

**THE WEBSTER FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK DONATES \$1,000
TO THE WORCESTER EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION.**

The funds will support the Books for Babies Program.

WEBSTER, MA – October 4, 2011 – The Webster Five Foundation, as part of the *Web of Caring to Make a Difference* Program, announced today that it will donate \$1,000 to the Worcester Educational Development Foundation to help fund the Books for Babies Program, an early-literacy program for new mothers created by the Worcester Public Schools, in collaboration with UMass Memorial Medical Center and RSVP Worcester Area Volunteers.

Webster Five's *Web of Caring to Make a Difference* Program reinforces the Bank's long-term initiative to give back to the community by supporting local organizations that are making a difference in the community. The funds donated to the Worcester Educational Development Foundation will help support the Books for Babies Program, which provides new mothers with the tools and resources needed to develop and advance literacy skills in young children. The program provides new mothers with age-appropriate books, as well as educational information and activities that promote essential learning and growth for lifelong success. Research has shown that the infantile period in life is very important in a child's development, as the time from birth to age five is when a child's brain undergoes the most growth and development. Reading to children while they are infants means that they will be more likely to know how to read before entering school.

Through the Books for Babies Program, volunteers deliver books to the new mothers while they are still in the hospital, before they take their newborns home for the first time. Accompanying the books is a package of information about the Worcester Public Schools, including online resources and activities that parents can do at home with their new baby. "Our organization is extremely grateful for the generous donation made by The Webster Five Foundation, and we thank them for supporting this important cause," said Sandra Mayrand, President of the Worcester Educational Development Foundation.

Richard T. Leahy, President and Chief Executive Officer of Webster Five Cents Savings Bank, commented, "The Books for Babies Program is a great example of several organizations coming together to make an important investment in the future adults of our community. Webster Five is pleased to be able to support such a great program."

For more information, contact Webster Five Cents Savings Bank, Marketing Department.