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Nine Authors Present A “Storytelling Auction” for Local Charity on Friday, May 11

On Friday, May 11th, at 8:00 pm at First Church Somerville, quirky local charity **The Endowment for Unexceptional Humans** will be hosting a benefit reading featuring nine local authors. Each author will read a short work about an item that is close to his or her heart--everything from signed books to childhood art projects, to gift certificates or services. After each reading, the item will be auctioned off by local auctioneer **Lulu Savage**.

The complete list of readers is as follows:

Hannah Baker-Siroty

Stace Budzko

Christopher Boucher (*How To Keep Your Volkswagen Alive*, Melville House, 2011)

Sarah Braunstein (*The Sweet Relief of Missing Children*, Norton, 2011)

Brad Clompus

William Giraldi (*Busy Monsters*, Norton, 2011)

Julia Lissella (*Love Song Hiroshima*, Finishing Line Press, 2004; *Terrain*, WordTech Communications, 2007)

Micah Nathan (*Gods of Aberdeen*, Simon & Schuster, 2005; *Losing Graceland*, Broadway, 2011)

Cammy Thomas (*Cathedral of Wish*, Four Way, 2005)

Formed in 2010 in Jamaica Plain, **The Endowment for Unexceptional Humans** provides grants and scholarship assistance to individuals or groups with realistic goals for improving their lives and our world. They take donations from people who want to help and distribute the funds to applicants who meet their criteria of having real ambition and a solid plan for achieving their goals.

The name is tongue-in-cheek, but the mission is real. The Endowment deliberately chooses not to focus on the past successes or “exceptional” accomplishments of their applicants, for this simple reason: people with a track record of high-level performance are rarely the people who would benefit the most from support. Instead, the Endowment seeks out ordinary people and groups who demonstrate a gap between their potential and their past performance, and who have a plan for closing that gap. In this way, this organization supports those who most need it, without falling sway to the American ideal of “rugged individualism” or the myth that we live in a meritocracy. More about the Endowment can be found at <http://www.unexceptionalhuman.org> or on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/unexceptionals/>

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