



The Children's Home Society of New Jersey Receives Community Foundation Grant

The Children's Home Society of New Jersey (CHS of NJ) received a \$15,000 grant from the Greater Mercer Grant Program of the Princeton Area Community Foundation, the community foundation serving Mercer County and central New Jersey, in support of its Trenton Education Dance Institute (TEDI) school-based program. CHS of NJ is one of twenty organizations to receive funding through the Community Foundation. Grants totaling \$506,990 were awarded to local nonprofits for a full-range of community building, program and operating support.

Donna C. Pressma, President and CEO of CHS of NJ, confirmed these funds would be used for TEDI artistic direction under Dufftin Garcia and other general TEDI program support. "We are pleased to have received this generous grant to help ensure our TEDI program will have a "successful 25th year," said Pressma.

TEDI is now in its 25th anniversary year. This impactful program was launched in 1989 with support from the Trenton Board of Education and The Times of Trenton as a National Dance Institute (NDI) Residency Program in Trenton public schools. NDI was founded in 1976 by world-renown dancer Jacques D'Amboise in the belief that the arts have a unique power to engage and motivate all individuals towards excellence. NDI programs use professional artists and a unique combination of dance, performance and curriculum-related educational materials to teach young people the life skills of self-discipline, concentration, cooperation, confidence and pride in personal achievement. In 2011, TEDI and The Children's Home Society of New Jersey combined their strengths to ensure the survival of this resilient youth development program in Trenton. Today the TEDI program is offered to all 5th grade students at two Trenton public schools, about 230 students in total. Artistic Director Dufftin Garcia and his team design and lead weekly classes which are integrated into the school curriculum. Two additional troupes are selected from 6th through 10th grade alumni and the 5th grade students who show passion and ability to undertake advanced challenges under the program. Each year TEDI culminates with a Final Event series of performances for student, faculty and community audiences showcasing the accomplishments of the young, talented participants who light up the stage.