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Phillips Brooks House Association Wins \$25,000, Pledges To Match “Sponsor a Camper” Donations To Its 2010 Summer Urban Program

On Tuesday, December 16, 2009, the Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA), a student-run 501(c)3 public service organization at Harvard University, received \$25,000 as one of Chase Community Giving’s “Top 100” small and local charities. PBHA was able to rely on its very active network of student, alumni, and community partners to vote and encourage others to vote and assure that PBHA figured among the top vote getters. In the coming weeks, PBHA will submit its Million Dollar Grant Proposal to Facebook users for another round of voting.

Chase and Facebook partnered to allow Facebook users to vote to choose the Top 100 Charities, each to win a \$25,000 grant. More than 1 million fans signed up for Chase Community Giving in Round One of the program. Eligible charities included 501(c)(3) charities with an operating budget of \$10 million or less, serving the general public in designated areas. Round One ended at midnight on Dec. 12.

The first vote for PBHA came from Summer Urban Program participant, Philip Chu, a 2009 Chinatown Adventure teen counselor and long-time camper. Philip’s vote shows that long-term, year-round community service helps strengthen relationships between PBHA students and low-income youth of Boston and Cambridge.

PBHA President, Richard S. Kelley ’10 says, “PBHA is thrilled with the win! In a difficult economic environment, this \$25,000 will allow our organization to provide much needed services in the community.” Specifically, PBHA pledges to use the Chase Community Giving grant to match any “Sponsor a Camper” donations to PBHA’s Summer Urban Program, a group of 12 student-run summer camps that provide more than 900 youth with academic enrichment, recreational activities, strong role models, and positive peer relationships. Richard continues, “With this opportunity, we’ll be able to provide low-income youth with the transformative summer experience they deserve.” For more information on how to sponsor a camper, visit www.pbha.org/sponsoracamper.

Chase Community Giving, a grassroots campaign launched November 16 to inspire a new way of corporate philanthropy, allowed Facebook’s 350 million users to choose from more than 500,000 of their favorite small and local charities and vote for them to win their share of \$5 million. Throughout the campaign, Chase Community Giving fans nominated tens of thousands of charities from all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA) is a student-run, community-based nonprofit public service organization based on the Harvard campus. PBHA runs 86 programs engaging 1,400 college students in year-round public service in the areas of youth development, housing and homelessness, adult services, ESL, advocacy, and out-of-school time programming. For more than a century PBHA programs have provided vital experiences for generations of leaders in service and activism while developing real, meaningful community partnerships. PBHA strives to create change on multiple levels in Boston and Cambridge. With professional staff support and advice, PBHA is a unique manifestation of college students’ idealism, energy, and initiative.

For more information about the “Sponsor a Camper” donation drive, the Summer Urban Program, or the Phillips Brooks House Association, visit www.pbha.org or contact Emily Parrott at fellow@pbha.org.

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