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McLean Hospital Given Grant to Expand Mental Health Services in Boston Schools

BELMONT, MA-The Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation has awarded McLean Hospital's RALLY (Responsive Advocacy for Life and Learning in Youth) Prevention Program a \$10,000 grant that will help provide academic and psychological services to more than 150 Boston Public School students and their families. Gil Noam, EdD, PhD, director of RALLY, says the grant will be used to further expand RALLY, an in-school and after school-based mental health program serving at-risk youth.

"This grant will allow us to improve academic performance, promote stronger school attachment, provide early detection of problems and more timely intervention and increase family involvement with the school," explains Noam. "We will also be able to bolster placements for after-school time and summer programming, and develop a long-term sustainability plan that can be replicated by other schools and programs." Now in its tenth year, RALLY's demonstration site at the Curley Middle School in Boston hosts interested visitors from schools and community programs in the state and beyond. In each of the schools where the program has been implemented, RALLY staff work in classrooms where they provide early detection and interventions, help prevent risky behavior (such as aggression and trouble achieving academic standards), increase access to mental health services, offer academic support and promote collaboration between schools families, clinicians and community organizations.

"The objective of the Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation is to contribute, in a meaningful way, to the health and vitality of the various Greater Boston communities served by Eastern Bank," says Richard Holbrook, president and COO of Eastern Bank. "RALLY links community and health service agencies with schools, in order to provide young people with opportunities they may not have been afforded otherwise. By awarding RALLY this grant, Eastern Bank is fortifying its commitment to this community."

McLean Hospital, consistently ranked the nation's top psychiatric hospital by U.S. News & World Report, is an affiliate of Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital, and a member of Partners HealthCare.