

THE MASSACHUSETTS CHILD: A LEGACY OF CARING

Just as the impact of COVID-19 has shaped our work as educators over the past year, the pandemic has been central to the work of The Massachusetts Child.

The members of the Mass Child Board of Directors implemented emergency grants last spring so that locals could meet some of the academic, social and emotional needs of students who were adjusting to remote learning and dealing with the ramifications of the pandemic.

The surge of demand for assistance made it clear that the Mass Child would need to continue providing emergency support to MTA members into the 2020-21 school year. In late summer, a team from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts reached out to the MTA, inquiring about ways to assist educators through the pandemic. MTA President Merrie Najimy steered BCBS toward the Mass Child, and the end result was a \$100,000 donation to our organization to be used, however we saw fit, to help students and their families.

This generous donation allowed us to not only continue offering grants for COVID-19 relief but to expand the scope of what educators could do for their students.

In addition to helping students adapt to remote learning, educators were able to lessen the financial impact on communities; for example, several locals addressed food insecurities being experienced by students and their families. Educators also used the grants to make sure that students had access to personal protective equipment when transitioning to in-person learning.

We continue to work with our partners at BCBS to come up with creative ways to support students and educators. To this point 31 MTA locals have accessed more than \$22,000 in COVID-19 relief grants funded by the BCBS donation. Since last year's Annual Meeting, the Mass Child has distributed more than \$26,000 in traditional "standard grants" to 48 locals. Twenty-one locals took advantage of both the COVID-19 relief and standard grants.

We urge more of you to do the same!

All of the information you need on grant options and the application procedure can be found at *massteacher.org/masschild*. And please note that we now accept donations through Venmo, using the handle *@MTA-Donations*.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the years of service that Bill Durkee has given to Mass Child. He was there in the beginning, when Mass Child formed as a charitable organization dedicated to supporting MTA members who went above and beyond to help their preK-12 students. He returned for two more terms on the Mass Child Board, providing much appreciated historical perspective to our work before he wrapped up his service last year.

Thanks to everyone who uses and supports The Massachusetts Child. Together, we make a difference in the lives of our students.

Sincerely,

Nicole Prevost

Nicole Prevost, President Massachusetts Child

THE MASSACHUSETTS CHILD DONOR ROLL

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Ruth Allen	Merrie Najimy
Taylor Brennan	Sarah Nathan
Jean Conley	Max Page
Philip Katz	Nicole Prevost
Gail Manos	Kathryn Rogers
Jason Mathes	Carl Stamm
Scott McLennan	Robert Travers, Jr.
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GOLD SPONSORS (UP TO \$100)

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BENEFACTORS

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts

LFB USA Inc.

Massachusetts Teachers Association

MTA Benefits

Schwab Charitable Fund

We're All in This Together (WAITT)

LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS

Belmont Education Association Monomoy Education Association Plymouth County Education Association

GIFTS IN THE NAME OF OTHERS

Gail Manos In Memory of Jeanne Griffin

THE MASSACHUSETTS CHILD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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OUR MISSION: TO HELP MTA EDUCATORS HELP STUDENTS IN NEED

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Dear Colleague:

The Massachusetts Child remains committed to helping educators assist students who may need extra support to ensure their success in the classroom and beyond.

The Massachusetts Child needs your help. Working together, we can make a difference. Please consider making a meaningful contribution to The Massachusetts Child program in honor of or in memory of a colleague, friend, student or loved one. Remember and recognize those connected with your local.

Thanks for your participation.

Educators working with The Massachusetts Child to support students – a winning combination, indeed!

I WANT TO HELP THE MASSACHUSETTS CHILD

Name of local association or individual contributor:

Address (for acknowledgment purposes):_____

Enclosed is a gift of:

- □ Up to \$100 (Gold Sponsor)
- □ Over \$100 (Diamond Sponsor)
- Local Association Sponsor

Please recognize this contribution in memory of or in honor of _____

If you would like a letter announcing your gift sent to the honoree or his or her family, please provide contact information here:







WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

The Massachusetts Child is a charitable corporation founded by MTA members in 1996 to help students struggling with financial need. The Mass Child is a reimbursement program available to all MTA preK-12 local associations. Members use funds from their local associations to purchase qualifying items for students, and Mass Child reimburses the local associations. Please note that Mass Child cannot reimburse individual members; all grant applications must have the signature of the local president.

WHAT WE REIMBURSE MTA locals with fewer than 500 members are eligible for reimbursement grants of up to \$1,000 during the course of the school year. Locals with 500 or more members can receive grants totaling \$2 per member. Standard grants can be used to reimburse purchases of clothing, shoes, hygiene products and eyeglasses, Standard as well as school supplies that are not usually provided by the district such as backpacks, notebooks and Grants pens. Many locals use the grants to make sure that students have appropriate winter clothing. Grants have also been used to assist vocational school students with license fees, work clothing and supplies that are not provided by the school. Items must be for specific students; bulk purchases will not be reimbursed. The Summer Reading Grant is designed to get books into the hands of students for their enjoyment. **Summer** Locals with 500 or fewer members can apply for up to \$200, and locals with more than 500 members are Reading eligible for \$500. Books must be intended for specific children in need. Ideally the book selections will not **Program** be required reading, but books that students themselves choose to read during the summer break. The application process for Summer Reading Grants begins in May. **Extracurricular** Mass Child can provide some assistance with funding for extracurricular activities. Local associations can apply for up to \$100 to reimburse financial assistance provided to students so they can participate Assistance in extracurricular activities requiring school-based fees. For example, the grant can be used toward a needy student's portion of the cost for field trip admission fees or transportation and for fees required to participate in enrichment opportunities, clubs or athletic teams. Thanks to a generous donation from Blue Cross Blue Shield, Mass Child can reimburse local associations for **Blue Cross Blue** assistance that educators provide students affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This grant will address any **Shield COVID-19** need stemming from the impact of COVID-19. In addition to the supplemental education items covered by the **Relief Fund** Remote Learning Grants introduced in the spring, grants from the COVID-19 Relief Fund can be applied to the purchase of technology, such as headphones and devices used by students working remotely. These grants can also be used to help students experiencing food insecurity or be in need of personal protective equipment. Through Dec. 31, every MTA preK-12 local can apply for up to \$1,000 in COVID-19 Relief Funds. The Mass Child Board of Directors will evaluate the availability and size of grants for additional funding starting Jan. 1, 2021. COVID-19 Relief Funds are available in addition to the Standard Grants.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

AFTER using funds from your local association for qualifying purchases, complete a reimbursement form found online at massteacher.org/ masschild and be sure to include receipts with submission.

To see if an expense qualifies for reimbursement, email Mass Child Board President Nicole Prevost at *suzzyjojo@aol.com* or MTA Staff Consultant Scott McLennan at *smclennan@massteacher.org*. For more information and reimbursement forms, visit *massteacher.org/masschild*.

