



THE CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

635 South Clinton Avenue, Trenton, NJ 08611

P: 609-695-6274 / F: 609-394-5769

www.chsofnj.org

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- October 23, 2017

PR Contact: Dana Johnson – djohnson@chsofnj.org or 609-695-6274 x138

The New Jersey State Council on the Arts Awards \$19,000 Grant in Support of Trenton Education Dance Institute

Trenton, NJ (October 23, 2017) – The New Jersey State Council on the Arts (NJSCA) has awarded a \$19,000 grant to The Children's Home Society of New Jersey (CHSoF NJ) in support of the agency's Trenton Education Dance Institute (TEDI) program.

TEDI, a National Dance Institute modeled dance and education program for the development of Trenton youth, is offered in collaboration with the Trenton Board of Education, and designed to complement lessons learned in the classroom. As a result of this generous award from NJSCA, TEDI will be incorporated into the curriculum of six fifth grade classes at P.J. Hill Elementary School and three fifth grade classes at Parker Elementary School for the 2017-18 school year.

CHSoF NJ President & CEO Donna Pressma elaborated on the importance of the NJSCA grant; "This generous grant from The New Jersey State Council on the Arts reinforces the importance of TEDI and amplifies our ability to provide this creative and expressive program that helps Trenton youth build confidence and develop critical life skills that will lead to success in school and life."

Under the dynamic leadership of CHSoF NJ's Director of School Based Services Louise McCants, the 2017-18 school year will see an increase in TEDI community performances, allowing students the opportunity to dance in front of large audiences and draw on many of the skills learned through TEDI such as confidence, teamwork, perseverance, and pride in personal achievement.

President of the TEDI Board of Directors Richard Bilotti commented, "We are so grateful to the New Jersey State Council on the Arts for this generous support that will help TEDI enhance the lives of more Trenton youth."

This spring, CHSoF NJ plans to celebrate TEDI's 29th year by returning the program's finale performance and reception to Patriots Theater at the War Memorial in Trenton. Details will be announced at www.chsofnj.org as the event approaches.

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 NDI modeled dance 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 at Lshabazz@chsofnj.org.

About The New Jersey State Council on the Arts

The New Jersey State Council on the Arts, created in 1966, is a division of the NJ Department of State. The Council was established to encourage and foster public interest in the arts; enlarge public and private resources devoted to the arts; promote freedom of expression in the arts; and facilitate the inclusion of art in every public building in New Jersey. The Council receives direct appropriations from the State of New Jersey through a dedicated, renewable Hotel/Motel Occupancy fee, as well as competitive grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. To learn more about the Council, please visit www.artscouncil.nj.gov.

#