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## **Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce Community Development Fund Awards \$30,000 in grants**

**Princeton, NJ – November 4, 2016** – The Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce Community Development Fund (PRCC-CDF) awarded \$30,000 in grants to three local nonprofits at today’s Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce November Luncheon.

The Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce Foundation and the Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce working together established the Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce Community Development Fund in partnership with the Princeton Area Community Foundation in July of 2013. Starting with a \$500,000 gift from the Chamber Foundation the goal was to provide support to nonprofits located throughout the Chamber’s central New Jersey footprint. Grants are given annually to the most promising programs that address one or more of the Fund’s focus areas: education, leadership, economic opportunity and development, and self-sufficiency.

“With these grants, the Chamber and the Chamber Foundation continue to invest in our region by providing financial support for the vital work of these outstanding community-based organizations,” said Rick Coyne, Chairman of the Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce and Partner at WithumSmith+Brown. “In partnership with the Princeton Area Community Foundation, the Chamber has awarded over \$125,000 in grants to large and small regional not for profit organizations and is the only Chamber in Central New Jersey with an established ongoing grant partnership for these organizations,” added Coyne.

“We lead the region in making these community development grants,” said Peter Crowley President of the Princeton Regional Chamber. “They are unique and reflect our commitment to strengthen the communities in our region.”

The 2016 grant recipients include:

- ***Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mercer County***: Big Brothers Big Sisters Workplace Mentoring Program matches employees of a specific work site with student who need mentors. The goal of this program is to form a partnership with the healthcare learning site at Trenton Central High School West and St. Francis Medical Center to create and manage a successful one to one mentoring program that enriches the lives of at risk students by assisting them in achieving their highest potential as they grow to become

confident, competent and caring individuals. The program will expose students to the healthcare environment, develop a trusting bond with their mentor to build the student's self-esteem and to help them make positive life choices.

- **Dress for Success;** This grant will go to continue the Women's Empowerment Programs including the Latina Empowerment initiative, financial Literacy and Customer Excellence programs. Dress for Success offers these transformative programs to their clients because we know that there is a strong correlation between financial education, business skills training and long term economic independence. These programs have demonstrated that when we empower disadvantaged women in the Greater Mercer County region through these programs they will achieve economic independence.
- **UIH Family Partners** The grant will go to support men and families living in poverty by providing educational opportunities leading to certification in three areas; ServSafe Food Handler, OSHA job Safety Certification and Forklift Certification. UIH Family Partners, in collaboration with the Trenton Housing Authority and the College of New Jersey Bonner Scholars Program, is expanding its "Bridges to Success" certification program to assist men in Mercer county move into roles that will provide a long term career.

"Each year our committee has the challenging task to select recipients from among a deep and deserving pool of grant applications. We are fortunate in this area to have many well-run organizations working hard each day to make our community a better place to live and to serve those who have challenges in their lives," said Kristin Appelget, Chairwoman of the Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce's Community Development Fund.

"The partnership of the Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce Foundation, the Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the Princeton Area Community Foundation is a powerful force for support for non-profits of the area. Everyone at the Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce Foundation is delighted and gratified that this enduring fund we have established and supplemented has distributed \$125,000 to worthy causes in the past few years," said Patrick Ryan, Chairman of the Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

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**Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce** –The Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce is a membership organization committed to promoting business growth within the Princeton Region and surrounding areas. The Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce is the largest Chamber in Central New Jersey with more than 1,200 member companies and associations representing 250,000 employees and billions of dollars in annual revenue. Membership covers five NJ counties including Mercer, Somerset, Middlesex, Hunterdon, Monmouth, and as far as New York, Philadelphia and Canada. More information about the Chamber can be found at [www.princetonchamber.org](http://www.princetonchamber.org).