PRESS RELEASE

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The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation Awards $35,000 Grant to Support Trenton Education Dance Institute

Trenton, NJ (September 08, 2016) – The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation has awarded $35,000 to The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey (CHSoNJ) in support of the Trenton Education Dance Institute (TEDI). Fifth grade students at Trenton elementary schools participate in weekly TEDI dance classes during the school day. Some especially dedicated 5th-10th grade students who audition and are selected to participate in after school dance teams practice and perform throughout the year. In total, 200 students each year learn important life skills through TEDI’s unique blend of dance and curriculum-based learning.

TEDI is a source of pride for the communities of Trenton, and has taught generations of Trenton children the skills needed to succeed in the classroom and grow into dynamic, productive individuals. A recent in-depth evaluation...
of the TEDI program found that 88% of TEDI students reported an improvement in self-confidence; 86% reported an increase in their understanding about how to work with others; 85% reported feeling physically healthier; and 74% reported that TEDI motivated them to attend school. This generous grant from The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation enables TEDI to continue enriching the lives of Trenton youth for the 2016-2017 school year. “TEDI is honored and pleased to receive the continued support of The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation,” said Richard Bilotti, President of the TEDI Board of Directors. Bilotti continued, “The backing of this prestigious New Jersey foundation shows high regard for TEDI’s work in the public schools of Trenton. The entire CHSofNJ/TEDI team thanks Dodge not only for its support of our work, but for its continued investment in so many of New Jersey's important and necessary non-profits.”

Dolores Ijames Bryant, CHSofNJ Director and TEDI Supervisor for the past several years said, “TEDI certainly appreciates the Dodge Foundation’s ongoing commitment to our program. The Dodge Foundation’s support is critical in an environment where support for arts programs is a challenge.”

“TEDI teaches students the art of dance and life lessons that reinforce the skills needed to succeed in the classroom and grow into dynamic, productive individuals,” said Wendy Liscow, Dodge Education Program Director. She continued, “In a city where students have limited exposure to dance, imagine what would be possible if this program and others like it expanded. We’re proud to support TEDI — they’re definitely improving Trenton children’s lives.”

About The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey
The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey is a nonprofit child and family serving agency whose mission is to save children’s lives and build healthy families. Founded in 1894, the agency protects abused or neglected infants and at-risk children by ensuring stable, permanent, and loving homes for each and every child it serves. All services are confidential and most are free. For more information, visit our website at www.chsofnj.org.

About Trenton Education Dance Institute
The TEDI program joined with The Children’s Home Society of New Jersey in 2010. TEDI teaches students the art and life lessons of dance that reinforce the skills needed for classroom success, and the skills that enable them to grow into productive adults. If your organization or school is interested in learning more about TEDI or featuring a TEDI demonstration or master class in your community, visit www.chsofnj.org or contact Louise McCants Shabazz at lshabazz@chsofnj.org.

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