

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 2, 2007

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BANK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION DONATES \$28,000 TO BELLINGHAM CAUSES IN 2007**

Franklin, MA - The Benjamin Franklin Bank Charitable Foundation is pleased to announce 2007 donations totaling \$28,000 in support of Bellingham charitable causes. In 2007 the Foundation contributed more than \$300,000 to local communities and has contributed over \$604,000 to charitable causes since it was established in 2005. The Benjamin Franklin Bank Charitable Foundation, endowed with a generous gift from Benjamin Franklin Bancorp, provides funding to support charitable causes and community development activities in the communities served by Benjamin Franklin Bank.

In Bellingham the Foundation committed \$20,000 to the Bellingham Playground Committee toward construction of the toddler section at the Silver Lake Park playground, \$5,000 to the Clara Macy Elementary School Playground Committee, as well as generously supporting Bellingham Youth sports teams, the Bellingham Public Library, the United Way of Bellingham, Bellingham High School scholarship programs and the Bellingham Fourth of July Celebration.

According to Thomas R. Venables, Benjamin Franklin Bank Charitable Foundation President, “the Foundation looks forward to supporting deserving organizations and efforts in our communities. The Foundation is committed to participating as a good corporate citizen to improve the quality of life in our communities.”

In addition to traditional community contributions, the Charitable Foundation is chartered to focus support in four primary areas: education, health and human services, youth programs and community development in communities served by Benjamin Franklin Bank.

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