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IMPACT100 PHILADELPHIA ANNOUNCES 2011 GRANT FINALISTS

Five Philadelphia-Area nonprofits competing for \$164,000 in grants

PHILADELPHIA, PA -- Impact100 Philadelphia, a group of 164 women donors, is delighted to announce the five finalists for its 2011 Grant Awards, a total of \$164,000 in funding. Impact100's five Focus Area Committees completed their evaluations of grant proposals last week, choosing one nonprofit organization from each of the five focus areas.

Impact100 members will gather on Monday, June 6 to listen to presentations and vote to award this year's project grant of \$100,000, and four operating grants (two for \$20,000, and two for \$12,000).

The finalists and projects chosen for 2011 are:

Arts & Culture: Community Arts Center, *Pieces of Peace*

Education: West Philadelphia Alliance for Children, *Open Books Open Minds*

Environment: Urban Tree Connection, *Neighborhood Foods*

Family: Northwest Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network, *Northeast Hospitality Network Initiative*

Health & Wellness: Concern for Health Options: Information, Care and Education, *What U Need 2 Know*

(Additional information about each proposed project is provided at the end of this release.)

Representing the combined giving of 164 women, the \$164,000 total grant funding for 2011 is an 18% increase over 2010.

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The goal each year of Impact100 Philadelphia is to provide high-impact grants that raise the profile of deserving but lesser-known nonprofit organizations, and that highlight unmet needs in the Philadelphia region. Impact100 Philadelphia considers proposals from local nonprofits in five focus areas including Arts & Culture, Education, Environment, Family, and Health & Wellness. The group works to engage and educate women in philanthropy, and members' funds are pooled together to collectively support important charitable initiatives in these areas.

"We appreciate the participation, support and collaboration of all of our members and friends," said co-president Charlotte Schutzman. "It is exciting to be able to fund five nonprofits in only our third year of grant-making," added co-president Beth Margel Dahle.

More than 100 members volunteered to participate on focus area committees and the financial review panel to identify the 2011 finalists. An initial pool of 152 applicants who submitted initial letters of inquiry was narrowed to 42 who were requested to submit full project proposals. Following a detailed review of the proposals, including site visits to 24 applicant organizations, each focus area committee selected a finalist for its area. At the annual meeting on June 6, 2011, at the World Café Live in Philadelphia, Impact100 Philadelphia members will vote to select the recipient of the \$100,000 project grant from the five finalists. The remaining \$64,000 will be awarded as operating grants to the other finalists based on the outcome of the voting.

Since its founding in 2008, Impact100 Philadelphia has already awarded a total of \$250,000 in grants to local nonprofits. Last year, Impact100 Philadelphia members selected three area nonprofits to receive \$139,000 in 2010 funding: a \$100,000 project grant to the New Jersey Tree Foundation for its Camden Urban Airshed Reforestation Program, and two general operating grants to the Federation of Neighborhood Centers and the SeniorLAW Center.

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Impact100 Philadelphia is a 501(c)(3) public charity made possible by women seeking to transform lives through the power of giving as one. Impact100 Philadelphia's mission is to engage and educate women in philanthropy and collectively fund grants to charitable initiatives in the Philadelphia region. For more information, please visit www.impact100philly.org or email the organization at info@impact100philly.org.

ABOUT THE 2011 IMPACT100 PHILADELPHIA GRANT FINALISTS

Arts & Culture:

Community Arts Center (CAC), founded in 1948, provides a broad array of creative experiences to the Delaware County community. The CAC serves 14,000 people each year through its classes in painting, ceramics, printmaking, jewelry and other arts, and through its pre-school and summer camp. Outreach is a key component of its mission. Through its ART to Go program, CAC brings art into the community at no charge to participants. The *Pieces of Peace* project, an outgrowth of ART to Go, focuses on spreading the message of non-violence through mural arts to the city of Chester, which is plagued by violence. The CAC leads *Pieces of Peace* in collaboration with Swarthmore College, Widener University, and the MLK Commemorative Committee. The project's goal is to use mural painting as a means to teach Martin Luther King's message of non-violence. Through the development of eight quilt-themed murals, a classroom curriculum, and a picture book, the CAC and its collaborators seek to spread Martin Luther King Jr.'s message of non-violence to 1,000 - 2,000 project participants and to the Chester community at large.

