

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Partners for Youth with Disabilities
January 18, 2012

Contact: Kaela Vronsky
(p): 617-556-4075 x14

Local Nonprofit Awarded Grant for Inclusion of Youth with Disabilities in Mentoring

“Partners for Youth with Disabilities’ (PYD) National Center has been awarded a grant of \$60,000 by the Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation (MEAF),” Regina Snowden, founder and executive director of PYD, said today.

According to Ms. Snowden, the grant will be used to fund the *Mentoring For All: Inclusion of Youth with Disabilities in the Mentoring Movement* program. This program will allow PYD to provide customized and in-depth training to Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Massachusetts Bay (BBBSMB), and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Western New Hampshire (BBBSWNH) with the purpose of building their awareness and capacity to effectively serve current and future participants with disabilities. It will also increase staff confidence and organizational infrastructure to accept youth of all abilities into their programs. This approach will increase BBBSMB’s and BBBSWNH’s ability to admit and serve youth with disabilities and will serve as a model relevant and replicable to other mentoring programs throughout the country.

“During the last twenty six years, our organization has empowered young people with disabilities to reach their full potential for personal development by providing high quality one-to-one and group mentoring programs,” Ms. Snowden said. “The grant from MEAF will give us additional resources to address risk factors of youth with disabilities by expanding their access to mentoring as a powerful source of support.”

PYD was founded in 1985 and has since then served the Greater Boston area youth with disabilities. Neil Leonard is the chairperson of the board of directors. To learn more about Partners for Youth with Disabilities, please visit www.pyd.org or call 617-556-4075.

The Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation, based in the Washington, DC area, is the nation’s leading funder when it comes to promoting the inclusion of young people with disabilities in society. As the corporate foundation of the Mitsubishi Electric US group companies, MEAF’s vision is to empower youth with disabilities to lead productive lives. For more information on MEAF, please visit www.meaf.org, or call 703-276-8240.

###