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BIG THOUGHT RECEIVES \$10,000 GRANT FROM TEXAS BAR FOUNDATION TO FUND CREATIVE SOLUTIONS PROGRAM

DALLAS, TEXAS (Nov. 19, 2015) – Big Thought has received a \$10,000 grant from Texas Bar Foundation to fund Creative Solutions, a 20-year program that utilizes professional teaching artist mentors and a research-based curriculum to enhance empathy, critical thinking, teamwork skills and grit in teen probates.

Big Thought is an educational nonprofit organization providing under-resourced students with a variety of uniquely developed after-school and summer programs. Big Thought, which serves more than 100,000 Dallas children, families and teachers each year, brings relentless optimism, innovation and imagination to the biggest problem facing education today – the opportunity gap.

Creative Solutions is operated in partnership with Southern Methodist University and the Dallas County Juvenile Department. The program has revealed the potential of more than 10,000 students in the last two decades. According to the Social Skills Improvement System (SSIS) analysis over the past two summers: 41 percent of youth increased their social skills score by more than 5 percent; and 40 percent of youth decreased their problem behaviors score by more than 5 percent. Both figures are considered statistically significant.

The Texas Bar Foundation grant to fund Creative Solutions marks the beginning of a new relationship between the foundation and Big Thought.

“We are so grateful to the Texas Bar Foundation for their generous gift to Creative Solutions,” says Lisa Schmidt, Creative Solutions Founder. “Creative Solutions has made a huge difference in the lives of so many young people. This gift insures that we continue to keep this program strong and viable.”

Since its inception in 1965, the Texas Bar Foundation has awarded more than \$16 million in grants to law-related programs. Supported by members of the State Bar of Texas, the Texas Bar Foundation is the nation’s largest charitable-funded bar foundation.

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About Big Thought For more than 25 years, [Big Thought](http://bigthought.org) has worked to innovate education in Dallas by providing youth with access to creative learning programs to help them imagine possibilities, excel academically and contribute to their community. Driven by its mission to make imagination a part of everyday learning, Big Thought develops campus and community based programs that impact academic achievement and address youth development by connecting classroom objectives and traditional teaching methods with arts, culture and creative learning. Through its partnerships, Big Thought serves more than 100,000 Dallas children, families and teachers each year, both in and out of the classroom. Learn more at bigthought.org.

About Texas Bar Foundation The Texas Bar Foundation, established in 1965, solicits charitable contributions and provides funding to enhance the rule of law and the system of justice in Texas, especially for programs that relate to legal assistance for the underserved; the administration of justice; ethics in the legal profession; the encouragement of legal research, publications and forums; and education of the third branch of government. Learn more at txbf.org.