www.communityartscenter.org

Education:

The West Philadelphia Alliance for Children (WePAC) provides public elementary school children in West Philadelphia with library and literacy enrichment activities to help prepare them for school success. One of WePAC's programs pairs volunteers with classrooms to work with individual students on reading and writing skills. Another program provides children with the opportunity to participate in after-school clubs that build literacy skills, such as school newspapers. WePAC's *Open Books Open Minds* program addresses the fact that nearly 8,000 children in West Philadelphia's public elementary schools have no, or limited, library access. The program seeks to remedy this by renovating and re-opening school libraries that were previously closed. WePAC then staffs the libraries with trained volunteers. In the first two years of this initiative, WePAC opened libraries in seven schools, donated 25,000 books to school libraries, and circulated more than 2,500 books per month to nearly 3,000 students. For almost half of these schoolchildren, the WePAC libraries are the only library they ever visit. With Impact100 funding, WePAC proposes to open an additional three to five school libraries, expand hours in existing libraries, and extend its program reach to 5,000 children per year.

www.wepac.org

Environment:

The mission of **Urban Tree Connection**, based in West Philadelphia, is to partner with children and adults in some of Philadelphia's most disadvantaged communities to revitalize their neighborhoods through urban greening. Philadelphia is estimated to have over 30,000 vacant lots, many of which are overgrown and filled with trash, and contribute to an appearance of decay and blight. Urban Tree Connection's goal is to build and sustain a community-driven land use model that provides residents with safe, productive and beautiful green spaces that promote positive human interaction and community connections. To further this goal, it is in the process of creating a community-driven neighborhood food system that would provide families with fresh local produce through *Neighborhood Foods*, a low-income Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) project. With Impact100 funding, Urban Tree Connection proposes to build out eight farming sites it currently maintains in the Haddington neighborhood of West Philadelphia to provide the produce for the CSA. In its first year *Neighborhood Foods* is projected to yield enough to supply 30 families with produce for 30 weeks. Within five years these sites are expected to yield produce sufficient to serve 300 families.

www.urbantreeconnection.org

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Family:

Since 1991, **Northwest Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network (NPIHN)** has moved 275 families – 745 individuals - from homelessness to stability. Participating congregations of all faiths provide housing for homeless families, and volunteers from the congregation serve as hosts of the families, making dinner and spending time with them in the evenings. The goal of NPIHN is to transition families out of the shelter system into their own housing. In addition to shelter, NPIHN provides support services including assistance with job-hunting and childcare, parenting and financial responsibility classes, social service advocacy, educational and extracurricular activities for children, and counseling. Once a family leaves NPIHN's shelter program, it continues to receive support services as needed. Of NPIHN's families, 92% do not return to homelessness. The proposed project (***Northeast Hospitality Network Initiative***) would newly establish NPIHN's successful shelter program in lower Northeast Philadelphia, an area that has been identified as suffering from an increased population of homeless families with no safe shelter options.

www.philashelter.org

Health and Wellness:

Concern for Health Options: Information, Care and Education (CHOICE) was founded in 1971 to increase access to accurate information and essential services concerning reproductive and maternal child health. The organization works to overcome barriers that impede access to quality healthcare and information for all individuals. CHOICE maintains four bi-lingual hotlines (CHOICE Health Hotline; CHOICE Teen Line; Maternal and Children's Health Line; Pennsylvania State AIDS Factline) staffed by trained counselors that provide education, counseling and referrals to services. CHOICE also offers comprehensive sexual health education in over 180 schools, community centers, social services agencies, churches, and other neighborhood sites throughout Philadelphia. CHOICE requests funding to implement ***What U Need 2 Know***, which will build upon CHOICE's successful hotline experience. The program will use texting as a medium to reach young people with vital sexual health and life skills information and connect them to the services they need in a confidential, portable and immediate way.

www.choice-phila.org

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