Local student honored at National Arts and Humanities Award

On Nov. 10, Emily Walker, a fifth grader at Germain First Bank Elementary school, is one of 44 Mary Jaffee Project STEP students who were recently honored by the National Arts and Humanities Youth Program. The award is given to the signature program of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, the White House First Lady Michelle Obama presented Project STEP’s Student Engagement and Education Program with the prestigious National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award. Mary Jaffee, Project STEP’s Executive Director, and student Ayani Boyle, 11, of Dorchester, were on hand to accept the award on behalf of the music program. Project STEP strives to build students like Boyle, a double bass string player who never missed a session or practice, despite his mother’s battle with breast cancer. Nuji Grevious, who went from living in her family’s car to becoming a Yale student, and with alumni, is one of 50 finalists who are now critically acclaimed musicians. Music has changed their worlds by provid-
ing them with a complete education and architecture. "People come back to teach at Project STEP around the country. Several have been chosen to serve on the advisory council. Tompkins -- along with other Community Summit,” held earlier this year, and are required to participate in community service, performances and master classes. Students in Project STEP's "My Brother's Keeper" program have here with My Brother's Keeper is an initiative to show that people really do care -- adults really do care. Kids can feel that. They need to know that somebody is going to be there, particularly when things are at their worst. When they are at their worst, they need to know that there is going to be a caring adult who is not just looking to be supportive, but really be there to lean on -- to really care and be there for them.

"Again, this is a great ob-
servation," Sheriff Tompkins said, "but it will mean nothing if it's not sustainable. This cannot happen one time...there has to be consistent action for this to work.

Public participation is needed for this process to fully be realized. The advisory board is encouraging everyone--one to share their ideas and feedback to help shape the future of Boston’s youth. at www.boston.gov/mybrotherskeeper.