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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE PROVIDENT BANK FOUNDATION AWARDS MAJOR GRANT TO THE JEWISH RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION
Grant Funding to Support “Building Healthy Communities” Initiative and Partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs of Perth Amboy

PERTH AMBOY, NEW JERSEY (June 15, 2016) – Today, the Provident Bank Foundation presented the Jewish Renaissance Foundation a \$10,000 grant under its “Major Grant” category to support JRF’s “*Building Healthy Communities*” initiative. Jane Kurek, the Executive Director of The Provident Bank Foundation (PBF), led the presentation held at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Perth Amboy’s (BGCPA) Bayside Club. The *Building Healthy Communities (BHC)* initiative works from a “social determinants of health” framework to improve the well-being of low-income residents who live within the City of Perth Amboy and the Central Jersey region through *integrated investments in healthy living, healthcare, healthy food options, and systems transformation*. The funding will specifically support BGCPA’s Triple Play Program, a key element of the BHC initiative.

“New Jersey has one of the highest obesity rates in the country – particularly in urban communities like Perth Amboy,” said Kurek. “Through the Triple Play Program and as part of the broader BHC collaboration, our partnership with the Jewish Renaissance Foundation will play a critical role in reaching a larger audience through promoting fitness, nutrition education and other resources to prevent and reduce obesity.”

“The contribution of The Provident Bank Foundation will significantly expand our capacity to withstand the dramatic growth in demand for our services. The Provident Bank Foundation and the Jewish Renaissance Foundation have developed an increasingly robust philanthropic relationship that has and will continue to benefit numerous persons and families in need within the Central NJ region,” states Dr. Alan J. Goldsmith, President of JRF.



Developed by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, the Triple Play Program employs a “*mind, body, and soul*” approach with the following key components:

- **THE MIND** – *Structured nutritional education* utilizing informational and experiential learning activities for adults and youth. This also includes educating youth and their parents as to safe and easy food preparation methods associated with healthy food, inclusive of fun and interactive competitive games and activities.
- **THE BODY** – Boosting traditional physical activities to a higher level by providing sports and fitness activities for all adults and youth.
- **THE SOUL** – Youth experiencing depression, anxiety or other similar disorders (or showing signs of same) associated with their overweight conditions will be connected to counseling and supports to address any factors affecting their self-image.

“We know that racial- and ethnic-minority populations, particularly those who are low-income, are more likely to not only become overweight or obese, but to develop related medical and psychiatric disorders, such as diabetes, asthma, or depression,” states Tashilee Vazquez, CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Perth Amboy. “The goal of the Triple Play Program is to work with our community-based and grantmaking partners such as The Provident Bank Foundation to reaching underserved and high-risk youth and their families in order to implement evidence-based interventions proven to improve their nutrition and fitness levels that in turn improve their overall physical and mental wellness”.

For further information and details, please contact Jane Kurek, Executive Director, The Provident Bank Foundation at jane.kurek@providentnj.com or 862-260-3990; or Alexandra Mansonet-Cross, CEO, Jewish Renaissance Foundation at Alexandra.cross@jrfnj.org, or (732) 324-2114, ext. 126.

ABOUT PROVIDENT BANK FOUNDATION

The Provident Bank Foundation was established in 2003 by The Provident Bank to enhance the quality of life in the region through support of not-for-profit groups, institutions, schools and other 501(c)(3) organizations that provide services in communities served by the Bank. Since inception, the Foundation has granted more than \$21million to not-for-profit organizations and institutions working toward stronger communities. For more information about The Provident Bank Foundation, visit www.ProvidentNJFoundation.org or call (862) 260-3990.

ABOUT JEWISH RENAISSANCE FOUNDATION

The Jewish Renaissance Foundation was established in 1995 as a faith-based, nonprofit corporation with central offices located at The Proprietary House, 149 Kearny Avenue in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. As a Community Action Agency, we strive to overcome poverty and hopelessness throughout Middlesex County East; an area that encompasses the cities of Carteret, Edison, Highland Park, Metuchen, Perth Amboy, Sayreville, South Amboy and Woodbridge. We believe in changing lives by creating hope and self- sufficiency, and we succeed by providing individuals, children and families with essential health and human services, community development and youth programs. For additional information about the JRF, please visit us at www.jrfnj.org .

ABOUT BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF PERTH AMBOY

For the Boys & Girls Clubs of Perth Amboy & Carteret, there is one persistent dream – **a world where every child is given the opportunity to succeed in life and experience a brighter future.** We serve with one purpose – *to enable all young people especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.* Established by the **Jewish Renaissance Foundation**, one of New Jersey's most established nonprofit corporations (www.jrfnj.org), the Boys & Girls Clubs of Perth Amboy is a part of a unified nationwide affiliation of more than 4,000 Clubs who in all 50 states (and Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands) serve over 4 million children and youth every day. We are part of a national movement with over 100 years of changing and saving so many young lives. In Perth Amboy and Carteret, over 2000 children and youth, ages 6-18, of all races, ethnicities, and income levels are served by the Boys & Girls Clubs. For more information visit www.bgcpa.us and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bgcp PerthAmboy.