



ABCD Press

From the Office of Public Information

Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.

178 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111

(617) 348 - 6241

Fax: (617) 482 - 4859

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 23, 2008

Contact:

Susan Kooperstein

617-348-6241

617-875-3619 (cell)

Randy Miller

617-348-6244

Fenway Area Institutions Give to Seniors, Families in Need through ABCD Parker Hill/Fenway NSC

**Brigham & Women's Hospital Provides Meals, Toys, Support;
Mass. College of Pharmacy and New England Baptist Hospital
"Adopt" Area Families**

Three major institutions in the Fenway-Mission Hill area provided major donations this year that brightened the holidays for many seniors and families in desperate economic straits in the Mission Hill neighborhood. They worked with the local community antipoverty agency, the ABCD Parker Hill-Fenway Neighborhood Service Center, a program of Action for Boston Community Development, to distribute their generous contributions.

The Brigham & Women's Hospital Neurosurgery Department provided 50 fully-prepared turkey dinners with all the trimmings and donated \$2,500 for toys and books for children in poor families. The Brigham & Women's Physicians' Organization donated \$5,000 to help low-income families in the area.

Massachusetts College of Pharmacy "adopted" three families and New England Baptist Hospital did the same for four families who were facing a holiday season marked by job loss and housing foreclosures that left them with scarce funds for food or gifts for their children. All of them received individualized presents for every family member and gift cards to local supermarkets and department stores, ensuring that there would be food on the table and warm clothes and other necessities throughout the holiday season and beyond.

Craig Nesta, Administrative Director of Neurosurgery at Brigham & Women's Hospital, expressed the hospital's commitment to the community when he said "The Brigham & Women's Neurosurgery Department is proud to engage in a project that allows us to give back to the community we serve in a meaningful way. We know that this year's economic challenges have had a dire impact on many local families who are struggling to put food on the table and

pay heating bills. By partnering with ABCD, we have been able to give directly to some of those families in need this holiday season. It was an honor for our department staff to work alongside ABCD staff at the Parker Hill/Fenway NSC to distribute holiday meals and children's toys. We look forward to future collaborations with ABCD this year.”

ABCD President/CEO Bob Coard praised the generosity and thoughtfulness of the institutions that stepped up to the plate to help others during this holiday season. “It is wonderful to see the healthcare and academic communities in the Fenway-Mission Hill area mobilizing to help those in need,” he said. “This is a terrible time economically for poor and even moderate-income families. These institutions have provided important help and hope during the holiday season. It is greatly appreciated!”

Milagros Arbaje-Thomas, Director, ABCD Parker Hill-Fenway NSC said: “The families I contacted to let them know that this wonderful help was available were absolutely overjoyed. Everything had been going wrong for them and these outstanding donations made all the difference. We are very grateful to Brigham & Women’s Hospital, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and New England Baptist Hospital for their very significant generosity.”

About ABCD:

ABCD serves more than 100,000 low-income Boston-area residents through its central offices and a decentralized network of Neighborhood Service Centers (NSCs), Head Start centers, Family Planning sites and Foster Grandparent sites. Programs and affiliations include Fuel Assistance; Head Start; Child Care Services; Child Care Choices of Boston; Education; Career Development; Housing and Homelessness Services; Health Services; Family Planning; Urban College of Boston; University High – an Alternative High School; Ostiguy High School for high school students in recovery; Weatherization; Foster Grandparents; Elder Services; Intergenerational Programs; management of the Combined Federal Campaign, Commonwealth of Massachusetts and City of Boston employee giving campaigns; advocacy and consumer services.

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