

## Community Gems Raises Funds For Grassroots Organizations

Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino and Vice Chairman Robert M. Mahoney of Citizens Financial Group recently presented a total of \$250,000 in checks to five non-profit organizations serving the city's residents.

The second annual Community Gems event, a collaborative fundraiser to benefit five agencies, drew more than 700 people to the UMass Boston Student Center to support Boston Higher Education Resource Center; Children's Services of Roxbury/United Homes for Children, Inc.; Roxbury Youthworks, Inc.; YouthBuild Boston, Inc.; and Roxbury Multi-Service Center.

This year's theme was A Celebration of Our Youth, Our Families, Our Legacy. Individuals and families attended the fun-filled celebration, which featured performances by local musicians and dancers, food and activities for children. Each Community Gem received \$50,000 to support their respective programs and services - surpassing event organizers' goal of raising \$40,000 for each organization.

"This fundraising model is a strategic way for smaller organizations to join together to raise funds to support their individual programs," said Vice Chairman Robert M. Mahoney of Citizens Financial Group. "Citizens is happy to partner with the City of Boston in lending support to these five Community Gems, who provide much needed services to the residents of the communities in which they serve."

Collectively, these organizations serve more than 19,000 residents of Boston at every stage of Life, from planning a family to senior services; offer 76 programs; and bring \$20 million in revenue to their communities.

Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino, Vice Chairman Robert M. Mahoney of Citizens Financial Group and State Senator Diane Wilkerson co-chaired the Community Gems collaborative fundraiser. WCVB's Karen Holmes Ward served as Master of Ceremonies. Major sponsors included: Bingham McCutchen; Goodwin Procter; Hill Holliday Connors; MasterCard; Mellon New England; Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris, Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.; and Citizens Bank.

"These organizations are precious gems to the city of Boston for the wonderful work that they do on a daily basis," said Mayor Menino. "Each one has something special to offer the community - from supporting children to educating young people and promoting a healthy family life, these agencies play a vital role in the lives of the people they touch. When we all work together, we can make big things happen."



Robert M. Mahoney, Vice Chairman of Citizens Financial Group (left) and Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino (right) co-chairs of the event, presented Jestina L. Richardson, Executive Director of United Homes for Children, Inc. and Rev. Richard Richardson, President & CEO of Children's Services of Roxbury, with a check for \$47,460. Other funds came in after the event providing a total donation of \$50,000 to each organization.