



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Kitchen Public Relations

Nina Dietrich, 201-493-8944 / nina@ninadietrich.com

Brian Hyland, 212-687-8999 / bhyland@kitchenpr.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Provident Bank Foundation Awards \$100K ‘Signature’ Grant and \$20K ‘Impact’ Grants to Nonprofits in Lehigh Valley, PA and Hunterdon County, NJ

The Collective Impact Action Learning Fellowship Receives Signature Grant; Neighborhood Housing Services of Lehigh Valley, PA and The Red Mill Museum in Clinton, NJ, receive Impact Grants

Morristown, NJ (May 19, 2015) – The Provident Bank Foundation (www.providentnjfoundation.org) has announced that it has selected The Collective Impact Action Learning Fellowship c/o Habitat for Humanity of the Lehigh Valley, PA, to receive its \$100,000 “Signature” Grant in the Community Enrichment funding priority area. In addition, the Foundation has awarded two \$20,000 “Impact” Grants, one to Allentown-based Neighborhood Housing Services of Lehigh Valley, PA and on to The Red Mill Museum in Clinton, NJ.

“We are delighted to announce the deserving recipients of our first round of Signature and Impact grants,” said Jane Kurek, executive director of The Provident Bank Foundation. “We are confident that these organizations will use the funding to help drive sustainable community enhancement and long-term change. We look forward to seeing the impact they have in each of the communities they serve.”

The Collective Impact Action Learning Fellowship was selected to receive the Signature Grant to help develop its broad-reaching Building Bridges project, which encompasses two transformational initiatives in the city of Allentown: The Photovoice project, a group analysis method combining photography with grassroots social action, and Asset Mapping, a tool that will give the community a working knowledge of available resources. The Fellowship aims to address and measurably improve complex quality of life challenges within neighborhoods surrounding the downtown Allentown Neighborhood Improvement Zone (NIZ).

The Fellowship, started by The Rider-Pool Foundation in October 2014, currently comprises seven organizations, which applied for the grant collectively: Habitat for Humanity of the Lehigh Valley, the Allentown Art Museum, Promise Neighborhoods of the Lehigh Valley, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the

Lehigh Valley, Lehigh Valley Health Network, Regional Intelligence and Investigation Center and Catholic Charities.

“This grant will serve to improve the lives of thousands of Allentown and surrounding area residents,” said Deb Cummins, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Lehigh Valley, who processed the grant application on behalf of the Collective Impact Action Learning Fellowship. “We are emboldened by the confidence that the Provident Bank Foundation has placed on our efforts and we hope to deliver results beyond expectations.”

Impact Grants Will Support Local Home Ownership and “S.T.E.M.” Education

Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) of Lehigh Valley, based in Allentown, PA, was selected as the recipient of the \$20,000 Impact Grant for the region to fund its Home Ownership Outreach Program (HOOP). HOOP is a financial fitness program offered in conjunction with related housing counseling and educational services to ensure potential first-time home buyers are qualified and knowledgeable about the home-buying process, requirements and anticipated outcomes.

The recipient of the Hunterdon County Impact Grant is the Red Mill Museum in Clinton, NJ, which offers ongoing educational and outreach programs designed to preserve, maintain and present to the public the social, agricultural and industrial heritage of Hunterdon County and its surrounding area. The museum was selected to receive the \$20,000 grant to fund the development of new, hands-on, interactive programs for the benefit of the thousands of school children (K-12) who visit the facility on school field trips throughout the year. The new programs, such as “Agro-Industry Day” and “Kids Day,” will specifically incorporate elements of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) school curriculum by focusing on the historic industries that operate on-site: milling and quarrying.

“We developed the Signature and Impact grants to reinforce our commitment to nonprofits located within Provident Bank’s service area,” said Kurek. “We had a tremendous response to the launch of our 2015 Funding Initiative and were genuinely impressed with the quality of the programs being offered by nonprofits across the region.”

Additional details about the grant process and deadlines for remaining grants can be found online at www.providentnjfoundation.org.

About The Provident Bank Foundation

The Provident Bank Foundation was established by New Jersey’s oldest bank in 2003 to enhance the quality of life in the region through support of not-for-profit groups, institutions, schools and other

organizations that provide services in communities served by Provident Bank. Since its founding, the Foundation has granted more than \$19 million 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.

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