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**Media Contact:**

Sean Flanagan  
[sflanagan@zozimus.com](mailto:sflanagan@zozimus.com)  
(781) 789-2736

Alison Harding  
Cummings Foundation  
[ah@cummings.com](mailto:ah@cummings.com)  
781-932-7093

### **Flutie Foundation Awarded \$100,000 Cummings Grant**

**Boston, Mass.** – (June 4, 2021)- The [Doug Flutie Jr., Foundation for Autism](#) (The Flutie Foundation), a leading non-profit in the Autism community, was awarded a \$100,000 grant from Cummings Foundation’s \$25 Million Grant Program.

The Flutie Foundation is dedicated to creating a world where people with autism and other disabilities are included, respected, and actively engaged in their communities. Through direct financial support to families with autism, and through collaborative grant making and investments into the autism community, we help people and families affected by autism live life to the fullest.

“We are excited to be awarded a grant from the Cumming’s Foundation. Due to the lingering effects of COVID-19, the financial implications to families along with regression and increased behaviors in people with autism, the need is greater than ever,” said Nick Savarese, Executive Director of The Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism. “We anticipate significantly increased requests for funding to ensure people with autism can access the essential services to lead productive lives and this grant will help with those requests.”

With the Cummings Foundation's support, the Flutie Foundation is positioned to create a lasting positive impact on people with autism. This grant will help the Flutie Foundation dramatically increase its financial support of families in Middlesex, Essex, and Suffolk Counties. Focusing on the needs in traditionally underserved communities within those counties is a strategic objective for the Flutie Foundation. Funding programs and organizations directly serving people in these communities, combined with direct support to families, can make an impact for generations to come. The Flutie Foundation strives to be the catalyst for change and progress towards equality in care for people with autism.

The Cummings \$25 Million Grant Program supports Massachusetts nonprofits that are based in and primarily serve Middlesex, Essex and Suffolk counties.

Through this place-based initiative, Cummings Foundation aims to give back in the area where it owns commercial buildings, all of which are managed, at no cost to the Foundation, by its affiliate, Cummings Properties. This Woburn-based commercial real estate firm leases and manages 10 million square feet of debt-free space, the majority of which exclusively benefits the Foundation.

“We aim to help meet the needs of people in all segments of our local community,” said Cummings Foundation executive director Joel Swets. “We benefit from their diverse backgrounds and perspectives; they benefit from a meaningful and fulfilling experience; and the nonprofits often benefit from increased exposure and new advocates.”

This year’s grant recipients represent a wide variety of causes, including social justice, homelessness prevention, affordable housing, education, violence prevention, and food insecurity. The nonprofits are spread across 43 different cities and towns.

The complete list of 140 grant winners, plus more than 800 previous recipients, is available at [www.CummingsFoundation.org](http://www.CummingsFoundation.org).

Cummings Foundation has now awarded more than \$300 million to greater Boston nonprofits.

#### **ABOUT THE FLUTIE FOUNDATION**

Former NFL Quarterback, Doug Flutie, and his wife Laurie started the Doug Flutie, Jr. Flutie Foundation for Autism in 1998 after their son, Dougie, was diagnosed with autism at the age of three. Their personal experience of raising a son on the autism spectrum inspired them to help others on an equally long and challenging journey. Over its 20-year history, the Flutie Foundation has distributed over \$15 million to schools and organizations who provide clinical therapies, respite services, recreational programs, social skills training, job supports and more for people affected by autism. The Flutie Foundation also provides education technology tools, adaptive camp scholarships, safety equipment, and direct family support through its partnerships and special initiatives.

#### **ABOUT CUMMINGS FOUNDATION**

Woburn-based Cummings Foundation, Inc. was established in 1986 by Joyce and Bill Cummings and has grown to be one of the three largest private foundations in New England. The Foundation directly operates its own charitable subsidiaries, including New Horizons retirement communities in Marlborough and Woburn, and Veterinary School at Tufts, LLC in North Grafton. Additional information is available at [www.CummingsFoundation.org](http://www.CummingsFoundation.org).

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