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Eastern Bank Awards South Shore Stars \$10,000 Grant for Good

South Shore Stars to partner with BAMSI on specialized preschool training as a result of grant

WEYMOUTH and BROCKTON, MA, ISSUED FEBRUARY 5, 2020...South Shore Stars (<http://www.southshorestars.org/>), a nonprofit organization that provides comprehensive early education and youth development programs through a family-support approach and has served as a resource for working parents on the South Shore since 1970, has recently been awarded \$10,000 from Eastern Bank's Grant for Good program to help fund the organization's early childhood development initiatives.

South Shore Stars qualified for the grant in part because they met the qualifications of the 2019 Giving Impact Category for Early Childhood Development, which required their efforts needed to support professional development for early educators, achieve early care and learning quality standards, strengthen parent engagement in early childhood development, and/or upgrade early care and learning facilities and supplies.

As a result of this grant, South Shore Stars is planning to partner with Brockton Area Multi Services (BAMSI) to provide extensive training, coaching and technical assistance to their 40 preschool teachers so they are better able to support the developmental growth of their children with special needs. Three professional development components offered through this grant will include six two-hour forums for Stars' 14 Lead Teachers, facilitated by a BAMSI Therapist; BAMSI Therapist observation of each of their 13 classrooms, with a focus on a specific area of concern; and a five-hour training led by BAMSI Therapists for all Stars' preschool teachers, focused on sharing and integrating lessons learned with regard to meeting the needs of children with special needs.

For the past 50 years, South Shore Stars has served many of the community's most at-risk children and families. Forty percent of children enrolled in Stars preschool programs have been identified with special needs. Many have experienced trauma and display difficult behaviors with underlying issues including delayed language, sensory integration, motor disorders, and hyperactivity.

"Studies show that children with special needs benefit more from effective teacher-student interventions than typically developing children, and teachers' interventions can be significantly and systemically improved through targeted and sustained professional development," said Sheri Adlin, executive director of South Shore Stars. "We're thrilled to have this opportunity through the Eastern Bank Grant for Good to partner with BAMSI and act on these important initiatives and are incredibly grateful for their support."

About South Shore Stars

South Shore Stars is a not-for-profit organization that has been a resource for working parents on the South Shore since 1970. The organization's two interconnected goals are to enable parents to work and support each child to thrive. Stars' mission is to provide comprehensive early education and youth programs through a family-support approach. They strive to enhance the development of children from economically and culturally diverse families through collaboration with parents, schools, and local communities.

South Shore Stars has embraced and nurtured thousands of South Shore families and children since their first center-based preschool childcare center located in Quincy center. Today, they annually serve over 1,200 children and youth age newborn through 18 years in a family child care system, Early Head Start, preschool centers, school age centers, middle school programs, a high school program, and summer camp, throughout the communities of Braintree (family child care system only), Holbrook (Early Head Start and family child care system only), Quincy, Randolph, Weymouth, and Westwood (summer camp) and surrounding cities and towns. Stars' core goals are to enable parents to work, help each child reach their full development potential, improve academic achievement for students at-risk of academic failure and facilitate positive youth development. Stars recognizes the importance of supporting and partnering with parents for children to be the best versions of themselves.

South Shore Stars' main office is located at 200 Middle Street, East Weymouth, MA. For more information, please call 781-331-8505 or visit www.southshorestars.org.