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Impact 100 Awards Two Grants of \$141,000 to Area Nonprofits

Never underestimate the power of a woman, and surely not the power of 282 women who share a common goal. These are the members of Impact100 Garden State who in five years have raised and distributed \$1,051,000 in grants to nonprofit organizations in northern New Jersey.

At their fifth Annual Awards Meeting at the Olde Mill Inn in Bernardsville the women voted for two organizations that will each receive grants of \$141,000. They were selected from a field of over 60 applicants, which had been narrowed down to six finalists by five Grant Committees.

These six finalists presented their programs to the membership. Each representative explained how a grant of \$141,000 could be used to improve-- and indeed transform--their mission. Impact 100 members voted immediately.

The results: Oasis—A Haven for Women and Children, located in Paterson, and Project Self Sufficiency of Sussex County were declared recipients of the two grants.

In her presentation, Jennifer Brady, Executive Director of Oasis, said of each of the women helped by her organization: "She comes because she believes, and she knows that we

believe in her. We turn no woman away.” Oasis serves women and children in Paterson by providing adult education classes, child care, youth development programs, access to social workers, and basic needs such as food, clothing, and diapers. With basic skills in hand, women can ultimately earn a High School Equivalency diploma and work their way out of poverty.

“We are thrilled the women of Impact 100 Garden State chose to invest in our High School Equivalency program, which includes a component serving women with a 2nd, 3rd, or 4th grade education,” noted Ms. Brady. “We have a successful model, and this investment will help us better serve women who have been left behind by all other programs in Paterson.”

Impact 100 Garden State’s mission is to provide high-impact grants to organizations serving residents in Morris, Passaic, Somerset, and Sussex. In its five-year philanthropic history, this is the third time Impact 100 members have selected a nonprofit in Paterson to receive funding.

The organization follows a model for collective women’s giving now used by more than 40 independent Impact 100 organizations around the world. Each member contributes \$1,000 toward membership and the entire amount of each woman’s donation funds grants for nonprofit programs that will transform their local communities.

Impact 100 Garden State is a Special Project Fund of the Community Foundation of New Jersey (<http://cfnj.org>), which supports charitable giving focused on making NJ communities stronger. The 2017 Annual Awards Meeting was sponsored by BNY Mellon, Wealth Management (www.bnymellonwealth.com).