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Meridian Charitable Foundation now accepting 2nd round of grant applications

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The Meridian Charitable Foundation is accepting a second round of grant applications for 2009. Founded by East Boston Savings Bank (EBSB) in 1998, the Meridian Charitable Foundation (MCF) benefits nonprofit, charitable organizations serving residents of Boston and North Shore communities.

In the first round of funding this year, the MCF awarded \$106,000 to 21 agencies. Last year, 46 community organizations were awarded grants totaling \$185,225.

"For more than 10 years EBSB has been proud to assist worthy charitable organizations in our communities with funding made possible through our Meridian Charitable Foundation," said Richard Gavegnano, chairman and CEO of East Boston Savings Bank. "Last year Meridian Interstate Bancorp, Inc. donated 300,000 shares (\$3 million) to the foundation, bringing the total value to more than \$4 million, which allows us to distribute more grants to more deserving organizations. We feel very strongly about being a resource for these organizations in times of need."

To be considered for a grant, an organization must be a charitable Massachusetts corporation 501(c)(3) as defined under IRS letter section 170 (b)(1)(A)(6) or (a)(2). Interested organizations can obtain additional information about requirements and application procedures on East Boston Savings Bank's Web site, www.ebsb.com.

All applications must be received by November 13th in order to be considered. Completed applications can be sent to: Meridian Charitable Foundation, c/o East Boston Savings Bank, 67 Prospect St., Peabody, Mass. 01960, or dropped off Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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