



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BayCoast Bank grants \$50,000 to NorthStar Learning Centers *Reaching for the Stars* Capital Campaign toward construction of new Early Childhood Education Center

SWANSEA, NEW BEDFORD, MA – BayCoast Bank (<http://baycoastbank.com>) has granted \$50,000 to NorthStar Learning Centers toward construction of a new Early Childhood Education Center in New Bedford's South End.

The project will encompass a modern 14,000-square-foot Early Childhood Education Center for the exclusive use of low-income, most-at-risk children of New Bedford. The transformative project will serve to expand the capacity of NorthStar's nationally-accredited program from 96 to 134 children.

Designed by Davis Square Architects, the two-level Center will accommodate ten classrooms, a parent resource room, gross motor room, administrative offices, playgrounds and a garden. Each classroom will incorporate teaching technology, STEAM labs and "maker spaces" to stimulate creativity, problem-solving and discovery among students about science, technology, engineering, art and math.

The project will improve the quality of NorthStar's early childhood education program. Moreover, its construction will enable NorthStar to sell its current building, exit its leased facility and centralize its early childhood education program in one state-of-the-art, centrally located building.

Inspired by the civil rights movement, NorthStar was founded in 1974 "to help young people overcome poverty, discrimination, educational disadvantage, violence, and other adversity through learning essential competencies and hopefulness with which they can transform their lives and communities."

NorthStar delivers fifteen programs across New Bedford related to Early Childhood Education, K-12 Student Academic Support, and Youth and Family Mental Health Services. Upon graduating from NorthStar's nationally-accredited programs, approximately 90% of students go on to academic success.

"We at NorthStar Learning Centers are deeply grateful to BayCoast Bank for its generous \$50,000 gift to build an early childhood education center in the heart of New Bedford, one that will continue our mission to prepare young children living in poverty and other challenging circumstances to go on to succeed in

school and in life,” said Maria A. Rosario, Executive Director, NorthStar Learning Centers. “BayCoast Bank’s focused investment in early childhood development will not only improve long-term outcomes for the children, but also yield high rates of social and economic return to our communities. Thank you to BayCoast Bank for understanding that our future prosperity depends on investing in early education today.”

“BayCoast Bank is a leading philanthropic business in Southeastern Massachusetts, making strategic and substantial commitments to improve educational opportunities for children,” said David Guertin, campaign manager for NorthStar’s \$2.5 million *Reaching for the Stars* capital campaign. “Many community leaders look to BayCoast Bank for its endorsement of a nonprofit’s work, and NorthStar has now earned strong approval for its new early childhood education center project. We are incredibly grateful to BayCoast Bank as we raise additional charitable gifts as soon as possible.”

NorthStar’s *Reaching for the Stars* Capital Campaign is led by recognized business, civic and education leaders, and has raised approximately \$500,000 of its \$2.5 million goal. NorthStar welcomes philanthropic support from other businesses, foundations and individuals interested in making a lasting impact on education by investing in this time-sensitive project. Contributions of all denominations are important to meeting the campaign goal by November so that construction on the new Early Childhood Education Center can begin in 2020.

“We feel privileged to contribute to a project that will have such a positive impact on so many local children,” said Nicholas Christ, President and CEO of BayCoast Bank. “Early childhood education is the foundation for a successful life and career and NorthStar’s programs have been providing the tools for success for 45 years; with construction of a new Early Childhood Education Center, those tools will be available for many more years to come.”

About BayCoast Bank

BayCoast Bank is mutually-owned, serving the needs of consumers, businesses, non-profits and municipalities through 20 branches and three loan offices throughout southeastern MA and RI. Additional services are offered through the Bank’s affiliates: **BayCoast Financial Services, Plimoth Investment Advisors, Partners Insurance Group, LLC, BayCoast Mortgage Company, LLC, and Priority Funding LLC**. Nicholas Christ is the Bank’s President and Chief Executive Officer. Visit www.BayCoastBank.com or call 508-678-7641 or 888-806-2872.

PHOTO: (Left to right): June Goguen, First Vice President with BayCoast Bank, Rosenique Paul of NorthStar Learning Centers, Inc, Michelle Cordero of NorthStar, Norma Alvarez of NorthStar, Jimmy Owens of NorthStar, Jennie Antunes of NorthStar, Marlene Barros of NorthStar, David Guertin, Capital Campaign Consultant, Maria A. Rosario, Executive Director of NorthStar, Stella Rebeiro of NorthStar and Zoe Hansen-DiBello of NorthStar