Brookline, MA: With the largest single charitable donation of $575,000 in Brookline Community Foundation's (BCF) history, the 110 year old Brookline Tuberculosis and Health Society (BTHS) establishes an enduring legacy at the BCF to support the health and wellbeing of Brookline residents.

BTHS (originally, the Brookline Anti-Tuberculosis Society) was established in 1907 by civic minded Brookline residents including Dr. Francis Parkman Denny, Dr. Carlton S. Francis, and Mr. Philip Parker to "combat the spread of tuberculosis in the Town of Brookline, Massachusetts and to promote a more general understanding of the nature, causes and prevention of tuberculosis." Overtime, the mission of the Society expanded to include issues of lung health more broadly and tackle public health concerns of the moment, as
tuberculosis had been at the time of founding. BTHS counted numerous town leaders and health experts among its members, maintaining an active presence in the town for more than a century. BTHS's most recent grantees include the Rogerson Communities, Easter Seals Massachusetts, and the Town of Brookline Health Department.

The endowed field-of-interest fund at BCF, called the Brookline Tuberculosis and Health Society Fund, was established with the purpose to provide grants to the town's Health and Human Services Department and non-profits working to improve the health and wellbeing of Brookline residents. Grants will be distributed through the 2018 Fall Community Grants Cycle at BCF this year.

BTHS President Ann-Marie Carroll and Treasurer Herbert P. Dane, oversaw the process, believing BCF to be the ideal institution to carry on its mission. The two organizations had a history of collaboration on tuberculosis, anti-smoking and other community health issues, and both leaders recognized BCF as the leading Brookline organization dedicated to town-wide philanthropy, with a strong track record of addressing local causes. "We're honored by this transformational gift," said BCF Executive Director Jenny Amory, "and we look forward to building on the BTHS legacy with strategic grants that help make Brookline a stronger and healthier community."

This is not the first time the two organizations have collaborated to support the wellbeing of Brookline residents. According to Brookline Friendly Society 1878 to 1993 by Linda Morse Shoemaker, the Anti-Tuberculosis Society, the Brookline Friendly Society (the predecessor of BCF) and the Brookline Health Department opened a "first of its kind 'fresh air' day camp" for children with tuberculosis in 1908. Twenty to thirty children attended the camp each summer where they engaged in "light outdoor activities including gardening,
croquet, and basket-making and were instructed in the use of the toothbrush and other cleanly habits”.

In the transfer of assets to BCF, Ms. Carroll sought to honor the commitment of predecessors Dr. Denny, Annie Townsend, Raymond Eldridge and her father, Connor Carroll. She explains, "So many people labored for so many years for the health of the people in Brookline. We wanted to make sure that the values of the Society continued and the assets remained in Brookline for the benefit of its residents." Mr. Dane agrees, adding, "There are always going to be new public health needs, whether it's a resurgence of TB or Zika or something else. Our hope is that BCF will be there to rise to those occasions and continue to support Brookline with health related causes."

To inquire about this new fund at the Brookline Community Foundation, please visit us at www.brooklinecommunity.org or contact Executive Director, Jenny Amory, at 617.566.4442.

Photo Description:

From left to right: Herbert P. Dane, BTHS Treasurer; Ann-Marie Carroll, BTHS President; Julie Marcus, BCF Board of Trustees President; Jenny Amory, BCF Executive Director

Photo by Leise Jones, Leise Jones Photography