetts. That same month, North Shore Chamber of Commerce named Bill a 2013 North Shore Distinguished Citizen at its 95th Annual Meeting.

Wrapping up the year, the Irish International Immigrant Center presented Joyce and Bill with its Solas Award at a gala event at the John F. Kennedy Library. Named from the Gaelic word for “light,” the award is given to leaders who are committed to working toward a society where people from all countries enjoy equal opportunities, protections, and respect. Past recipients include President Bill Clinton, Senator Edward Kennedy, and Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland.
The Cummings/Hillel Program for Holocaust and Genocide Education at Tufts University offered many opportunities in 2013 for students from all religious and cultural backgrounds to learn about and become active in issues of genocide and intolerance. The annual major lecture on April 17 featured internationally known human rights activist John Prendergast, who spoke about “The Politics of Genocide Response and Prevention.” A bestselling author, Prendergast has been recognized for his groundbreaking efforts to end crimes against humanity.

Additional programming in 2013 included: “Survivors Speak,” a panel discussion with genocide survivors; a dinner and conversation with Dr. James Smith and Mr. Freddy Mutanguha (pictured on a field trip in Rwanda), the co-founder and executive director, respectively, of the Kigali Genocide Memorial in Rwanda; and a presentation by young Mohammed Sayed about his experiences growing up in war-torn Afghanistan. Also, about 25 Tufts students participated in a service-learning trip to Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village in Rwanda, which houses and educates 500 of the country’s most vulnerable youth following the 1994 genocide.

In addition to these programs at Tufts, Cummings Foundation supports the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Salem State University. This center now houses the collection of Holocaust Center Boston North, and focuses on academic research and scholarship, educational and professional training, and community outreach.

Like Tufts, Salem State plans to add a 20-person service-learning trip to Rwanda’s Agahozo-Shalom Youth Village to its offerings next year.
In addition to its substantial ongoing support for the general operation of Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, Cummings Foundation awarded the school a special grant to support its work in Rwanda. Specifically, the donation funded the purchase and outfitting of a mobile veterinary clinic. The vehicle, which has on-site diagnostic capabilities, is part of a “one health” initiative to treat communities holistically, combining human medicine, veterinary medicine, and public health to fight disease in both human and animal populations.

During an August 2013 visit, Joyce and Bill Cummings and Dr. and Mrs. Arlan and Alice Fuller visited University of Rwanda’s Nyagatare campus. The university will use the mobile clinic to teach veterinary students, as well as to treat livestock in the local community and wildlife in nearby Akagera National Park.

The Cummings School is also offering professional development training for veterinarians and para-veterinarians in Rwanda. These skills will be needed to support the country’s “One Cow per Family” initiative, which brings to Rwanda European cattle breeds that demand a much higher level of veterinary services than can currently be provided. For additional information about the Cummings School, visit www.tufts.edu/vet.
Established in 1986 by Joyce and Bill Cummings of Winchester, MA, Cummings Foundation, Inc. is a private operating foundation. Based in Woburn, it has been the beneficiary of substantial contributions from the Cummings family, often through commercial real estate firm Cummings Properties, LLC. With assets exceeding $1 billion, it is one of the largest private foundations in New England. Cummings Foundation directly operates its own charitable subsidiaries, including Veterinary School at Tufts, LLC, OneWorld Boston, Inc., which supports charitable organizations serving Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk counties in Massachusetts; and Cummings Institute for World Justice, LLC, which funds national and international organizations, with a particular focus on Rwanda. More information is available at www.CummingsFoundation.org.

Philanthropy in Rwanda

Through Partners In Health, Cummings Foundation was delighted to fund the construction of Butaro Ambulatory Cancer Center, Rwanda’s first and only outpatient infusion center. On August 20, 2013, the Center was dedicated with Joyce and Bill Cummings present, along with Dr. and Mrs. Arlan and Alice Fuller, representing Cummings Foundation and its affiliate Cummings Institute for World Justice.

Located in rural Burera District, the Center is helping to meet the dire need for rural cancer care, which was entirely absent prior to the 2012 opening of its complementary inpatient facility, the Butaro Cancer Center of Excellence. Dr. Paul Farmer, co-founder of Partners In Health, described the issue: “Most of the cancer patients we have seen here over the years were from rural areas and had traveled all over looking for treatment. Our mission is to go where patients are.”

Oral healthcare is another area where greater access is sorely needed, as there are reportedly only 11 dentists in all of Rwanda, or one per 800,000 people. With funding from Cummings Foundation, Tufts University School of Dental Medicine hopes to increase the number of qualified oral health workers who can perform routine dental exams and procedures.

Tufts has already developed a successful dental project in Zambia, using collaboration among local communities, government, and academia to provide an improved oral health workforce and sustainable oral health infrastructure. The ultimate goal of the Rwandan project is to integrate oral health into the country’s overall healthcare program.