



"Every Student, Every Day" Cara E. Murtagh

Peabody EDUCATION Foundation

P.O. Box 233, Peabody, Massachusetts 01960

# NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2022

PeabodyEdFoundation.org

## Mental Wellness Initiative



### Social Emotional Libraries now in all Elementary Schools!

The Peabody Education Foundation is pleased to announce that it has launched its first program under the new [Mental Wellness Initiative](#), in collaboration with North Shore Bank, the JB Thomas-Lahey Foundation, and the GraVoc Charitable Foundation. Social Emotional Libraries have been distributed to all eight elementary schools in the City of Peabody. These libraries will be accessible to all elementary school teachers to use for social emotional teaching in their classrooms.



Overseen by the school's guidance counselor, these motivational paperback and hardcover books cover topics including responsibility, respectfulness, being safe, cooperation, acceptance, resilience and empathy. Some of the books included in the library: "But It's Not My Fault", "Teach Your Dragon Respect", "The Juice Box Bully", "Can I Play Too?", "I am Enough", "She Persisted", "You are Awesome", "We're All Wonders", "How full is your bucket" and "What if Everybody Did That?". Stickers inside each book include the names of the sponsors and carry the message "Be Kind to Yourself".

The PEF would like to thank school counselors Maria Champigny and Jackie Rose from the McCarthy Elementary School who initially brought the library to the attention of the Peabody Education Foundation Grants Program Committee as a Grant application. Maria and Jackie felt that, as a result of the pandemic, they were seeing an increased need for coping strategies in order to help students self-regulate and be able to access their learning. The Committee was impressed with the idea and expanded it to include all elementary schools under the Mental Wellness Initiative.





## Amazing Hero Artist to appear in schools!

As part of its [Mental Wellness Initiative](#), the PEF, along with sponsors GraVoc Charitable Foundation, JB Thomas-Lahey Foundation, North Shore Bank, and North Shore Community Action Program, is excited and proud to have world-famous Speed-Painter, ROB SURETTE, performing at our schools!

In the last 29 years, Rob has visited over 4,000 schools worldwide, spreading messages of self-empowerment, positivity, equality, kindness and hope! While painting portraits of well-known people, Rob hopes to inspire students to aim at the highest possible good in life and change the way they look at the world and themselves.



He has appeared on The TODAY Show, The Tonight Show, Good Morning America and The Oprah Winfrey Show! He is a Top-Tier Master Fine Artist for Disney, Lucasfilm, MARVEL, DC Comics, DreamWorks and Muppets!

Rob will be appearing in all elementary schools during the month of March and will appear at the Higgins the end of May, bringing his messages of happiness and inspiration through his creativity.



# The Cara E. Murtagh Memorial Scholarship



## Do You Know a Student Interested in Pursuing a Career in Education?

Do you know of a student interested in pursuing a career in the field of education, possesses a strong work ethic, demonstrates excellent organizational and preparation skills, is engaged in the community, has achieved good academic standing, and is self-motivated?

The Cara E. Murtagh Memorial Scholarship is provided by the Peabody Education Foundation as a way to honor our dear friend Cara's memory. On a yearly basis, we award a PVMHS senior with a \$2,500 scholarship to help with their college education. Cara was an active member of our Foundation where she spearheaded many of our programs and events. After Cara's passing, the Murtagh family had generously asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Peabody Education Foundation. Donations and messages came in from across the country attesting to the love and admiration so many shared for her. Through this Scholarship, we hope to preserve Cara's dedication and commitment to the education of the school children of Peabody for years to come.

Please encourage them to apply for the Scholarship at <https://www.peabodyedfoundation.org/scholarship/>.

**The deadline is Friday, April 15, 2022.**

# George Peabody Legacy Award Nominations Sought!



## Would You Like to Nominate a Fellow Educator Who Has Gone Above & Beyond?

Do you know an educator who has had a lasting impact on education, effects change for the good of the people over a significant period of time, is an active member in the Peabody Community, is a tireless advocate for the betterment of Peabody students, and lives or works in Peabody?

The George Peabody Legacy Award is presented by the Peabody Education Foundation to recognize and honor the educators and philanthropists from within the community who work to provide a lifetime of contributions to our educational system. It is an honor to recognize educators who have gone above and beyond to make a lasting difference in the lives of their students. In the classroom they are both learners and facilitators of learning. They attend to the social and emotional needs of their students making a lasting, positive impact by providing a progressive learning atmosphere meeting the needs of every, individual child.

To nominate a worthy candidate, please visit our scholarship webpage <https://www.peabodyedfoundation.org/george-peabody-legacy-awards/> and tell us all about them!

**The deadline is Friday, August 1, 2022.**



## North Shore Community Action Program helps fund Mental Wellness Initiative

The PEF is pleased to announce that North Shore Community Action Programs is a sponsor of the American Hero Artist Performances, which is being held in March in the elementary schools and in May at the Middle School. NSCAP has been an important community partner. Executive Director Laura Meisenhelter serves as a member of the PEF Board of Directors and also serves on the Grants Program Committee. Thank you Laura and NSCAP!

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<p><b>Mayor Edward A. Bettencourt, Jr.</b> City of Peabody Honorary Chairman</p>	<p><b>Kristine Bruno</b> GraVoc</p>	<p><b>Karen McGovern</b> Community Representative</p>
<p><b>David Gravel</b> GraVoc President &amp; Chairman</p>	<p><b>Todd Bucey</b> Principal, Higgins Middle School</p>	<p><b>Laura Meisenhelter</b> North Shore Community Action Programs</p>
<p><b>Thomas Gould</b> Treadwell's Ice Cream Vice Chair</p>	<p><b>Donna Craven</b> Community Representative</p>	<p><b>Cate Merlin</b> Peabody Institute Library</p>
<p><b>Barbara L. Kelly</b> Community Representative Clerk</p>	<p><b>Lauren Cyr</b> Salem Five</p>	<p><b>Steve Shea</b> Life Solutions Group</p>
<p><b>Daniel Vassallo</b> GraVoc Treasurer</p>	<p><b>Jarrod Hochman</b> Lepore &amp; Hochman, P.A.</p>	<p><b>Sudi Smoller</b> Peabody Federation of Teachers</p>
<p><b>Camille Bartlett</b> Peabody TV</p>	<p><b>Anna Kulakowski</b> Rockland Trust</p>	<p><b>Dr. Josh Vadala</b> Superintendent of Schools</p>
<p><b>Mary Bellavance</b> GraVoc</p>	<p><b>Dr. Christopher Lord</b> Peabody Schools</p>	<p><b>Katrina Vassallo</b> Harvard University Press</p>
	<p><b>Debbie MacGregor</b> GraVoc</p>	<p><b>Mark Whiting</b> Northshore Mall</p>
	<p><b>Natalie Maga</b> Peabody TV</p>	