WOODARD & CURRAN FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES GRANT AWARDS

PORTLAND, Maine (October 19, 2012) – Maintaining its mission to make grants to empower local and global solutions for a healthier world, the Woodard & Curran Foundation has announced that AguaClara of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, and Mill City Grows, of Lowell, Mass., are recipients of the Foundation’s 2012 grant awards.

AguaClara, recipient of a $5,000 grant, is a group of students and faculty who research, invent, and design electricity-free, municipal-scale water treatment plants scalable to fit the needs of a wide range of community sizes. Maysoon Sharif of AguaClara explains, “AguaClara works with in-country implementation partners to provide sustainable drinking water treatment solutions in rural, resource-poor communities. We offer training, technical support, and engineering services to implement long-lasting, high-performing water treatment plants in those communities. This grant will help us continue to support our existing Honduras partner and to build capacity with new partners in Ethiopia and Colombia.”

Mill City Grows has received a $2500 grant. Founded in 2011 by Lydia Sisson and Francey Slater, the organization creates opportunities for low-income residents to grow fresh fruits and vegetables at urban neighborhood gardens. Its goal is to improve physical health, economic independence, and environmental sustainability in Lowell through increased access to land, locally grown food, and education. Sisson says, “These gardens generate healthy food, improve neighborhoods, and create economic and health opportunities for residents and the surrounding community.” Slater adds that in 2013 they plan to add two urban food production sites and the grant will assist in establishing a salary for a garden coordinator.

The Woodard & Curran Foundation was formed in 2010 by the employees of Woodard & Curran. It directs donations to causes that focus on environmental quality, stewardship, and sustainability with particular focus on public health and education.
Lowell, MA youth press cider from local apples at Mill City Grows’ first Harvest Festival, which celebrated the success of its first garden. Copyright: Gil Slater

Construction workers and staff from AguaClara’s Honduran partner, Agua Para el Pueblo, on the construction site of the Atima water treatment plant in Santa Barbara, Honduras. Copyright: AguaClara Cornell