

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BANK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION DONATES
\$2,500 TO PROJECT SMILE**

Hopedale, MA - Catherine Pisacane, Executive Director of Project Smile, is pleased to announce a \$2,500 donation from the Benjamin Franklin Bank Charitable Foundation. Since Project Smile it was founded in 2003, the organization has donated over 15,800 stuffed animals to 103 police and fire departments in six states to give to children involved in traumatic situations.

“Thanks to the generosity of donors like the Benjamin Franklin Bank Charitable Foundation, Project Smile has been able to help kids who have been involved in traumatic situations, ranging from domestic violence to natural disasters,” says Pisacane, noting that her organization was able to arrange for 3,700 donated stuffed animals to be driven to the Houston Astrodome for the thousands of children staying there who were victims of Hurricane Katrina. In addition to their local efforts, Project Smile now maintains a reserve supply of stuffed animals, coloring books, crayons and similar items to be used to help bring small measures of comfort to children involved in future natural disasters.

According to Thomas R. Venables, Chairman of the Board of the Benjamin Franklin Bank Charitable Foundation, “We are pleased that we can help an organization whose goal is to mitigate trauma suffered by any child, anywhere. The mission of the Benjamin Franklin Bank Charitable Foundation provides funding and support to charitable causes. The Foundation is proud to help Project Smile reach its goal to provide a continual supply of stuffed animals, coloring books and crayons to all police officers, fire fighters and paramedics in New England to give to children in traumatic situations.”

“Project Smile collects both new and previously owned stuffed animals, coloring books and crayons,” says Pisacane. “The need for them is always tremendous.” People who wish to donate can visit www.projectsmile.org for more information about donation guidelines and drop-off locations.

The Benjamin Franklin Bank Charitable Foundation serves the communities of Bellingham, Blackstone, Foxboro, Franklin, Hopedale, Medfield, Medway, Mendon, Milford, Millis, Newton, Norfolk, Waltham and Wrentham. For information about the

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