



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Trenton, NJ — The I Am Trenton Community Foundation has given grants to ten community initiatives in 2011. The grantees are funded in core program areas: community/cultural connections; community development; youth development; education and training. Four of the grants were made from the Hope and Respect Fund, designated for organizations that provide educational resources, thought leadership, self-reliance and personal responsibility training for children, in particular children raising their own children, in the city of Trenton.

I Am Trenton Community Foundation announced the grantees at a press conference at the Old Barracks Museum in downtown Trenton. The foundation will help defray the cost for providing the Old Barrack Museum's "Meet the Past" program for students from Trenton schools. This highly colorful and innovative living history program incorporates personalized "first person" historical interpretations designed to enhance classroom teaching on New Jersey's role in the American Revolution; create memorable educational experiences and stimulate critical thinking on the causes of the American Revolution and its meaning for government and citizenship today.

Other I Am Trenton Community Foundation 2011 grantees include:

The South District CPAC to increase civic engagement in the South Ward by working on two activities: 1) a community newsletter in English and Spanish, which will have all the South Ward Civic Association meeting places, times and contact information and 2) a mulching program, in partnership with Trees for Trenton to support community cleanups and provide mulch for the trees.

The Island Civic Association to support the updating and reprinting of the "*Preparing for River Flooding: Flood Emergency Planning*" brochure. The brochure will help current and future Island residents have a clearer understanding of the risks of flooding from the Delaware River and include a set of strategies for preparing for evacuation, reducing the effects of flooding on their properties, and reducing the stress of coping with the effects of flooding when they return home. The Center for Assessment and Policy Development will serve as fiscal sponsor.

Trenton Film Society to support the Youth Filmmakers Program and bring together a diverse group of Trenton youth and give them an opportunity to view exceptional films that they might otherwise never have the chance to see. Professionals will guide the participants in understanding the filmmaking techniques used in these great films and show them how to make their own films.

Dance Spora to support *The Dreamer*, a 1-hour long Black History Month dance theater performance, a very inspirational work whose theme is "cultivating our dreams through self-belief and determined

action." In addition to Dance Spora's amazing dancers, it will feature a performance by some of our talented Trenton area students. All performances will be held at the Mill Hill Playhouse between 2/13/12 - 2/19/12.

Echo, Inc. to support *Senior Sports Night*, a collaborative effort by seniors from throughout the Trenton area, including those participating in senior citizen centers, senior housing, as well as senior auxiliaries within the faith community. Senior Sports Night will engage seniors across racial, ethnic, religious and economic lines to collaborate during the month of May 2012, in celebration of Older Americans Month and to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Trenton Central High School's Chambers Street Campus.

The four grantees funded through the Hope and Respect Fund include:

Young Scholar's Institute to support their college admissions, financial aid and career-planning workshops.

Living Hope Empowerment Center to support the Women's Empowerment Day in Trenton, a one-day forum and celebration, encompassing workshops, one-on-one and group discussions, exhibits and service stations on matters dealing with finances, healthy eating, fitness and stressors.

Phi Delta Kappa to support a youth empowerment program for students in 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. The program will provide students with strategies that they can use to begin personal and career decision making and goal setting. The program will utilize interactive activities, theatrical strategies and motivational speakers. There will also be a parent information session.

Kids Against Bullying Gangs and Violence to support *Bullyproof: Healing, Comforting and Saving Our Youth*, to educate the community, specifically our school-aged population, about bullying and how to deal with the effects of it.

Ali Wilson, President of the I Am Trenton Community Foundation said, "The recipients of the 2011 I Am Trenton Community Foundation grants represent the best that our city has to offer. We have learned that our community can act decisively and work together to solve its own problems. Our organization is there to support these efforts at their infancy and beyond."

I Am Trenton Community Foundation awards grants to agencies, organizations or individuals in Trenton that serve Trenton residents. Our overall goal is to support organizations that improve our community and that add to the quality of life for Trenton residents. We utilize a competitive grant making program to promote inclusion, equity and diversity in Trenton.

*For questions, contact: Dan Fatton, 908-303-4546, dan.fatton@gmail.com*

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*I Am Trenton Community Foundation's mission is to make Trenton even better through community engagement, increased pride in our city and community-focused giving.*