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TD Foundation Supports Youth & Police Initiative (YPI)

Danvers, MA – May 1, 2009 -- With a \$10,000 grant, the [TD Charitable Foundation](#) has brought a renowned New York youth development program to Boston. The [Youth & Police Initiative \(YPI\)](#) works with youth at-risk to prevent juvenile delinquency, violent crime and gang violence. Sessions [have begun this](#) under the auspices of office of Mayor Thomas Menino, Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis and the Boston Housing Authority. Each youth participant is a resident of the Franklin Field Housing Project.

“The Boston Police Department wholeheartedly supports the efforts of YPI and looks forward to continuing our partnership,” states Commissioner Ed Davis. “Research demonstrates that children are less likely to get involved in risky behaviors, like joining a gang, if they are involved with their family, school and community. YPI focuses on enhancing police and youth relationships by breaking down barriers and opening up dialogue to create an environment of mutual respect and reduce the risk for gang involvement and violence.”

First pioneered in 2005, YPI brings youth from tough urban areas together with police officers who patrol these neighborhoods. The program works with youth and police to help them overcome their mutual distrust and to reduce crime and violence in poverty-stricken neighborhoods. Independent assessors credit YPI with reducing urban crime, decreasing negative interactions among youth and police and reducing youth truancy. YPI has been profiled by the *New York Times*, *Police Commissioner Magazine*, *The Boston Herald* and *The White Plains Times*. The program [has received](#) letters of commendation from numerous police commissioners from the New York area, Hartford and mostly recently Boston ([Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis](#)).

About TD Foundation

TD Foundation is the charitable arm of [TD Banknorth](#). The grant is a part of their corporate citizenship philosophy: Making a Difference Together. Each grant is selected for its opportunity to strengthen the communities where TD Banknorth branches are located.

About North American Family Institute

[North American Family Institute \(NAFI/NFI\)](#) is a leading human service agency dedicated to serving youth, adults and families with the highest level of care, based upon principles of dignity and respect. Today NAFI/NFI serves tens of thousands of clients each week in a rich array of programs that include case management approaches, family and youth wraparound services, specialized foster care, group homes, independent living apartments, treatment centers, schools and shelters, among them. These community-based programs serve diverse populations, including special education students, adults with mental health issues, children from social services, mentally retarded and developmentally delayed, youth in juvenile justice and homeless youth. NAFI/NFI's goal is to help its clients grow and thrive in order to better change their lives and the world around them.