

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **For immediate release**

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## **Way Finders receives M&T grant to support financial literacy workshops**

(Springfield, MA) Way Finders has received a \$30,000 grant from the M&T Charitable Foundation, the philanthropic arm of M&T Bank. The grant is part of the 30 & 30 Initiative in which 30 organizations across the Northeast receive \$30,000 to fight homelessness and develop affordable housing in low- to moderate-income communities.

“Our financial literacy workshops help local families build their credit, find a better job, or become first-time homebuyers,” says Megan Pete, Director of Development. “These unrestricted funds allow Way Finders to assist hundreds of low- and moderate-income residents in western Massachusetts.”

In the most recent fiscal year, 177 graduates from Way Finders first-time homebuyers program purchased their first homes, and over 400 participated in employment support services to gain better jobs and increase financial self-sufficiency.

One recent Way Finders program participant said, “My credit at one point was really bad, like 400. Now I’m above 650. It took a long time, a lot of steps,” she said. Through Way Finders workshops, and with one-on-one coaching from her Way Finders advisor, “I was able to become responsible. Like by paying my bills on time, not using more than 30 percent of my available credit. And now I write everything down. I’m more grown, I’m more successful in life.”

Every month, Way Finders offers workshops on credit success, becoming a first-time homebuyer or landlord. To learn more about these opportunities, visit [www.wayfinders.org/calendar](http://www.wayfinders.org/calendar).

### **About Way Finders**

Way Finders is a nonprofit community development corporation, headquartered in Springfield, MA, working to strengthen housing stability and economic mobility and build thriving neighborhoods throughout western Massachusetts. Way Finders is the largest nonprofit housing developer in the region and has created over 1300 units of affordable housing in Hampden and Hampshire Counties. Serving over 50,000 individuals per year, Way Finders offers a variety of programs to support individuals where they are in their housing journey, from family homeless shelters to first-time homebuyers, resident leadership training and fair housing counseling, and much more. Visit [www.wayfinders.org](http://www.wayfinders.org) to learn more.

### **About M&T Charitable Foundation**

The M&T Charitable Foundation, the philanthropic arm of M&T Bank, is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organization founded in 1993 and funded by M&T Bank. The M&T Charitable Foundation awards nearly \$40 million in grants per year to thousands of nonprofit organizations focused on improving the quality of life in the areas the bank serves.

### **About M&T Bank**

M&T Bank Corporation is a financial holding company headquartered in Buffalo, New York. M&T's principal banking subsidiary, M&T Bank, provides banking products and services in 12 states across the eastern U.S. from Maine to Virginia and Washington, D.C. Trust-related services are provided in select markets in the U.S. and abroad by M&T's Wilmington Trust-affiliated companies and by M&T Bank. For more information on M&T Bank, visit [www.mtb.com](http://www.mtb.com).

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